

A Noun is a word used as the name of a person, place or thing (anything that we can think of).

Kinds of Noun

- 1. Common Noun:** A common noun is a noun referring to a person, place, or thing in a general sense. Common here means ‘shared by all.’
 - The class is studying grammar.
 - The nearest town is 60 miles away.
 - She is a good girl.
- 2. Proper Noun:** A proper noun represents the name of a specific person, place, or thing. Proper nouns are always written with a capital letter at the beginning.
 - Jawaharlal Nehru was the first prime minister of India.
 - India is a democratic country.
 - Hari is a good boy.
- 3. Collective Noun:** A collective noun is the name of a number of persons or things taken together and considered as one unit, as;
 - The flock of geese spends most of its time in the pasture.
 - The police dispersed the crowd.
 - I saw a fleet of ships in the harbour.
- 4. Abstract noun:** An abstract noun is a noun which names quality, action, virtue or state, which one cannot perceive through one’s five physical senses.
 - We all love honesty.
 - Cleanliness is next to godliness.
 - I love to remember the happy days of childhood.

Abstract nouns are formed:

i. **From Adjectives**

Kind

Kindness

If the individual or things are thought of separately, it is called a **Noun of Multitude**. Some examples of collective nouns are class, army, crowd, parliament.

➤ **Remember**

1. Some nouns have the same form for the plural as for the singular:
 - sheep, deer, fish, series, species etc.
2. Some nouns are singular in form but plural in sense:
 - cattle, people, poultry, gentry, company, police, alphabet etc.
3. Some nouns are always used in the plural:
 - spectacles, thanks, trousers, savings, lodgings, scissors, compasses, people etc.
4. Some nouns though plural in form are used in the singular:
 - means, news, innings, scissors, spectacles, assets, tongs, wages, riches etc.
5. Some nouns have no plural:
 - information, advice, knowledge, furniture, progress etc.

Case

1. **Nominative Case:** When a noun is used as the subject of a verb, it is said to be in the Nominative Case. To find the nominative, put 'who' or 'what' before the verb.
 - Hari threw the ball. ('Hari' is in the nominative case)
2. **Objective/ Accusative case:** When a noun is used as the object of a verb, it is said to be in the Objective Case. To find the objective, put 'whom' or 'what' before the verb and its subject.
 - Hari threw the ball. ('ball' is in the objective case)

If a noun comes after a preposition it is also said to be in the objective case.

- The pen is on the desk.

➤ **Remember:**

The nominative generally comes before the verb and the objective after the verb.

- The window was broken. (nominative)
- He broke the window. (objective)

3. **Possessive Case:** Possessive case is used to express ownership or possession.
 - I like to read Shakespeare's tragedies.
 - Ratan's business is flourishing.

A possessive case is also used to denote authorship, origin, kind etc.

- Shelley's poems
- A mother's love
- Hari's school
- A week's holiday

➤ **Remember:**

a. The use of apostrophe with 's' denoting possessive case should be restricted to:

- i. *Living things; as,*
 - *the Director's secretary, the baker's shop, a boy's foot, a cat's tail*
- ii. *Thing personified; as,*
 - *Nature's law, India's heroes, fortune's favourite*
- iii. *Certain dignified objects; as,*
 - *At duty's call, the court's decree*
- iv. *Space, time or weight; as,*
 - *A day's journey, in a year's time, a foot's length, an hour's talk*
- v. *A few familiar phrases; as,*
 - *At his wit's end, at a stone's throw, for mercy's sake*

Except these the use of possessive case with other nouns sounds awkward. We must say;

- *The leg of the table is bent. (not, 'The table's leg)*
- *The attitude of the public seems uncertain. (not, 'The public's attitude')*

b. The apostrophe 's' is omitted;

- i. *After plural ending in 's', we should never put the apostrophe with 's'.*
 - *Horses' tail, boys' school, monkeys' chatter*

But after those plurals which do not end in 's', apostrophe should be used.

 - *Men's club, women's dresses, children's books*
- ii. *Where too many hissing sounds come together.*
 - *For conscience' sake, for goodness' sake, for Jesus' sake*
- iii. *The words his, hers, its, theirs, yours, ours, mine are possessive and they are not written with the possessive sign (').*
 - *Yours faithfully, its colour*

c. The words; church, house, shop etc. are often omitted after possessive case.

- *I will dine at my uncle's.*
- *You can get good biscuits at Polson's.*

d. **Avoid the use of double possessives.** *We should say*

- *The wife of my uncle's secretary, (not, 'My uncle's secretary's wife')*

Nouns in Apposition

When one noun follows another to describe it, the noun which follows is said to be in 'apposition' to the noun which comes before it.

- Kapil, our captain, made fifty runs.
- George, my uncle, is a very humorous person.

REVIEW EXERCISES

Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with suitable collective nouns.

1. A _____ of birds flew high in the sky.
2. They saw a _____ of lions at the zoo.
3. The farmer has a _____ of cattle on his farm.
4. He ate a _____ of grapes today.
5. Our friend shows us a _____ of stamps.
6. We saw a _____ of sheep on our way home.
7. Police have arrested a _____ of thieves.
8. She bought a _____ of bananas from the market.
9. The _____ of pupils are listening attentively to their teacher.
10. You can put the _____ of tools in that box.

Answers

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <i>flock</i> | 2. <i>troop</i> | 3. <i>herd</i> |
| 4. <i>bunch</i> | 5. <i>collection</i> | 6. <i>flock</i> |
| 7. <i>gang</i> | 8. <i>bunch</i> | 9. <i>class</i> |
| 10. <i>set</i> | | |

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with abstract nouns from the nouns in brackets.

1. I had a very happy _____ (child).
2. I forgot to renew my _____ (member) in the sailing club.
3. We formed a deep and lasting _____ (friend)
4. He hopes to take over the _____ (leader) of the party.

7. berry _____
8. half _____
9. knife _____
10. colony _____

Answers

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <i>teeth</i> , | 2. <i>leaves</i> , | 3. <i>keys</i> , |
| 4. <i>searches</i> , | 5. <i>pencils</i> , | 6. <i>guesses</i> , |
| 7. <i>berries</i> | 8. <i>halves</i> | 9. <i>knives</i> |
| 10. <i>colonies</i> | | |

Exercise 4

In each sentence, select the proper noun(s).

1. Is Hari coming to the dance?
 - a. Hari
 - b. dance
 - c. Hari, dance
2. Hari invited Ram and Mohan to the zoo.
 - a. Hari, Ram
 - b. Hari, Ram, Mohan
 - c. Hari, Ram, Mohan, Zoo
3. Carol and I went to the beach.
 - a. Carol
 - b. I
 - c. Carol, I
4. Buffalo sponsored this free concert.
 - a. Buffalo
 - b. concert
 - c. The city, concert
5. Ram doesn't like this location.
 - a. location
 - b. Ram
 - c. like
6. Rose, Honey, and I went to see the new reptile house.
 - a. Rose, Honey, I
 - b. Rose, Honey, I, reptile house
 - c. Rose, Honey
7. Lisa does not like certain bands.
 - a. Lisa, bands