

Nouns

I- Definition

A **noun** is a word used to name a person: *Mr. Vasilis*, an animal: *dog*, a place: *Notting Hill*, a thing: *bag*, or an abstract idea: *freedom*.

II- Compound nouns

1- Definition

A **compound noun** is a noun made up of two or more words.

2- How to form it

Compound nouns are usually formed by nouns modified by another **noun, adjective, verb** or **preposition**.

Noun + noun: toothpaste

Adjective + noun: blackboard

Verb + noun: swimming pool

Preposition + noun: underground

Compound nouns can also be formed by:

Adjective + verb: dry-cleaning

Preposition + verb: output

3- How to write it

The two parts of a compound noun can be written in several ways:

- They can be joined together: toothpaste
- They can be joined with a hyphen: check-in
- They can appear as two separate words: full moon

III- Plural of nouns

1- Add "s" to form the plural of most nouns: noun → nouns, book → Books

Handout 1.1

- 2- Add “*es*” when the singular noun ends in *s*, *ch*, *sh*, *x* or *z*: church → churches
- 3- Switch the “*y*” to “*i*” and add “*es*” when the noun ends in *y* and has a consonant before it: baby → babies.
- 4- Change the “*f*” into “*v*” in some of the nouns ending in “*f*” or “*fe*”, and add “*s*” or “*es*”: thief → thieves.
- 5- Some nouns do not change at all in the plural: sheep → sheep
- 6- Some nouns change completely: child → children

IV- Proper and common nouns

1- Proper nouns

A proper noun has two distinctive features:

- It names a specific item, usually one-of-kind
- It begins with a Capital letter no matter where it comes in a sentence.
Example: We met Jack in the market.

2- Common nouns

A common noun names general items. Common nouns are general names. They are not capitalized unless they begin a sentence

Example of a common and a proper noun: Charlie had wanted an easy *teacher* (**common noun**) for his composition class, but he got *Mrs. Hacket* (**proper noun**), whose short temper and unreasonable demands made the semester a torture.

Chart of common versus proper nouns

Common	Proper
waterfall	Niagara Falls
man	Tony
month	April
cereal	Kellok’s
holiday	Easter
doctor	Doctor Farah
city	New York
restaurant	Healthy Dinner

V- Possessive form of nouns

- The possessive form of a noun is used to show ownership. A noun is possessive when a sentence can be changed to say that an item or an idea belongs to someone or something: Example: The new car belongs to Joe → The new car is Joe's.
- The possessive noun always comes before what it owns or has. Example: My dog's tail is brown.
- The possessive of singular noun is formed by adding an *apostrophe* + an "s"
Example: the house of Joe → Joe's house
- The possessive of a singular noun ending in "s" is formed by adding *apostrophe* + "s" if it is easy to be pronounced, example: boss's, or an *apostrophe* without "s" if it is not easy to pronounce, example: Archimedes'.
- The possessive of most plural nouns is formed by adding an *apostrophe*. Example: books → books'.
- The possessive of irregular plural names not ending in "s" is formed by adding an *apostrophe* and an "s". Example: women → women's

Sources

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