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C. L. N. Prakash, Ritu Taneja
Excerpt
More Information

1 Nouns



Warm-up

Let us play a game. Work in groups of four. Write four words for each category given in the first column. The group that gets the maximum correct answers wins. One example has been given for each category.

C COM TC

A	B
names of people	doctor
names of animals	antelope
names of things	sugar
names of places	hospital
names of ideas/feelings/states	respect

The words you mentioned in the game are naming words. Words that refer to a person, an animal, a place, a thing, an idea, a feeling or a state are called **nouns**.

For example: Tina, nurse, cheetah, library, house, honesty, laughter, hunger

Kinds of Nouns

Nouns can be classified into different categories, and they come with their own rules for usage. Let us learn about them.

Kinds of Noun	What the Nouns Refer to	Examples
common noun	people, places, animals or things in general	woman, table, bird, crow, city, mountain, river, tree, month
proper noun	a particular person, place, animal or thing	Hema, Vinod, Hyderabad, Himalayas, Yamuna, March, Simba
abstract noun	ideas, qualities, activities or states	danger, friendship, love, time, theft, humour, sleep
collective noun	groups or collections of the same kind of people, animals or things	class, crowd, herd, shoal, team, audience, fleet, flight

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A. **Write these nouns against the correct category. Work with a partner, and check each other's answers.** 21st PS

English	aircraft	building	wealth	Monday	rose	kindness
truth	bottle	Mumbai	Godavari	audience	family	bravery
painter	student	bunch	Mahesh	voice	flock	bouquet

common nouns _____

proper nouns _____

abstract nouns _____

collective nouns _____

Countable and Uncountable Nouns

ANM

Countable nouns are nouns that can be counted as separate items. These nouns can be used with *a* or *an*, and with determiners that denote a number or tell how many.

For example:

- *a* mango
- *an* egg
- *three* children
- *several* houses
- *many* trees



Uncountable nouns cannot be counted as separate items. These nouns refer to ideas, experiences, some substances, weather and collections. Usually, words such as *much* and *a little* are used with uncountable nouns.

For example:

- music
- luggage
- *a little* milk
- sadness
- winter
- *a little* rain
- *much* joy
- *much* information
- flour

B. **Circle the countable nouns, and underline the uncountable nouns. Check with the teacher if you have correctly identified the nouns.** 21st PS

1. requests
2. electricity
3. music
4. advice
5. furniture
6. sand
7. traffic
8. heat
9. time
10. programme
11. childhood
12. answer

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Recap 21st CR

A **determiner** is a word that is used before a noun or a noun phrase to show which person or thing is being referred to.

For example:

- *every* student
- *some* old sheets

Self-help 21st IL

Uncountable nouns always take a singular verb.

For example:

- The *rice* <u>is</u> uncooked.
- *Music* <u>cheers</u> up everyone.

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Singular and Plural Nouns

A **singular noun** refers to only one person, place, idea or thing.

For example:

✦ day ✦ child ✦ chair ✦ hill ✦ school ✦ banana

A **plural noun** refers to more than one person, place, idea or thing.

For example:

✦ days ✦ women ✦ knives ✦ beaches ✦ offices ✦ oranges

Did You Know?

Only countable nouns have a plural form.

For example: 21st IL DC

✦ glasses ✓ ✦ milks ✗

✦ noses ✓ ✦ airs ✗

Forming the plural of nouns

The plural form of nouns can be generally formed by adding the suffixes *-s, -es* or *-ies*. However, there are some exceptions. Let us read a few rules to form the plurals of nouns.

Rules	Examples
add *-s* to regular nouns and to those ending with a *vowel* + the letter *y*	cars, apples, shoes, days, boys, monkeys
add *-es* to nouns ending with the letters *x*, *ss*, *sh* or *ch*	boxes, wishes, bosses, bunches
replace the letters *f* / *fe* at the end of the noun with the letter *v* and add *-es*	leaves, knives, wives
if the letter *y* follows a consonant, replace it with *-ies*	babies, parties, ladies, stories, cities

Rules	Examples
add *-s* to nouns ending with the letter *o*	zoos, videos, tattoos
add *-es* to nouns ending with a consonant and the letter *o*	heroes, echoes, potatoes
change spellings of irregular nouns	men, women, teeth, feet, mice, people
Some nouns remain the same in both singular and plural forms.	sheep, deer, series

C. Underline the nouns in each sentence, and then rewrite the sentences with the plural form of the nouns, wherever possible. Make any other necessary changes. Discuss your answers with the teacher. CT C

SVID

1. The engineer drove the car out of the garage for testing.
2. A battery in the series has not been connected properly.
3. A student brought a loaf of bread for the class party.
4. The train halts at this station for a short time only.
5. The library in the university is very well stocked.
6. The person was amazed by the trick of the magician.
7. A choir sang along with the teacher at the piano.
8. The Indian team is very good at a one-day match.
9. The employee was introduced to the senior in the group company.
10. A mosquito buzzed in my ear as we sat watching the video.



Possessive Form of Nouns

The possessive form of a noun is used to show that someone owns something. A **possessive noun** modifies another noun and is placed before the noun it modifies. We generally form the possessive form of the noun by using an apostrophe (') and the letter *s*.

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For example:

- Ekta's bicycle
- the gardener's rusted tools

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The possessive form of nouns can be formed by using the apostrophe in these ways:

singular nouns	add an apostrophe (') and the letter s	Minna's box, man's beard, horse's hooves, bird's beak
singular nouns ending with the letter s	add an apostrophe (') or add an apostrophe (') and the letter s	boss' chair / boss's chair, Thomas' house / Thomas's house
plural nouns ending with the letter s	add an apostrophe (')	girls' skates, speakers' names, cats' paws, birds' feathers
plural nouns that do not end with the letter s	add an apostrophe (') and the letter s	women's hair, sheep's wool, mice's tails, people's voice

D. Rewrite these sentences by using the possessive form of nouns. The first one has been done for you. First, check your answers. Then, work in pairs, and check each other's answers.

CT COM

INT

1. She is the mother of Gauri.
   She is Gauri's mother.
2. This is the story of Nelson Mandela.
3. What are the names of the singers?
4. The crops of the farmers were destroyed in the floods.
5. Uncle Mukesh is designing the room of the kids.
6. Please do not disturb the nests of the birds in the tree.
7. Let me see the results of this year.
8. I am quoting this from a novel of Dickens.
9. The horns of the deer are called antlers.
10. She is replying to the email of her sister-in-law.
11. The football team of our school will play in the semi-final tournament.
12. Could you guide me to the house of Mr Nathan?

Self-help

21st IL

- We do not usually use the possessive 's with things.

For example:

chair's arms ✗ arms of the chair ✓

- In case of compound nouns, we add 's to the final noun.

For example:

brother's-in-law ✗ brother-in-law's ✓

Did You Know?

21st DC

The apostrophe ('s) can be used to talk about duration and time.

For example:

- I require a *month's* time.
- Let us finalise *tomorrow's* programme.

Gender of Nouns

Some nouns that refer to living beings have a different form or word to indicate whether the noun is masculine or feminine. This is called the **gender of the noun**.

Nouns that refer to females are of the **feminine gender**.

For example:

- cat
- mother
- hen
- woman
- princess
- niece
- aunt
- doe
- tigress

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Nouns that refer to males are of the **masculine gender**.

For example:

- tomcat
- rooster
- prince
- uncle
- tiger
- father
- man
- nephew
- buck

Nouns that can be used to refer to both feminine and masculine genders are said to be of the **common gender**.



For example:

- cousin
- student
- friend
- bird
- artist

Some nouns that cannot be classified as masculine or feminine are said to be of the neuter gender. Nouns that are names of non-living things are classified as **neuter gender**.

For example:

- computer
- table
- roads
- books
- air

Forming the gender of nouns

The feminine gender of some nouns can be formed by adding the suffix *-ess* at the end of the masculine form.

For example:

- prince—princess
- god—goddess

The gender of some nouns is entirely different words.

For example:

- bull—cow
- groom—bride

Changing the gender of compound nouns requires a change in the main noun.

For example:

- father-in-law—mother-in-law
- stepfather—stepmother

Self-help 21st IL

In some cases, we form the feminine gender by dropping the last few letters and replacing them with a new letter before adding *-ess*.

For example:

- emperor—empress
- tiger—tigress

Did You Know? 21st IL DC SR

Nowadays, it is acceptable to use the neutral form of nouns for some traditionally gendered nouns. In other words, some nouns that refer to a specific gender are being replaced by neutral forms that can be used to refer to both the feminine and the masculine gender.

For example, the nouns *actor*, *author* and *poet* are now used for both men and women. Likewise, the noun *landowner* is used instead of *landlord* or *landlady*; the noun *police officer* is used instead of *policeman* or *policewoman*.

E. Rewrite these sentences by changing the gender of the nouns denoting people and animals. CT

INT

1. My grandfather took my baby sister to the mall in a perambulator.
2. The bride on the stage is my sister-in-law.
3. The king asked the men to decorate the court.

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4. My nephew had fun chasing the big red hen on our farm.
5. I once mistook the mare for a stallion.
6. The hostess took good care of her guests.
7. We saw a tiger chasing a buck.
8. The old widow sat watching the peacocks in the garden.
9. That lady played the role of a waitress in the movie.
10. Mehek's stepmother is a generous woman.



F. Write the neutral form of the given nouns. Choose the words from the box. Look up the Internet and check your own answers. CT 21st ICT

artisan	homemaker	courier	chairperson	principal
humanity	businessperson	native language	expert	police officer

1. policeman _____
2. deliveryman _____
3. chairman _____
4. headmaster _____
5. businessman _____
6. housewife _____
7. craftsman _____
8. mankind _____
9. mother tongue _____
10. master _____

G. Use the nouns given below to write a short story (450–550 words) on the topic 'Musicians Bind Animals in Friendship'. Use plural nouns, the possessive form of nouns and the gender of nouns correctly. Then, work in groups, and present the story in the form of a skit in class. C TC 21st CR

band (of musicians), flight	aircraft crash	safety, treetop	forest, darkness
music assembly	nests, birds	pride (of lions)	pack (of wolves)
herd (of elephants)	togetherness	celebration	friendship

Summary 21st CR

In this lesson, we have learnt that

- words that refer to a person, an animal, a place, a thing, an idea, a feeling or a state are called **nouns**;
- **countable nouns** have a plural form; **uncountable nouns** have no plural form;
- the **possessive form** of nouns usually uses an apostrophe (') and the letter s to show possession;
- nouns can be classified according to their **gender** as masculine, feminine, common or neuter; and
- some nouns referring to living beings have different form or words to show **gender**.

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2 Noun: Functions



Warm-up

Rearrange these groups of words to make meaningful sentences. 21st PS

1. makes carpenter a furniture
2. a furniture carpenter I to make called
3. some the carpenter gave nails I
4. some furniture by carpenter good was made the



You just rearranged the groups of words with the noun *carpenter* at a different position in each sentence. A noun may be used as the subject of a sentence, as a direct object or an indirect object of the verb, or as the object of the preposition.

Let us understand how the noun functions differently at different positions in a sentence.

ANM

Noun as the Subject

The part of the sentence that tells who or what the sentence is about is called the **subject**. The subject of a sentence may be a one-word noun, a compound noun, a compound subject, or a noun phrase with a head noun.

For example:

- *Snakes* can slither up a tree.

  (subject—one-word noun snakes)
- *A skilful and intelligent carpenter* makes good furniture.

  (subject—noun phrase with head noun carpenter)
- *Men and women* cooked a meal together.

  (compound subject—men and women)

Self-help 21st IL

A **noun phrase** is a group of words that acts as noun in a sentence and that does not have a verb which changes form to show tense. The head or the main word in a noun phrase is a noun that cannot be removed.

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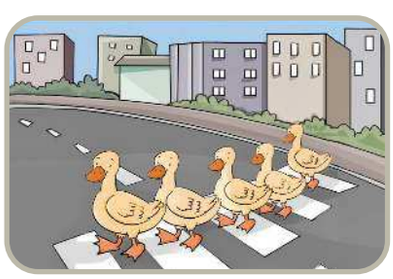
Self-help 21st IL

A **compound subject** is made up of two or more subjects joined by a coordinating conjunction. They share the same predicate.

A. Identify the subjects in the sentences and underline them. Check your answers with the teacher. 21st PS



1. Five ducks waddled across the road.
2. The Shatabdi Express chugged along slowly in the heavy fog.
3. The earliest people used to hunt for food in the forests.
4. This oil has a magical effect on hair.
5. My father looks best in a plain white shirt.
6. The science museum will be redesigned next year.
7. Kanwar and Surbhi will travel to London next month.
8. The engineers in the factory have designed a new car.
9. The brightest star in the sky is called Sirius A.
10. The nachos and the caramel popcorn were delicious.

Noun as the Direct Object

SVID

In many cases, the action performed by the subject may affect or be received by another noun or pronoun following the verb. The noun or the pronoun that receives or is affected by the action indicated by the verb in a sentence is called the **direct object** of the verb.

For example:

- I <u>called</u> *a carpenter* to make furniture.

  (The action indicated by the verb *called* is received by the noun phrase *a carpenter*. So, *a carpenter* is the direct object of the verb *called*.)

- A carpenter <u>makes</u> *furniture*.

  (The action indicated by the verb *makes* affects the noun *furniture*. So, *furniture* is the direct object of the verb *makes*.)

- Samir and Priyanka <u>planned</u> *it* together.

  (The action indicated by the verb *planned* is received by the pronoun *it*. So, *it* is the direct object of the verb *planned*.)

Self-help 21st IL

A direct object answers the question *whom/what.*

B. Underline the verbs, and circle the direct objects in these sentences. 21st PS

1. Girish always visits his grandparents over the weekend.
2. Raghav and Shireen have bought a new house.

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3. Mohan takes his herd of sheep to the pasture every day.
4. The Principal congratulated the football team on their victory.
5. The Chief Guest announced a holiday.
6. Lucy saw a school of fish during her morning snorkelling session.
7. The contractor asked the worker to go inside the building.
8. She visits the senior centre once a week.
9. Zara baked chocolate chip cookies for her classmates.
10. The soldier carried the injured man to the nearest camp.



Noun as the Indirect Object

SVID

Some verbs take two objects after them—

1. a **direct object** that receives or is affected by the action of the verb in a sentence. The direct object is usually a noun, a noun phrase or a pronoun; and
2. an **indirect object** that receives the effect of the action of a verb that has two objects. We can say the indirect object is the person or thing to or for whom the action is done.

Self-help 21st IL

An indirect object answers the questions *to what / to whom / for what / for whom / of what / of whom.*

For example:

- I gave *the carpenter* some nails.

  [The action indicated by the verb *gave* is received by the noun phrase *some nails* (*gave* what? *some nails*); so, *some nails* is the direct object of the verb *gave*.

  The direct object *some nails* is received by *the carpenter* (*gave* to whom?); so *the carpenter* is the indirect object of the verb *gave*.]

- Mother and Father together cooked the children *a delicious meal*.

  [The action indicated by the verb *cooked* is received by the noun phrase *a delicious meal* (*cooked* what? *a delicious meal*); so, *a delicious meal* is the direct object of the verb *cooked*.

  The direct object *a delicious meal* is received by *the children* (*cooked* for whom?); so, *the children* is the indirect object of the verb *cooked*.]

C. Underline the indirect objects in these sentences. The first one has been done for you. Then, work in pairs, and check each other's answers. 21st PS

1. The hen fed its chicks some corn.
2. Raj built his kids a beautiful sandcastle.
3. The chef cooked the guests a sumptuous meal.
4. The manager offered the peon a handsome salary.
5. My grandfather made me a colourful kite.



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6. Aunt Leena paid the electrician some money.
7. Paula, please pass me the baked beans after helping yourself.
8. The teachers assigned us a new project.
9. My brother gives Bruno a bath once a month.
10. Veena passed Shalini the ball before the batsman had crossed the crease.



Noun as the Object of the Preposition

A preposition is a word that is used to show the relationship between two or more people, places or things in a sentence. A noun, a noun phrase or a pronoun that follows the preposition is the **object of the preposition**.

For example:

- Some good furniture was made *by* the carpenter.

  (The noun phrase *the carpenter* is the object of the preposition *by*.)
- The children waited *in* a line.

  (The noun phrase *a line* is the object of the preposition *in*.)
- The fight landed *on* Monday.

  (The noun *Monday* is the object of the preposition *on*.)

D. Complete these sentences stating facts about a dust storm by adding suitable objects after the prepositions. You may choose the objects from the box. 21st IL DC CT

respiratory diseases	strong winds	many diseases	poor visibility	their faces
dry lands	growing crops	a dust storm	the houses	dust

1. A dust storm is caused when dust is lifted from _____.
2. The dry dust is lifted by _____.
3. Strong winds blow away the top soil that is needed for _____.
4. High speed winds create huge walls of _____ as they blow.
5. It becomes difficult for people to see anything during _____.
6. People cannot see their own hands in front of _____.
7. It is difficult to keep the dust out of _____ too.



INT

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