

BHARAT SCHOOL OF BANKING

NOUN

What is a Noun?

Of all the parts of speech, nouns are perhaps the most important. A noun is a word that identifies a person, animal, place, thing, or idea. Here, we'll take a closer look at what makes a noun a noun, and we'll provide some noun examples, along with some advice for using nouns in your sentences.

Identifying a Noun

A noun is a part of speech that denotes a person, animal, place, thing, or idea. The English word noun has its roots in the Latin word nomen, which means "name." Every language has words that are nouns. As you read the following explanations, think about some words that might fit into each category.

Person – A term for a person, whether proper name, gender, title, or class, is a noun.

Animal – A term for an animal, whether proper name, species, gender, or class is a noun.

Place – A term for a place, whether proper name, physical location, or general locale is a noun.

Thing – A term for a thing, whether it exists now, will exist, or existed in the past is a noun.

Idea – A term for an idea, be it a real, workable idea or a fantasy that might never come to fruition is a noun.

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Noun Examples

When we first start to learn the parts of speech, trying to identify different words can seem like a challenge. This process gets easier with practice. Here are some noun examples to help you get started. The nouns in each sentence have been italicized.

Person – He is the *person* to see.

Person – John started to *run*.

Person – Plato was an influential Greek *philosopher*.

Person – Sharon admires her *grandfather*.

Person – My mother looks a lot like my *grandmother*, and I look very much like *them*.

Animal – The *dog* barked at the *cat*.

Animal – *Elephants* never forget.

Animal – *Sophie* is my favorite *horse*.

Place – The *restaurant* is open.

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Place – Let's go to the beach.

Place – Look over there.

Place – Come here.

Place – Harvard and Yale are two famous universities.

Place – Look! There's the Eiffel Tower.

Thing – Throw the ball.

Thing – Please close the door and lock it.

Thing – Use words properly to be understood.

Thing – The lamp sits on a table next to the sofa.

Thing – Money doesn't grow on trees.

Idea – Follow the rules.

Idea – The theory of relativity is an important concept.

Idea – Love is a wonderful emotion.

How Nouns Function

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Nouns have several important functions. While it's impossible to list them all here, we'll go over the most important jobs nouns are tasked with.

Nouns are subjects. Every sentence has a subject, which is a noun that tells us what that sentence is all about.

John swung the baseball bat.

Nouns are direct objects. These nouns receive action from verbs.

John swung **the baseball bat**.

Nouns are indirect objects. These nouns receive the direct object.

Brad threw **John** the ball.

Nouns are objects of prepositions. These nouns follow the prepositions in prepositional phrases.

John swung the baseball bat **at Greg**.

Nouns are predicate nominatives. These nouns follow linking verbs and rename the subject.

John is a **baseball player**.

Nouns are object complements.

These nouns complete the direct object.

They named their dog **Max**.

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Common errors on nouns and how to avoid them?

1. Much water are wasted.

Much water is wasted. (water is uncountable)

2. The police has caught the thief.

The police have caught the thief. (Police plural)

3. Have you finished your meals?

Food taken once is meal and not meals. Meals means both lunch and dinner. We cannot take them together.

Have you finished your meal?

4. Our teacher gave us good advise.

Advice – noun.

Advise – verb.

Our teacher gave us good advice.

5. He broke his spectacle.

Spectacles – no singular

6. Fifty meters are not a long distance

Fifty meters is not a long distance

Whenever subjects are units of measurement and express periods of time, amounts of money, distance or any other technical measurement representing a total amount the subject take a singular verb.

7. A trained gang of sailors was employed on the new ship.

Collective noun – crew of sailors.

A trained crew of sailors was employed on the new ship.

8. The shirt's colour is blue.

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An apostrophe and 's' should be used with living beings only to show possession.

The color of the shirt is blue.

9. I had a lot of informations to convey that day.

Information which is used in singular form.

I had a lot of information to convey that day.

10. All his brother-in-laws live in Chennai.

Compound noun – when made plural the head noun is changed.

All his brothers-in-law live in Chennai.

Man-servant : men-servants

Son-in-laws : sons-in-law

Major-General: Major-Generals

11. What are the latest news?

News is singular

What is the latest news?

12. I bought three dozens oranges.

Words like dozen, score, hundred, thousand, etc, when preceded by a numeral –used in singular form.

I bought three dozen oranges.

13. Whose are this cattles?

Nouns used only in plural- cattle.

Whose are these cattle?

14. All the furnitures in her house has been modified.

Furniture used only in singular form.

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All the furniture in her house has been modified.

15. One of the man is shouting.

One of or any of is followed by plural words.

One of the men is shouting.

16. Convey my regard and wishes to your parents

Convey my regards and wishes to your parents

Regards always plural in number.

17. I have never used such a scissors in my life.

I have never used such scissors in my life.

I have never used such a pair of scissors in my life.

18. The court has issued tow summons to the minister, but he hasn't turned up yet.

Summons – singular

Summonses – plural

The court has issued tow summonses to the minister, but he hasn't turned up yet.

19. There are many sheeps in the fields.

Sheep – singular and plural

There are many sheep in the fields.

20. The building's roof needs to be repaired.

Don't use 'S for non living things.

The roof of the building needs to be repaired.

21. I went to Raju's and Rani's house but I found the couple absent.

When two persons and one possession in the sentence, the possessive case should be added to the latter.

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I went to Raju and Rani's house but I found the couple absent.

22. India and china's problems are different.

When two different things are referred to, the possessive case should be added to both.

India's and china's problems are different.

23. This is Prime minister's Manmohansingh's speech.

In apposition, the possessive case should be added to the latter.

This is Prime minister Manmohansingh's speech.

24. This is the house of Gandhi's

Both of and apostrophe cannot usually be added in one sentence

This is the house of Gandhi

25. I have seen many of Ambitah's movies who is considered a great actor.

I have seen many movies of amitabh, who is considered a great actor.

26. He is my brother's-in-law friend.

In compound nouns the possessive case should be added to the last word.

He is my brother-in-law's friend.

27. The lecturer and The Principal is on the leave.

When two nouns joined by 'and' with an article before the first are treated as singular. When two nouns joined by 'and' have their own article, it is plural in number.

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The lecturer and The Principal are on the leave.

28. I have a black and a white dog.

I have a black and a white dog. (two dogs)

I have a black and white dog. (One dog)

29. Bread and butter are a healthy food.

When two nouns are joined by 'and' refers to one thing, singular verb can be used.

Bread and butter is a healthy food.

30. I want a soap.

Soap is uncountable and normally used in the singular form only. The indefinite article 'a' or 'an' should not be used with it. It has no plural form.

I want a piece of soap.

31. Billiards are an interesting game.

Billiards look like plural noun but give singular meaning.

Billiards is an interesting game.

32. A series of lectures are to be delivered tomorrow.

Series has the same form whether singular or plural.

A series of lectures is to be delivered tomorrow.

33. The table's legs were broken.

The legs of the table were broken.

34. The team is fighting among themselves.

The team are fighting among themselves.

35. My brother reads pages after pages of the book.

My brother reads page after page of the book.

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House after house

36. I am going to attend my sister's friend's marriage.

I am going to attend the marriage of my sister's friend.

37. She has lovely hairs.

She has lovely hair.

38. When she entered her room she saw a snake crawling on the ground.

When she entered her room she saw a snake crawling on the floor.

Ground – surface of the earth.

39. In our country, rich are given more respect than the poors.

Poor people is a slang use. It should be 'the poor'.

In our country, the rich are given more respect than the poor.

40. All the equipments of the house were damaged during the floods of last year.

Equipment – singular and plural.

All the equipment of the house were damaged during the floods of last year.

41. I left my sign on the paper which made him furious.

Signature should be used in place of the abbreviation 'sign'.

42. My cousin brother is a cheat and he cheats every one.

My cousin is a cheat and he cheats every one.

43. The foremost criteria of selection we adopted was the number of years of training a dancer had received under a particular guru.

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Criteria – plural. Criterion – singular.

The foremost criterion of selection we adopted was the number of years of training a dancer had received under a particular guru.

44. The medias especially television has a very powerful influence on children.

Media – plural

The media especially television has a very powerful influence on children.

45. I think this is not you dress, this is somebody's else.

I think this is not you dress, this is somebody else's.