

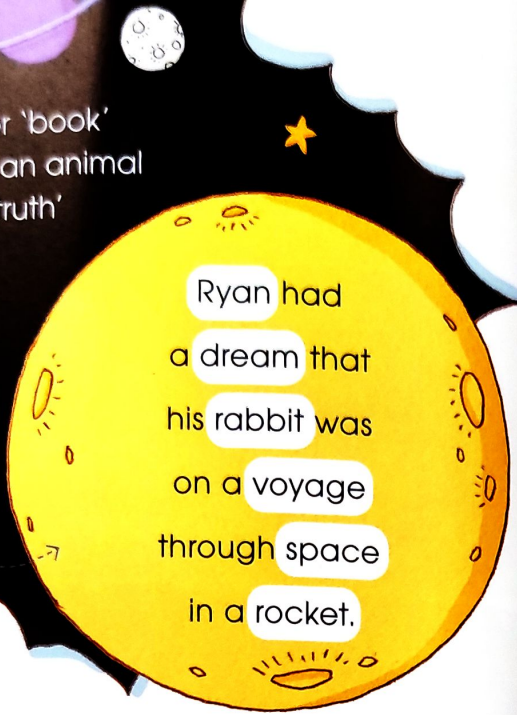
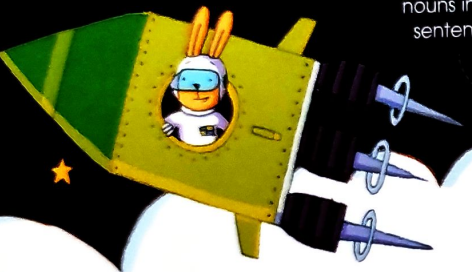
Nouns

Nouns are words like 'Amy', 'tiger' or 'book' that tell you the name of a person, an animal or a thing. Ideas and feelings, like 'truth' and 'sadness', are nouns as well.

Most sentences contain at least one noun and a single sentence can have many nouns.

There are six nouns in this sentence.

Ryan had a dream that his rabbit was on a voyage through space in a rocket.



Proper nouns

Proper nouns tell you the name of one particular person, place or thing.

'Paris' is a proper noun because there's **only one** Paris.

Proper nouns always start with a **capital letter**.



Paris

I'm proper.

- Superman
- Mexico
- Christmas
- Elvis

Common nouns

You use a common noun when you're **not** talking about a particular, unique thing.

'Penguin' is a common noun because there are **lots** of penguins.

Common nouns **don't** have a capital letter unless they come at the beginning of a sentence.

penguin

I'm common.



- cake
- laughter
- table
- star

Proper nouns include...

places, countries, continents

- New York
- Italy
- Asia
- Antarctica

oceans, mountains, rivers, lakes

- Pacific Ocean
- Rocky Mountains
- Amazon River
- Lake Victoria

religious names

- Bible
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Koran

historical names

- Roman Empire
- World War I
- Egyptians
- Victorians

events and festivals

- Ramadan
- New Year's Eve
- Easter
- Chanukah

Days, months and seasons

Days of the week and months of the year are proper nouns, so they start with a capital letter.

The four seasons are common nouns so they **don't** have a capital letter.

Next **Tuesday** will be the first day of **spring**.

proper noun

common noun

Dad or dad?

Names of family members, such as 'dad' or 'granny', are usually common nouns, so they **don't** start with a capital letter.

How is your dad?

When a family name is used **instead** of someone's first name, it starts with a capital letter because it's being used as a proper noun.

Hello Dad!

Here comes Dad!

Concrete and abstract nouns

Nouns can be described as either concrete or abstract.

Concrete nouns represent things that **can** be seen, heard, touched, smelled or tasted. Most nouns are concrete.

- computer
- fish
- shoulder
- house

Abstract nouns represent things that **can't** be seen, heard, touched, smelled or tasted.

- education
- jealousy
- fear
- surprise

Singular and plural nouns

A noun can be singular and stand for just one thing, or it can be plural and represent more than one thing. Nouns usually change their spelling when they're plural.

Making plurals

- Most nouns simply gain an **s** to form the plural.

bicycle → bicycles

- If a noun ends in **s, ss, x, zz, sh** or **ch**, you need to add **es**.

bus → buses

fox → foxes

- If a noun ends in a **consonant** plus **y**, change the **y** to **ie** and add **s**.

baby → babies

- If a noun ends in **o**, you usually add **es**.

hero → heroes

- If a noun ends in **f** or **fe**, you often change the **f** or **fe** to **ves**.

leaf → leaves

knife → knives

Tricky plurals

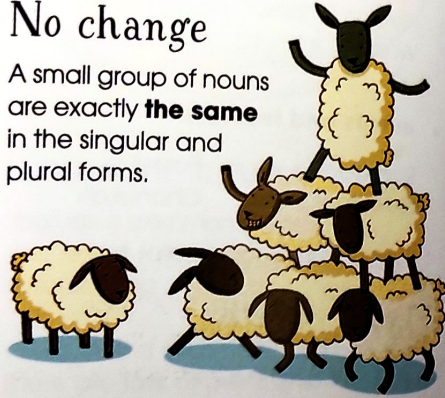
Some **irregular nouns** don't follow the usual rules for forming plurals.

child → children

mouse → mice

No change

A small group of nouns are exactly **the same** in the singular and plural forms.



sheep

sheep

aircraft	series
deer	species

No singular

Some nouns, like 'clothes' and 'trousers', are **always plural**. They don't exist as singular nouns.

jeans	scissors
thanks	police

Uncountable nouns

Uncountable nouns, like 'luck' and 'butter', stand for things that can't be counted. This means they are **always singular**.

This **milk** **is** fresh.

uncountable noun (pointing to milk)
singular verb (pointing to is)

Most abstract nouns can't be counted, and a small group of concrete nouns are uncountable too.

abstract	concrete
honesty	rice
happiness	bread
courage	flour
information	money

Collective nouns

Collective nouns, such as 'team' or 'flock', are **singular** even though they stand for many people or things.

This **bunch** of flowers **is** beautiful.

collective noun (pointing to bunch)
singular verb (pointing to is)

family	collection
group	class
choir	crowd



- An army of ants
- A parliament of owls
- A pod of whales
- A pride of lions
- A crash of rhinos
- A dazzle of zebras

Using collective nouns

Some collective nouns can be tricky to use. It's not difficult to tell which of these two sentences is correct:

Your collection of buttons **is** amazing. This is right.

Your collection of buttons **are** amazing. This is wrong.

But it's much harder to decide which of these sounds right:

Our team **is** going to win.

Our team **are** going to win.

When a collective noun represents a group of people, it can feel more natural to use the plural form, so both the sentences above are correct.

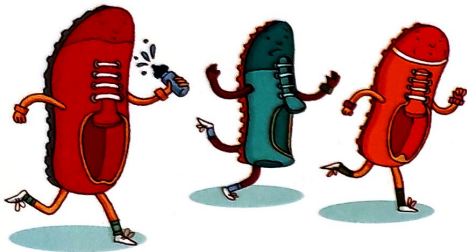
Curious collective nouns

Collective nouns are often used for groups of animals. Some of them might surprise you!

Compound nouns

Compound nouns are made by putting **two or more words** together. They can be written as a single word, they can be linked by hyphens, or they can be two separate words.

- motorbike
- merry-go-round
- running shoes



Many compound nouns contain **two nouns**. The first noun tells you more about the second noun.

1st noun	2nd noun
pet	shop
bus	stop

Some compound nouns are made from a **noun** plus an **adjective** that describes the noun.

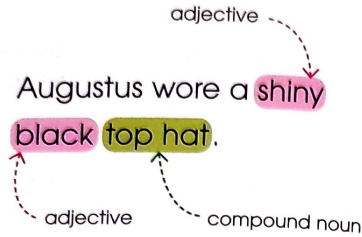
adjective	noun
full	moon
best	man

A few compound nouns contain a **noun** plus a **verb** that tells you more about the noun.

verb (present participle)	noun
swimming	pool
washing	machine

Using compound nouns

Compound nouns play the same role in a sentence as a one-word noun. This means you can use one or more adjectives in front of them.



Plural compound nouns

To form the plural of a compound noun, you need to add an **s** to one of the words. Usually, it's the last word that gains an **s**.

apple tree → apple **trees**

merry-go-round → merry-go-**rounds**

However, there are some exceptions that are important to remember.

mother-in-law → mother**s**-in-law

passer-by → passers-**by**

If you're not sure how to spell a compound word, look it up in a dictionary. It will show you whether to use one word or two and if any hyphens are needed.

Test yourself on nouns

How much do you know about nouns? Use a pen and paper for these quizzes, then turn to page 130 to check your answers.

1 Spot the nouns

There are **20** nouns in this news report. Can you find them all? (Remember to watch out for compound nouns.)

On the evening of Monday 22 September, there was a break-in at the bank. The thieves tried to smash a window and then kicked down the door. A neighbour heard the noise and phoned the police,

who arrived in less than ten minutes and made an arrest. The crime caused great alarm, but no money was stolen and there were no injuries. Two men were taken in a car to the police station.

2 Proper or common?

All the nouns in this email are shown in bold type. Can you spot **six** proper nouns and give them each a capital letter?

Hi **josh**

I hope you had a great **holiday** in **spain**. **rufus** really missed you. Let's meet next **wednesday** so you can tell me your **news**. We could have **lunch** at **peppers** at the **end** of your **street**.

See you next **week**.

moira

ps Send my **love** to your **dad**.

3 Singular to plural

Do you know the plurals of these nouns?

watch

foot

deer

tooth

potato

kiss

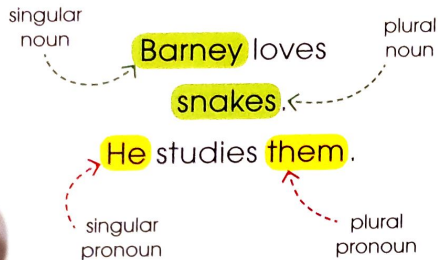
person

Pronouns

Pronouns are words like 'I', 'it' or 'they' that refer to a person, an animal or a thing without giving its name. Pronouns can also stand for something that's been mentioned or something that will be mentioned.

Using pronouns

A pronoun can stand for a **singular** or a **plural noun**.



Pronouns can also refer to a **statement** or an **idea**.

Barney got lost in the jungle. **It** was very frightening.

pronoun standing for a statement



Why use pronouns?

When you use pronouns, you don't need to repeat the same words over and over again. This makes your writing much easier to read.

Barney saw the tiger and heard the tiger roar. Barney was in trouble. The fact that Barney was in trouble was very clear.

Barney saw the tiger and heard **it** roar. **It** was very clear that **he** was in trouble.

Changing pronouns

Pronouns change their form depending on whether they are the subject or the object in a sentence.

- The **subject** is the person or thing that does an action.

I saw the monkey.
pronoun as subject

- The **object** is the person or thing that has an action done to it.



The monkey saw **me**.
pronoun as object

- pronouns as **subject**:

singular	plural
I	we
you	you
he/she/it	they

- pronouns as **object**:

singular	plural
me	us
you	you
him/her/it	them

I or me?

Sometimes it can be hard to choose between the pronouns 'I' and 'me'.

Look at the sentences below. Which do you think is correct?

Daisy and I are going on holiday.

Daisy and me are going on holiday.

The first sentence is correct because 'Daisy and I' are the **subjects** (the ones doing the action).

Now look at these two sentences. Which seems right to you?

Thanks for inviting Daisy and I.

Thanks for inviting Daisy and me.

The second sentence is correct because 'Daisy and me' are the **objects** (the ones having an action done to them).

To help choose the right pronoun, try simplifying the sentence so that you concentrate on **I** and **me**. First try saying: 'Thanks for inviting I.' Then try: 'Thanks for inviting me.' Which do you think sounds right?

Pronoun types

Pronouns can be used in several different ways. Here are some pronoun types you'll often come across.

- **Personal pronouns** stand for a person or a thing. They can be the subject or the object of a sentence.

She likes them.

personal pronouns

I	me	you
he	she	it
him	her	them
they	we	us

- **Relative pronouns** introduce some extra information that is related to a person, a thing or a statement.

The boy who lives next door wears shoes that look amazing.

relative pronoun

relative pronoun

who	whom	whose
which	that	

- **Possessive pronouns** show that someone or something belongs to a particular person.

That bag is mine, not hers.

possessive pronouns

mine	ours
yours	yours
his/hers/its	theirs

- **Demonstrative pronouns** point out the person or thing the speaker is talking about.

Do you like these or those?

demonstrative pronouns

this	that
these	those

- **Interrogative pronouns** introduce a question. They stand for a person or thing.

Who ate the cake?
What is happening?

interrogative pronouns

who	whom	whose
which	what	

- **Indefinite pronouns** refer to things or people in a general way.

Can you hear anything?
I think there's someone there.

indefinite pronouns

some	both	someone
nothing	each	something
all	many	anyone

Test yourself on pronouns

Can you use pronouns correctly? Try these quizzes then check your answers on page 130.

1 Adding pronouns

Write out the text below, then fill in the gaps using the personal pronouns shown in the box. (You'll need to use some of them more than once.)

I you he she it we they me him us

A strange creature was seen by Miss Kitty Keen as walked to school with a friend. Later, explained exactly what had happened. 'Finn and had just entered the park when a creature stepped out in front of As can imagine, couldn't believe our eyes. Finn said gave a terrible shock.' Kitty went on to describe the creature. '... looked like a large cat, but was covered in spots. told Finn was sure was a leopard, and agreed with But when told our parents weren't convinced.'

2 I or me?

The pronouns 'I' and 'me' are used incorrectly in some of these sentences. Can you decide which ones are correct?

1. Georgia is staying with Rosie and me.

2. Why don't you come with Liam and I?

3. Kamal and me went to the zoo.

4. Bryony and me have known each other for years.

5. Jack and I are best friends.

