

THE ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTER

PARTS OF SPEECH

NOUNS

Nouns: the name of persons, places, things, ideas, and emotions

Nouns can be used as subjects or objects in a sentence.

Sentence: subject – predicate – object
noun verb noun

Phrase: preposition – object
prep. noun

Examples: Dogs chase cats.
N. (subject) N. (object)

Ann loves New York in the fall.
N. (subject) N. (object) N. (object. of prep.)

Nouns can be concrete or abstract.

Concrete nouns name things we perceive with the senses.

computer food hand pet perfume

Abstract nouns name thoughts, feelings, and concepts.

peace joy patience justice integrity conflict

Nouns can be common or proper. Note: Proper nouns start with capital letters.

Common nouns name unspecific things.

tree man street statue country love

Proper nouns name specific and unique things.

Georgia Park St. Mr. & Mrs. Smith the White House

Nouns can be collective (name a whole group or collection).

Note: These nouns are considered singular.

committee crew division flock herd mob tribe unit

Nouns can be count or noncount.

Count nouns name things that can be presented in both the singular and plural form.
They can be preceded by a number; they are countable.

award cat bottle chair remark finger word
(example: one award, five awards)

Noncount nouns name things that cannot be represented in the singular form or the plural form.
They cannot be preceded by a number; they are not countable.
They refer to abstractions and occasionally have a collective meaning.

air education furniture paint progress weather

Nouns have number-related spellings.

Singular: one item or one group of something

song frog banana pretzel castle
or
team herd organization bunch

Plural: more than one item

songs frogs bananas pretzels castles

Nouns form plurals using different patterns.

Add -s (The majority of English words form plurals this way.)

backpack—backpacks radio—radios street—streets disk—disks

Add -es (for words ending in -s -ss -z -x -sh -ch)

bus—buses kiss—kisses buzz—buzzes fox—foxes wish—wishes church—churches

Change -y to -i, then add -es (for words ending in consonant plus -y)

party—parties daddy—daddies city—cities country—countries buggy—buggies

Change -f to -v, then add -es

wolf—wolves scarf—scarves hoof—hooves leaf—leaves

Add -es (for words ending in a consonant plus o)

halo—haloes tomato—tomatoes potato—potatoes hero—heroes mosquito—mosquitoes

Add -s to main word (hyphenated words)

mother-in-law—mothers-in-law passer-by—passers-by

Common nouns that do not follow the pattern of adding –s to the base form:

(Check your dictionary for additional words.)

antenna	antennae	man	men
criterion	criteria	medium	media
child	children	mouse	mice
crisis	crises	ox	oxen
foot	feet	person	people
gentleman	gentlemen	tooth	teeth
goose	geese	woman	women

Nouns that have no separate plural form:

air	molasses
cattle	moose
clothes	salmon
deer	sheep
happiness	sincerity
laziness	violence

Nouns and verbs in a sentence must agree in number (singular or plural).

Incorrect: Josiah were sleepy after his long trip. (subject – singular, verb – plural)

Correct: Josiah was sleepy after his long trip. (subject – singular, verb – singular)

Incorrect: The puppies is playing together in the yard. (subject – plural, verb – singular)

Correct: The puppies are playing together in the yard. (subject – plural, verb – plural)

Incorrect: Freedom give people hope from oppression. (subject – singular, verb – plural)

Correct: Freedom gives people hope from oppression. (subject – singular, verb – singular)

Incorrect: Students is becoming better prepared. (subject – plural, verb – singular)

Correct: Students are becoming better prepared. (subject – plural, verb – plural)

Nouns can be possessive (show ownership).

Possessives are formed by adding 's to the base word in most singular and plural nouns which do not end in S.

Michael's children's dog's geese's group's horse's musician's ox's story's tree's

If a singular noun ends with S, then add 's to the base word to form the possessive.

Amos's business's bus's dress's Seuss's

If a plural noun ends with S, then add '' to the base word to form the possessive.

girls' birds' Smiths' students' workers'

Add 's to the last word of singular compound words.

Father-in-law's football player's someone else's super hero's

Add 's to the last noun of compound nouns if they both share OR to each if they both own a portion.

Larry and Sue's home Amos and Allen's textbooks OR Josh's and John's shop the doctor's and dentist's offices

Nouns can be adapted forms of certain verbs and are called gerunds.

(Gerunds are formed from the -ing form of the verb.)

work – Working can be fun.	shop – Shopping is my hobby.	sleep – Sleeping is my favorite thing.
Verb	Verb	Verb
Noun	Noun	Noun
Subject	Subject	Subject

Nouns can be adapted forms of certain verbs and are called infinitives.

(Infinitives are the verb's base form and are usually preceded by the word to.)

sing – I have wanted <u>to sing</u> for a long time.	Cry – She started <u>to cry</u> when she saw her grades.
object	object
waste – Students cannot afford <u>to waste</u> time.	invite – I want <u>to invite</u> you <u>to eat</u> with me.
object	object object