

1 Nouns

Get set

Underline all the nouns you can find in these sentences.

1. *Gitanjali* is a collection of poems written by the famous poet Rabindranath Tagore.
2. Isaac Newton was a famous physicist from England.
3. The farmer sat under the tree and watched the drops of rain.
4. I have a friend who can speak five different languages.
5. The poet found joy in the beauty of nature.

Remember

Nouns are words we use to name people, places, things or abstract ideas.

We can classify nouns in several ways—as common and proper, as countable and uncountable or as abstract and concrete.

Let us read

A. Read the passage.

Once upon a *time* there were four little *rabbits*, and their *names* were—Flopsy, Mopsy, Cotton-tail and Peter.

They lived with their *mother*, Mrs Rabbit, in a sandbank, underneath the *root* of a very big *tree*.



sandbank: (here) a raised area of sand

“Now my *dears*,” said old Mrs Rabbit one *morning* in June, “you may go into the *fields* or down the *lane*, but don’t go into the *garden* that belongs to Mr McGregor. Your *father*, Mr Rabbit, had an *accident* there.”

adapted from *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter

The underlined words are **proper nouns**, which are the names of particular people, places or things. They always begin with a capital letter.

Examples: • John • Sheela • India • Neptune • Wednesday • December • Diwali

The italicised words are **common nouns**, which are the names used for talking about people, places or things in general.

Examples: • boy • girl • country • planet • day • month • festival

B. Read the passage.



The works of William Wordsworth often talk about the *beauty* of *nature*. He finds *joy* in being close to the flowers and the fields. He feels *sadness* and *grief* because we do not have the *time* to appreciate the gifts the world has to give us.

The underlined words are **concrete nouns**, which are the names of things we can experience using one or more of our five senses (touch/smell/see/hear/taste).

Examples: • water • flower • sky • noise • food

The italicised words are **abstract nouns**, which are the names of feelings, ideas or concepts—things we cannot experience using any of our five senses.

Examples: • happiness • truth • jealousy • friendship • success

C. Read the shopping list given here.

The underlined words are **countable nouns**, which are the names of things we can count.

Examples: • boy • apple • bottle • packet • star

The italicised words are **uncountable nouns**, which are the names of things we cannot count.

Examples: • sugar • sand • water • money

- a dozen eggs
- a bottle of *water*
- a loaf of *bread*
- a few apples
- *sugar*
- some *cheese*
- twenty oranges

We use **collective nouns** to talk about a group of people, animals or things.

Examples: • a *crowd* of people • a *pack* of wolves • a *bunch* of keys

We use the **possessive form** of nouns to talk about who owns a particular thing. Possessive nouns are formed by using an apostrophe (').

Examples: • the *boy's* toys • the *children's* room • the *lions'* den

Let us practise

A. Underline the common nouns and circle the proper nouns.

- The Taj Mahal in Agra is a famous monument in India.
- Saturn is bigger than Uranus, but smaller than Jupiter, which is the biggest planet.
- This year the students are going to Patna and Kolkata in June.
- India celebrates Independence Day on the fifteenth day of August.
- My best friend Rajesh and his brother Suresh live in Ranchi.

B. Tick if the underlined word is a concrete or an abstract noun.

- I had been trying for a while; I found success at last.
 concrete noun abstract noun
- Many people are gathered on the streets.
 concrete noun abstract noun
- During my childhood, I spent many days on a small island off the coast of Orissa.
 concrete noun abstract noun
- The eagle flew high above the mountain.
 concrete noun abstract noun
- The flowers in this garden smell very sweet.
 concrete noun abstract noun
- Iqbal was rewarded by the President for his courage.
 concrete noun abstract noun



C. Tick the correct box to show what kind of noun the underlined word is.

1. Atul's bicycle is red in colour.

collective noun

possessive form



2. The children were playing football in the park near Mr Gupta's house.

collective noun possessive form

3. A herd of buffaloes was grazing in the field near the farm.

collective noun possessive form

4. I bought a packet of sugar from the shop.

collective noun possessive form

5. A pride of lions was resting near the watering hole in the forest.

collective noun possessive form

Let us listen

Listen carefully to the first stanza of the poem *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud* by William Wordsworth. Then fill in the blanks using the correct nouns from the box.

breeze lake daffodils trees hills crowd cloud

I wandered lonely as a cloud

That floats on high o'er vales and _____,

When all at once I saw a _____,

A host, of golden _____;

Beside the _____, beneath the _____,

Fluttering and dancing in the _____.

Let us speak

Work in pairs. One of you will say a sentence. The other one will have to pick any one noun from the sentence and say whether it is a countable or an uncountable noun. If there are no nouns in the sentence, say, *This sentence has no nouns.*

Example: Student 1: I am reading a book about dogs.
 Student 2: *Book* is a countable noun. *Dogs* is a countable noun.

Let us write

A. Use these nouns to make sentences of your own.

1. wisdom:

2. crowd:

3. Wednesday:

4. elephants:

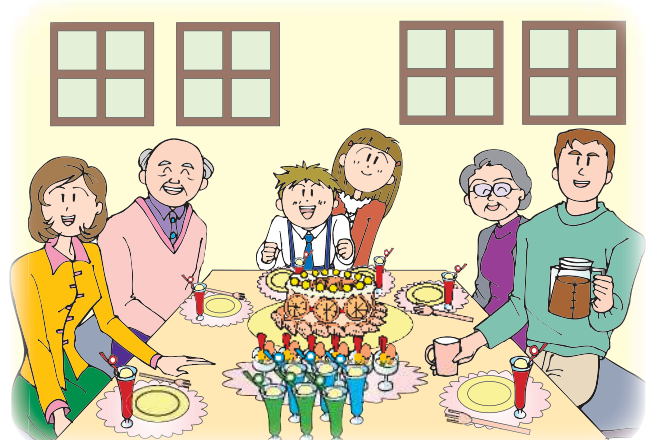
5. money:

6. honesty:

7. flock:

8. furniture:

B. Write a paragraph about your family.
 Underline the nouns you have used and mention their kinds.



Activity

Here is a game you can play in class.

The teacher will whisper an abstract noun to a student. The student will have to act out the word in class without saying anything. The other students have to guess what the word is. Take turns.

Some words that can be used are the following:
joy, sorrow, anger, friendship, failure, bravery



I can recognise, understand and do the activities on the different kinds of nouns.

