

2

Nouns

A noun is a word that names a person, animal, place or thing.

A 'thing' may include anything we can think of—any idea, state, quality, action, feeling, etc.

In short, we can say a noun is a naming word; it is the name of anything.

Kinds of Nouns

There are five kinds of nouns:

1. Common Noun
2. Proper Noun
3. Collective Noun
4. Material Noun
5. Abstract Noun

Common Noun

A common noun is the name common to every person or thing of the same class, kind or group.

The words **boy**, **city**, **book**, **river** are all **common nouns**. Each of the words is shared by all of its kind. A *boy* is the common name of all the boys.

Proper Noun

A proper noun is the name of a particular person or thing.

- Anil is my brother. (Particular name of a boy)
- New Delhi is the capital of India. (Particular name of a city)
- The Gita is a sacred book. (Particular name of a book)
- The Ganga is an important river. (Particular name of a river)

The words **Anil**, **New Delhi**, **Gita**, **Ganga** are all **proper nouns**.

A proper noun always begins with a capital letter.

Collective Noun

A collective noun is the name of a collection of persons or things grouped together as one whole.

Words like **army**, **crowd**, **fleet**, **bunch** are **collective nouns**.

- A collection of soldiers is called *army*.
- A collection of people is called *crowd*.
- A collection of ships is called *fleet*.
- A collection of keys or grapes is called *bunch*.

Material Noun

A material noun is the name given to a material or substance of which things are made.

The words like **iron, glass, wood, cotton** are **material nouns**

- *Iron* is required to build a ship.
- This almirah is made of teak *wood*.
- *Cotton* is used for making clothes.

Abstract Noun

An abstract noun is the name of some quality, state, action, idea, feeling, etc., which we can only think of or feel but cannot touch. Qualities like **kindness, honesty, bravery** or action like **smile, theft, judgement** or state like **childhood, slavery, sickness, love, pain** or idea like **democracy, monarchy, communism** are **abstract nouns**. We can realise or think of what *beauty, bravery, judgement, love* or *pain* is but we cannot touch it. None of them has any physical form.



Remember

- Nouns are naming words
- Common nouns – Names of common things
- Proper nouns – Names of particular persons, places or things
- Collective noun – Names a group
- Material noun – Names a substance of which something is made
- Abstract noun – Names an idea

Here is how we can change common nouns, adjectives and verbs into abstract nouns.

The following chart shows how abstract nouns are formed from common nouns, adjectives and verbs.

Common Noun	Abstract Noun
friend	friendship
king	kingdom
boy	boyhood
hero	heroism
author	authorship
patriot	patriotism
pilgrim	pilgrimage

Adjectives	Abstract Noun
long	length
young	youth
cruel	cruelty
true	truth
strong	strength
happy	happiness
poor	poverty

Verbs	Abstract Noun
laugh	laughter
obey	obedience
excel	excellence
know	knowledge
choose	choice
move	movement
depart	departure
discover	discovery

Verbs	Abstract Noun
defend	defence
think	thought
see	sight
advise	advice
punish	punishment
free	freedom
judge	judgement
succeed	success

EXERCISES



Pick out the noun in each of the following sentences and write its kind next to each. One has been done for you.

- My father is known for his strictness.
Common noun *Abstract noun*
- A crowd of children entered the hall.
collective *Common*
- Happiness is something that all people like to have.
abstract *common*
- Now, tell the teacher the whole truth.
common *abstract*
- The postman brings us letters.
- Queen Elizabeth II is the queen of Britain.
Proper *common* *proper*
- Sweets are mostly made of milk.
common *material*
- We shall admire kindness and not cruelty.
abstract
- Ramesh went to Agra to see the Taj Mahal.
Proper *proper* *proper*



Fill in the blanks by choosing the right words from the box.

sticks pupils ships sheep army herd library crowd

1. The word *army* stands for a collection of soldiers.
2. The word *flock* stands for a collection of *sheep*.
3. The word *crowd* stands for a collection of *people*.
4. The word *fleet* stands for a collection of *ships*.
5. The word *herd* stands for a collection of cattle.
6. The word *bundle* stands for a collection of *sticks*.
7. The word *library* stands for a collection of books.
8. The word *class* stands for a collection of *pupils*.



Make the abstract nouns from the following:

e.g. kind – kindness

Adjectives	Abstract Noun	Verb	Abstract Noun	Common Noun	Abstract Noun
wise	<i>wisdom</i>	correct	<i>correct</i>	mother	<i>motherhood</i>
beautiful	<i>beauty</i>	believe	<i>belief</i>	coward	<i>cowardice</i>
good	<i>goodness</i>	live	<i>life</i>	thief	<i>thievery</i>
healthy	<i>health</i>	think	<i>thought</i>	hero	<i>heroism</i>



Complete each sentence by choosing the word from the box.

glass iron wood wool nylon rubber

1. *iron* is used for making bridges.
2. Blankets are made of *wool*.
3. Tyres are made from *rubber*.
4. They need *glass* to make bottles.
5. My shirt is made of *nylon*.
6. I want *wood* to make this table.



Fill in the blanks with common nouns given in the box.

pan guitar nestling swan cricket doe submarine trousers

1. a sport

..... cricket

2. a vessel for frying

..... pan

3. a musical instrument

..... guitar

4. a female deer

..... doe

5. a baby bird

..... nestling

6. a dress

..... trousers

7. a water bird

..... swan

8. a type of ship

..... submarine