

Parts of Speech

In English, there are **eight traditional parts of speech**. These are the basic categories that words are classified into based on their function in a sentence:

1. **Noun** – A person, place, thing, or idea.
Examples: dog, city, happiness, Sarah
2. **Pronoun** – A word that takes the place of a noun.
Examples: he, she, it, they, who
3. **Verb** – A word that expresses action or being.
Examples: run, is, think, become
4. **Adjective** – A word that describes a noun or pronoun.
Examples: blue, tall, happy, three
5. **Adverb** – A word that modifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb.
Examples: quickly, very, well, yesterday
6. **Preposition** – A word that shows a relationship between a noun (or pronoun) and other words in the sentence.
Examples: in, on, under, through
7. **Conjunction** – A word that connects words, phrases, or clauses.
Examples: and, but, because, although
8. **Interjection** – A word or phrase that expresses emotion or exclamation.
Examples: oh!, wow!, ouch!, hey!

Nouns:

A noun is a word used to name something: a person/animal, a place, a thing, or an idea.

Hint: They are sometimes preceded by noun markers. Noun markers are also called determiners and quantifiers. They are words like a, an, the, this, that, these, those, each, some, any, every, no, numbers (1,2,3,etc.), several, many, a lot, few, possessive pronouns (his, her, etc).

Nouns are classified into:

1. Nouns can be singular or plural.

- **Singular nouns** name only one person, place, thing or idea. For example, One apple, a pencil, the book.
- **Plural nouns** name two or more persons, places, things or ideas. Most singular nouns (Not ALL) are made plural by adding -s. For example, (pencil is a singular noun. The word pencils is a plural noun.)

Exception #1: If a noun ends with the -s, sh, ch, or x like the words, boss, branch, ash or box, then they are made plural by adding -es (bosses, branches, ashes, and boxes).

Exception #2: There are also irregular nouns that do not follow any rules. For example, the plural form of the word child is children, man=men, mouse= mice, foot= feet, goose= geese, tooth= teeth, louse= lice, shelf= shelves, calf=caves, knife=knives, wolf=wolves, ox=oxen,

2. Nouns can be Proper Nouns or Common Nouns

- **Proper nouns** refer to specific people, places, things and ideas. A person's name (Tom- Bill) is a proper noun, for example. Other examples are names of places (Atlanta, Europe) and names of things (the Navy). They are always **capitalized!**

- People's names and titles- King Henry, Mrs. Smith
- Races, nationalities, tribes, religions, and languages- *African American, Chinese, Japanese, English, Arabic*
- Specific Places like countries, cities, bodies of water, streets, buildings, and parks
- Specific organizations- United Nations (UN),
- Days of the week, months, and holidays,
- Brand names of products
- Historical periods, well-known events, and documents- *Middle ages, Renaissance,*
- Titles of publications and written documents

- **Common nouns** are all other nouns. For example: cat, pencil, paper, etc. They are not capitalized unless they are the first word in the sentence.

3. Nouns can also be collective.

Collective nouns are nouns that are grammatically considered singular, but include more than one person, place, thing, or idea in its meaning. Words like *team, group, jury, committee, audience, crowd, class, troop, family, team, couple, band, herd, quartet, and society*.

Generally, collective nouns are treated as singular because they emphasize the group as one unit.

- *The committee is going to make a decision.*

4. Nouns can also be either count or non-count.

Nouns that are **non-count** cannot be counted. For example, you cannot breathe two oxygens; it is **oxygen**. (**fun, furniture, flour**)

5. Nouns can be Abstract or concrete: A noun can be abstract or concrete.

- **Concrete nouns** are nouns that you can touch. They are people, places, and some things. Words like *person, court, Cairo, pencil, hand, paper, car, and door* are all examples of concrete nouns.
- **Abstract nouns** are nouns that cannot be physically held. For example, things like *air, justice, safety, Democracy, faith*, etc.

6. Nouns can be Gerunds

A gerund is the -ing form of the verb and is used as a noun. For example,

Running is good for you. (Running is the noun/gerund and. is is the verb.)

Note: A noun can fit into more than one of these categories. For example, the noun (*Tom*) is a singular, concrete, count, proper noun.