

Kinds of nouns:

Noun is a naming word. There are five kinds of nouns: proper, common, collective, material and abstract.

- 1- Proper Noun
- 2- Common Noun
- 3- Collective noun
- 4- Material noun
- 5- Abstract Noun

Lets take them one by one and find out the importance in our daily communication.

1-Proper noun and Common noun

Read the following sentences:

John was a noble **king**.

Maria is a poor **girl**.

Mill is a smart **boy**

New york is a big **city**.

In the above sentences ,“ **John** ” is the name of a particular king, but „king“ is the common name of its class. „, **Maria** “ is the name of a particular girl, but „girl“ is the common name of its class. „, **Mill** “ is the name of the particular boy, but „boy“ is the common name of its class. „, **New york** “ is the name of the particular city, but „city“ is the common name of its class. Thus, when a word denotes a particular name, it is a **Proper Noun** and when it denotes a common name of its class, it is a **Common Noun**.

A **Proper Noun**: is the name of some particular person or place.

A **Common Noun**: is a name given in common to every person or thing of the same class or kind.

So we can say: " **John** " is a **Proper Noun** while "king" is a **Common Noun**. " **Maria** " is a **Proper Noun** while "girl" is a **Common Noun**. " **Mill** " is a **Proper Noun** while "boy" is a **Common Noun**. " **New york** " is a **Proper Noun** while city is a **Common Noun**.

2- Collective noun

Read the following sentences:

The crowd has no discipline. (=a collection of people) **The army** is formed with discipline. (a collection of soldiers) Niren is the first boy in **the class**. (a collection of students) You must watch **the fleet**. (a collection of armed ships)

In the above sentences, "*crowd, army, class, and fleet*" are collective nouns because they refer to a group or collection of similar individuals or things taken as a whole.

A collective noun: denotes a group or collection of similar individuals, considered as one complete whole.

3-Material noun:

Read the following sentences:

This ring is made of *gold*.

This chair is made of *wood*.

Please give me a glass of *water*.

In the above sentences *gold, wood, and water* are material nouns because they refer to some matter or substance.

A material noun: denotes the matter or substance of which the things are made.

We should note that *gold* is a Material Noun but *ring* is a Common Noun ; *wood* is a Material Noun but „*chair*“ is a Common Noun ; *water* is a Material noun but „*glass*“ is a common noun.

Note: no article is usually used before a material noun, but when it is specified, it takes the definite article "the".

Coal is black.

The *coal* of Jharia is of good quality.

He drinks *water*.

The *water* of the Ganga is sacred.

4-Abstract noun:

Read the following sentences:

Honesty is the best policy.

Beauty is truth.

Kindness is a great virtue.

He burst into *laughter*.

He is brave since his *boyhood*.

In the above sentences, *honesty, beauty, kindness, laughter, boyhood* are abstract nouns because they denote the names of some quality, action, or state.

An abstract: noun is usually the name of some quality, action or state considered apart from the object to which it belongs.

Quality: kindness, brightness, honesty, beauty, bravery, wisdom ,...

Action: laughter, movement, judgment,

State: boyhood, childhood, youth, slavery,

Abstract noun: relates to qualities, states or action which can not be seen or touched.

The name of subjects of arts and sciences are also abstract nouns, e.g., physics, chemistry, philosophy, geography, etc.

The noun number:

The Countable Nouns have two forms : Singular and Plural.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Boy	Boys	Knife	Knives
Box	Boxes	Child	Children
Baby	Babies	Ox	Oxen
Man	Men		

The first word of each pair denotes one and the second word of each pair denotes more than one.

Hence, boy, box, baby, knife, child, ox and man are single number.

Boys, boxes, babies, knives, children, oxen, and men are plural number.

When one person or thing is spoken of, the noun is singular and when more than one person or thing is spoken of, the noun is plural.

Note The countable noun may be either a *common Noun* or a *collective Noun*. A *common Noun* (boy, book, etc.) or a *collective Noun* (army, class, etc.) can be used either in *singular* or *plural number*, but a *proper Noun* (Kolkata, Delhi, etc.), a *material Noun* (oil, rice, etc.) or an *Abstract Noun* (honesty, kindness, etc.) cannot be used in *plural number*.

Moreover, a *common Noun* or a *collective Noun* in *singular number* always takes an *article* or *determiner* (a, an, the, this, that, etc.) when it is used in a sentence.

We cannot say: Here is boy. Navy of America.

We must say: Here is a boy/ the boy. The navy of America.

The only exception is „man“ it can be used either as „a man/the man“ in singular Number, or „man“ without any article or determiner to denote the sense of human race.

We cannot say: The man is mortal.

We must say: man is mortal.

As a conclusion: common noun and collective can be in singular or plural. As well as they always take an article or determiner when they used in a sentence.

How Plurals are Formed

1- The plural of noun is generally formed by adding "s" to the singular:

Singular	Plural
Book	Books
Desk	Desks
Pen	Pens
Cat	Cats
Girl	Girls
Head	Heads

2. Nouns ending –s, -sh, -ch and –x form the Plural by adding –es to the singular:

Singular	plural	singular	Plural
Ass	Asses	Box	Boxes
Gas	Gases	Fox	Foxes
Glass	Glasses	Kiss	Kisses
Class	Classes	Inch	Inches
Lass	Lasses	Bench	Benches
Bush	Bushes	Branch	Branches
Brush	Brushes	Bunch	Bunches
Dish	Dishes	Church	Churches

3. Nouns ending in –o having a Vowel before it , take –s to form Plural:

Singular	plural	singular	Plural
Bamboo	Bamboos	Radio	Radios
Cuckoo	Cuckoos	Studio	Studios
Hindoo	Hindoos	Folio	Folios

4.Nouns ending in –o having a Consonant before it, take –es to form Plural:

Singular	plural	singular	Plural
Hero	Heroes	Echo	Echoes
Zero	Zeroes	Mosquito	Mosquitoes
Negro	Negroes	Mango	Mangoes
Buffalo	Buffaloes	Potato	Potatoes

Some exceptions:

Dynamo	Dynamos	Photo	Photos
Piano	Pianos	Quarto	Quartos

5.Nouns ending in –y having a Vowel before it, form their Plurals by adding –s:

Singular	plural	singular	Plural
Boy	Boys	Day	Days
Toy	Toys	Play	Plays
Key	Keys	Ray	Rays
Monkey	Monkeys	Donkey	Donkeys

6.Nouns ending in –y having a Consonant before it, form their Plural by changing –y into i and adding –es:

Singular	plural	singular	Plural
Army	Armies	Copy	Copies
Baby	Babies	Duty	Duties
Body	Bodies	Fly	Flies
City	Cities	Lady	Ladies
Country	Countries	Story	Stories

7.Nouns ending in –f or –fe form their Plural by changing f or fe into v and adding –es :

Singular	plural	singular	Plural
Calf	Calves	self	Selves
Half	Halves	Shelf	Shelves
Knife	Knives	Sheaf	Sheaves
Life	Lives	Thief	Thieves
Leaf	Leaves	Wife	Wives
Loaf	Loaves	Wolf	wolves

8.several nouns ending in -f form their plurals by adding s :

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Chief	Chiefs	Gulf	Gulfs
Cliff	Cliffs	Hoof	Hoofs
Brief	Briefs	Proof	Proofs
Belief	Beliefs	Roof	Roofs

9- some nouns form their plural by changing the "inside vowel" of the singular:

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Man	Men	Foot	Feet
Woman	Women	Tooth	Teeth
Gentleman	Gentlemen	Goose	Geese

10- a few nouns form their plural by changing "the consonant" and "the inside vowel" of the singular:

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Mouse	Mice	Louse	Lice

11 A few Nouns form their plural by adding –en to the singular:

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Ox	Oxen	Child	children
Brother	Brethren		

12- compound nouns generally form their plural by adding "-s" to the principal word or by "the inside vowel" changing of the principal word:

Singular	Plural
Son-in-law	Sons-in-law
Daughter-in-law	Daughters-in-law
Father-in-law	Fathers-in-law
Mother-in-law	Mothers-in-law
Commander-in-chief	Commanders-in-chief
Grant-in-aid	Grants-in-aid
Maid-servant	Maids-servant
Step-son	Steps-son
Step-daughter	Steps-daughter

Looker-on	Lookers-on
Passer-by	Passers-by
Man-of-war	Men-of-war
Washerman	Washermen
Grown-up	Grown-ups

13. Compound Nouns written without hyphen take –s to form the plural:

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Armchair	Armchairs	Handful	Handfuls
Bookcase	Bookcases	Bagful	Bagfuls
Pickpocket	Pickpockets	Spoonful	Spoonfuls

14. There are some Compound Nouns which are turned to a double Plural:

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Man-servant	Men-servants	Lord-justices	Lords-justices
Woman	Women	Knight	Knights
Servant	servants	Templar	templars

15. Nouns Plural in form but Singular in use:

Gallows, News, Physics, Ethics, Politics, Statistics, Economics, Athletics, Gymnastics etc.

APPLIED SECTION

1. Change the Subject into Singular with other necessary changes in the following sentences:

- a. These oranges are very sweet.
- b. Those mangoes are not ripe.
- c. Three boys were present yesterday.

6. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate word given in the brackets:

- a. The.....are reading. (child, children) b. That.....is singing. (woman, women) c. Ratan's..... are white. (tooth, teeth)
- d. These.....are playing. (boy, boys)
- e. The.....are grazing. (deer, deers)
- f. Give me ten.....only. (piece, pieces)