

# Types of noun

## Noun:

A noun is a word which can function as the subject or object of a verb, or as the object of a preposition, and which typically denotes a person, place, or thing: *tomato*, *happiness*, *manager*, and *London* are all examples of nouns in English.

Nouns can generally be modified by determiners or adjectives, and can often be used in the plural.

The category of nouns is one of the parts of speech.

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**Agent noun:** An agent noun is a noun that is derived from a verb and denotes the person or thing that carries out the action expressed by that verb. In English, agent nouns are formed by adding the suffix *-er* or *-or* to a verb, for example *teacher*, *fastener*, *editor*, *accelerator*.

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**Collective noun:** A collective noun is a noun which, in its singular form, refers to a group of people or things considered collectively. Collective nouns in English include *audience*, *committee*, *family*, *parliament*, and *team*.

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**Common noun:** A common noun is a noun which is not a name of an individual person, place, etc., but instead refers to a class of people, animals, places, things, etc., or any example of that class, or to an abstract concept or quality. Examples of common nouns in English include *man*, *giraffe*, *countryside*, *mountain*, *automobile*, *time*, *beauty*, and *sadness*.

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**Count noun:** A count noun is a noun which typically has both a singular form and a plural form, can be used with a numeral, and in the singular must be used with an article or other determiner.

*Car*, *strawberry*, and *laptop* are all typically count nouns: you can say *I have one car*, *We had strawberries for dessert*, or *She was working on her laptop* (but you would not say *I have car*, *We had strawberry for dessert*, or *She was working on laptop*).

Some nouns can be used either as a count noun or as a mass noun. For example, *noise* is a count noun in 'I can hear a strange noise', but a mass noun in 'Stop making noise'.

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**Mass noun:** A mass noun is a noun which does not have a plural form, and cannot be used with a numeral. It can be used without an article or other determiner.

*Furniture*, *traffic*, and *welfare* are all typically mass nouns: you can say *welfare is important*, *I have some furniture*, or *because of the traffic* (but you would not say 'a welfare is important', 'I have three furnitures', or 'because of the traffics').

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**Proper noun:** A proper noun (or proper name) is a name used for an individual person, animal, organization, title, place etc. Proper nouns are usually written with an initial capital letter. Examples in English include *Richard*, *Belgium*, *the United States (of America)*, *(Mount) Everest*, *Oxfam*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Daily Telegraph*, and *July*.

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**Verbal noun:** A verbal noun is a word (in modern English, ending in *-ing*) which derives from a verb but functions as a noun, in that it can be the subject or object of a sentence and can be modified by an adjective or determiner. For example, in 'noisy eating is impolite' the verbal noun *eating* is the subject of the sentence and is modified by an adjective (*noisy*). A verbal noun is similar to a gerund, but a gerund also has some verb-like properties that a verbal noun does not.

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