# Types Of Nouns

There are several different types of noun, as follows:

## ****Common noun****

A common noun is a noun that refers to people or things in general, e.g. boy, country, bridge, city, birth, day, happiness.

## ****Proper noun****

A proper noun is a name that identifies a [particular](https://www.lexico.com/definition/particular) person, place, or thing, e.g. Steven, Africa, London, Monday. In written English, proper nouns begin with capital letters.

## ****Concrete noun****

A concrete noun is a noun which refers to people and to things that exist [physically](https://www.lexico.com/definition/physical) and can be seen, touched, smelled, heard, or tasted. Examples include dog, building, coffee, tree, rain, beach, tune.

## ****Abstract noun****

An [abstract](https://www.lexico.com/definition/abstract) noun is a noun which refers to ideas, qualities, and [conditions](https://www.lexico.com/definition/condition#condition__6) - things that cannot be seen or touched and things which have no [physical](https://www.lexico.com/definition/physical) reality, e.g. truth, danger, happiness, time, friendship, humour.

## ****Collective nouns****

Collective nouns refer to groups of people or things, e.g. audience, family, government, team, jury. In American English, most collective nouns are treated as singular, with a singular verb:

The whole family **was** at the table.

In British English, the preceding sentence would be correct, but it would also be correct to treat the collective noun as a plural, with a plural verb:

The whole family **were** at the table.

 For more information about this, see [matching verbs to collective nouns](https://www.lexico.com/grammar/matching-verbs-to-collective-nouns).

 A noun may belong to more than one [category](https://www.lexico.com/definition/category). For example, happiness is both a common noun and an abstract noun, while Mount Everest is both a concrete noun and a proper noun.

## ****Count and mass nouns****

Nouns can be either [countable](https://www.lexico.com/definition/countable) or [uncountable](https://www.lexico.com/definition/uncountable). **Countable nouns** (or **count nouns**) are those that refer to something that can be counted. **Uncountable nouns** (or **mass nouns**) do not typically refer to things that can be counted and so they do not regularly have a plural form.