

# Nouns

## Let's Learn

### The noun and its types

A **noun** is the name of a thing, a place, a person, a quality or an idea.



The different types of nouns are:

1. **Proper nouns:** Names of particular persons or places, such as *George, Meena, Delhi, Nepal*  
A proper noun always begins with a capital letter.
2. **Common nouns:** General names for people, animals, things or objects that belong to a common class, such as *man, woman, goat, horse, house, school, sugar, iron*
3. **Collective nouns:** Names of things, objects and persons that are referred to as a group, such as *people, team, nation, herd, swarm*
4. **Material nouns:** Words that refer to substances or materials, such as *sugar, water, salt, oil, copper, gold, silver*
5. **Abstract nouns:** Words that refer to qualities, conditions, ideas, actions, feelings and emotions, such as *beauty, poverty, knowledge, wisdom, work, anger, love*

Abstract nouns can be of two types:

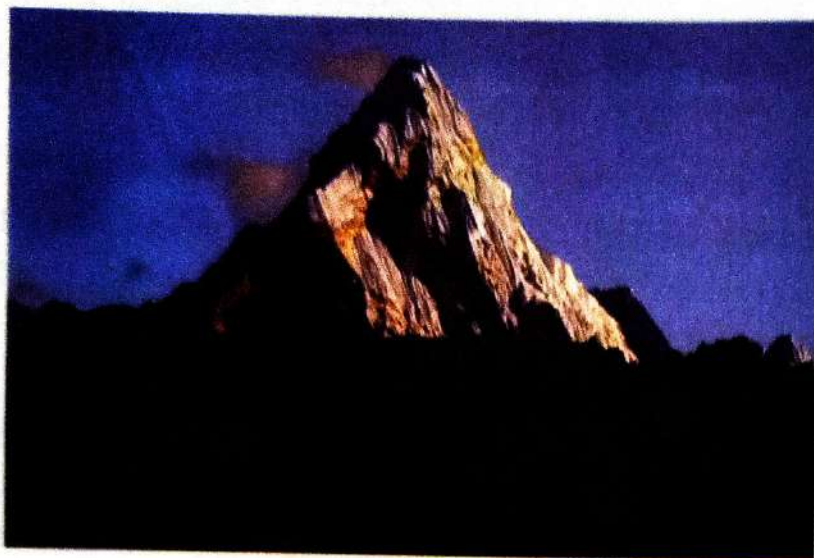
1. **Attributive nouns:** Names of qualities, characteristics or attributes are called attributive nouns. Such nouns can be formed from adjectives and nouns, for example, *poverty* (from the adjective *poor*), *knighthood* (from the common noun *knight*), *scholarship* (from the common noun *scholar*)
2. **Verbal nouns:** Nouns that are formed by adding an inflection such as **-ing** and **-er** to verbs sharing the construction are known as verbal nouns, such as *examiner* (from *examine*), *designer* (from *design*), *walking* (from *walk*)





## Let's Practise

Identify the types of nouns in this passage. Make a table of five columns and fill them in.



About 225 million years ago, India was a large island still situated off the Australian coast. A vast ocean called Tethys Sea separated India from the Asian continent. About 200 million years ago, India started moving towards the north when Pangaea separated. Its northward movement slowed down when India hit Asia about 40 to 50 million years ago. This collision and related decrease in the rate of plate movement is thought by the scientists

to be the beginning of the fast elevation of the Himalayas. The Himalayas and the Tibetan Plateau have risen very rapidly. In just about 50 million years, peaks such as Mt Everest have risen to heights of more than 9 k.m. The intrusion of the two landmasses hasn't yet ended. The Himalayas continue to rise by more than 1 c.m. a year. Scientists discovered layers of pink sandstone containing grains of magnetic minerals (magnetite) 50 k.m. north of Lhasa, which is the capital of Tibet. This helped them study the pattern of the Earth's flip-flopping magnetic field. These sandstones also contain plant and animal fossils that were deposited when the water of the Tethys Sea periodically flooded the region. The study of these fossils has revealed not only their geologic age but also the type of environment and climate in which they formed. Fossils found in the sandstone layers offer dramatic evidence of the climate change in the Tibetan region due to plate movement over the past 100 million years.

## Let's Learn

### Formation of abstract nouns from adjectives and verbs

Abstract nouns can be formed from either adjectives or verbs by adding suffixes to the root word. Look at some such adjectives on page 11.



## Abstract nouns from adjectives

Abstract nouns can be formed by adding suffixes such as **-ness**, **-ity**, **-y**, **-dom**.

The following are some examples of abstract nouns that are formed from adjectives:

kind + <b>-ness</b> = kindness	cheerful + <b>-ness</b> = cheerfulness
able + <b>-ity</b> = ability	fragile + <b>-ity</b> = fragility
wise + <b>-dom</b> = wisdom	honest + <b>-y</b> = honesty

### Tip

- An abstract noun made from an adjective by adding the suffix **-dom** is rare.
- For words ending in **e**, the **e** is removed when the suffix is added.

## Abstract nouns from verbs

Suffixes such as **-ion** and **-ment** can be added to verbs to form abstract nouns. The following are some examples of some such abstract nouns:

### Examples:

act + <b>-ion</b> = action	attract + <b>-ion</b> = attraction
discourage + <b>-ment</b> = discouragement	commence + <b>-ment</b> = commencement

Suffixes such as **-ure**, **-ter**, **-al**, **-ance** are also used to make abstract nouns from verbs.

### Examples:

please + <b>-ure</b> = pleasure	laugh + <b>-ter</b> = laughter
refuse + <b>-al</b> = refusal	appear + <b>-ance</b> = appearance

## Let's Practise

Make abstract nouns by adding appropriate suffixes to the following words.

- |             |                     |              |                      |
|-------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 1. erase    | .....eraser.....    | 8. approve   | .....Approval.....   |
| 2. stupid   | .....stupidity..... | 9. assure    | .....assurance.....  |
| 3. acid     | .....acidity.....   | 10. save     | .....Safety.....     |
| 4. manly    | .....manliness..... | 11. admit    | .....admission.....  |
| 5. feminine | .....feminism.....  | 12. unique   | .....uniqueness..... |
| 6. brave    | .....bravery.....   | 13. generous | .....Generosity..... |
| 7. brief    | .....brevity.....   | 14. extend   | .....Extension.....  |



# Let's Learn

## Countable and uncountable nouns

### Countable nouns

We know that nouns that can be counted are called **countable nouns**.

**Examples:** books, pens, pencils, persons, chairs, tables

Countable nouns can be classified as follows:

1. Singular—**Examples:** a cup, a man, a cat, a chair
2. Plural—**Examples:** two cups, five men, twenty cats, fifteen chairs

The indefinite articles **a** and **an** can be used with countable nouns.

**Example:** A cow is a domestic animal.

### Tip

- A singular countable noun can be used with the articles **a**, **an** and **the**.
- Words such as **many**, **a few** and **few** are used to quantify the countable nouns.

### Uncountable nouns

Nouns that denote materials, substances, ideas or concepts, feelings and emotions cannot be counted. Such nouns are **uncountable nouns**.



For example, we cannot count

- sugar, bread, milk, cheese, water
- love, hatred, tolerance, sadness, knowledge, travel
- news, burden, load, responsibility, information
- furniture, luggage
- gas, fuel, electricity
- money, wealth

Such nouns are taken as singular and therefore take a singular verb.

- Examples:**
1. Tolerance leads to brotherhood.
  2. This news disappoints me.



Some points to remember:

1. Indefinite articles **a** and **an** are not used with uncountable nouns.

**Examples:** information      not ~~an~~ information  
cheese                      not ~~a~~ cheese  
rice                         not ~~a~~ rice  
bread                      not ~~a~~ bread

2. We do not usually use **a/an** with uncountable nouns, therefore we cannot say *a milk* or *an information*. In such cases, we say: *a piece* of information, *a slice* of cheese, *a grain* of rice, *a loaf* of bread, etc.

3. However, words such as **some** and **any** can be used with uncountable nouns.

**Examples:** 1. Have you got *some* cheese?  
2. Do you have *any* news from your friend?

4. Words such as **much** and **little** can be used with uncountable nouns

**Examples:** a. I don't have *much* faith in astrology.  
b. Donald has *little* knowledge of politics.

## Let's Practise

State whether the underlined words in the following sentences are countable or uncountable nouns.

1. Your presentation on the solar system was fantastic.
2. One must abide by the rules of the institution.
3. Shepherds took the flock to the field.
4. Strike the iron when it is hot.
5. Please carry these mangoes to the dining room.
6. Have you left the equipment in the box?
7. Please check the website for details.
8. The traffic on the road was quite bad.
9. A stitch in time saves nine.
10. Milk contains high calcium content.
11. Would you like some tea?
12. I ordered a pizza for dinner.

C  
C  
C  
U  
C  
C  
C  
U  
U  
U  
C

Uncount



# Let's Learn

## Noun case

**Case** is that property of a noun or a pronoun that gives information about the role it plays in a sentence.



There are four types of case in English.

1. **Subjective or nominative case:** When a noun or a pronoun occupies the position of the subject in a sentence it is said to be in the nominative case.

You may ask the question *what* or *who* to get the nominative case.

**Example:** Wasim bought ice cream for Nimmi.

↑  
subject  
subjective case

She loves ice cream.  
↑  
subject  
subjective case



2. **Accusative or objective case:** When a noun plays the role of a direct object in a sentence, it is said to be in the objective case. You can ask the question *what* or *whom* to identify the noun in the accusative or objective case.

**Example:** Wasim bought the ice cream for Nimmi.

ice cream  
↑  
direct object  
objective case  
Nimmi liked it so much.  
↑  
direct object  
objective case

3. **Dative case:** When a noun or a pronoun plays the role of an indirect object in a sentence, it is said to be in the **dative case**. The noun that answers the question *to whom* or *for whom* is in the dative case.

**Example:** Wasim bought the ice cream for Nimmi.

↑  
indirect object  
dative case



He bought it for her.

indirect object  
dative case

4. **Genitive or Possessive case:** When a noun, pronoun or an adjective shows possession or association it is said to be in the **possessive case**. The noun that answers the question *whose* in a sentence is in the possessive case.

**Example:** Mohan's book is with me.

possessive case

His

book

is with me.

possessive case

**Tip**

The genitive case is sometimes marked by an apostrophe.

## Let's Practise

1. Identify and write the case of the highlighted words in the following sentences.

- a. Ravi Shankar plays the sitar. <sup>S</sup> <sub>O</sub>
- b. Sidhu brought you this cassette. <sup>S</sup> <sub>O</sub>
- c. We spoke for hours together. <sup>S</sup>
- d. Man proposes, God disposes. <sup>S</sup>
- e. This bottle is mine. <sup>S</sup> <sub>P</sub>
- f. Mel Gibson directed the film. <sup>S</sup> <sub>O</sub>
- g. Shyam talks a lot. <sup>S</sup>
- h. The nurse gave medicine to the patient. <sub>O</sub>
- i. Jiten offered me the cake that his sister made. <sup>S</sup> <sub>O</sub>
- j. I asked you a question. <sup>S</sup> <sub>O</sub>
- k. Danny Boyle's Slumdog Millionaire received several prizes. <sup>S</sup>

2. Identify and write the case of the highlighted words in the following sentences.

- a. I play cricket every Sunday. <sup>S</sup>
- b. Dibya will send you instruction. <sup>S</sup> <sub>O</sub>
- c. Look at this book. My dad gave it to me. <sub>O</sub>
- d. Can you please buy me a cup of coffee? <sup>S</sup> <sub>O</sub>
- e. I know Ravi. This is his mother. <sub>P</sub>
- f. His car broke down this morning. <sub>P</sub>
- g. I can drop you home after school. <sup>S</sup> <sub>O</sub>
- h. When will you finish your homework? <sup>S</sup>

O - Dative  
S - Subjective  
P - Possessive

I (subjective) you (dative case)