

# Noun group and its grammatical category

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**Abstract:** Nouns are part of speech that comprise words that are used to name people, places, animals, objects and ideas. Almost every sentence will definitely have a noun and they perform different roles in a sentence. Nouns can act as the subject, an indirect object, a direct object, a subject complement. Nouns can also function as adjectives and verbs.

**Key words;** "grammatical category". Noun groups both before-pre-modifiers, , windswept. The region with low rainfall are uninhabited

Types of nouns :proper nouns- nouns that are used to name a person, place or thing specifically are called a proper noun. Proper nouns always begin with a capital letter. Examples: David came back from Minsk. (Name of a specific place)

Common nouns- common nouns are those nouns that refer to a generic item, group or place. This means that, unlike proper nouns they are not used to identify specific people, places or objects. Common nouns are not capitalised unless they appear at the beginning of a sentence. Example: I bought a pen yesterday. (pen common object)

Singular noun: These are words that are used to name a single person, place, animal, bird or object. There is a little boy in front of our house (Single person)  
Plural noun- refer to a number of people, place, animals or things. Nouns are made plural by adding an 's' or 'es' or 'ies' or 'ves' to the existing root word. Nouns that end with an 's' remain the same. Some nouns remain the same in both their singular and plural forms, and some others have totally different spelling. I need apples. Did you find the boxes you were looking for?

Countable nouns are those nouns that can be counted or measured. Tom brought ten packets of lays for the trip. (specific number ten) Mom asked me to buy a dozen eggs. (specific –dozen means twelve)

Uncountable nouns are those nouns that cannot be counted. This category of nouns includes both concrete and abstract nouns. I have a lot of homework to do. (not specific) I have a cup of tea. (cannot count).

Collective nouns – a collective noun is a naming word that is used to denote a group of objects, animals or people. Collective nouns for groups of animals:

A pride of lions

A flock of sheep

A swarm of bees

A herd of elephants

Collective nouns for groups of people

A band of musicians

A board of directors

A crew of sailors

A company of actors

Collective nouns for a number of things

A pair of shoes

A chain of ships

A fleet of ships

A bunch of grapes

Concrete Nouns: a concrete noun refers to objects that are material and can be perceived by the human senses.

The book is on the table

I had a cup of coffee

Sharon opened the windows

Hardy goes to school by bus

Abstract Nouns : any entity that cannot be perceived by the five senses of the human body are called an abstract noun .

Love is a strong emotion

Honesty is the best policy

IT takes a lot of courage to raise your voice and stand up against injustice.

You should not misuse the freedom you are given

When nouns are used as objects, they appear in the latter part of a sentence. It can be identified by asking the question "what".

I bought a pen

Where is your book

I cannot find today's newspaper

Nouns can identify a noun used as a direct object and indirect object. You can identify a noun used as a direct object by asking the question 'what' Do you want a lollipop?

A noun group of words relating to, or building on a noun. Noun groups usually consist of a pointer (the, a, an, this, that, these, those, my, your, his, her, its, our, mum's, Mr Smith's) plus one or more adjectives or adverbs and are an important language resource for building up descriptions. These should be taught to be seen as a chunk of information rather than a list or string of individual words. In factual texts, noun groups contain the 'content' across key learning areas. In literary texts they develop creative expression, important for building the story world, Characterisation and imagery. The dry, windswept, desert region has an extremely low level of rainfall (Noun groups both before-pre-modifiers, and after the noun-post-modifier, need to be explored). Noun groups can also have adjectival clauses embedded in them:

The region with low rainfall are uninhabited (with low rainfall is an adjective phrase).

The term "grammatical category" refers to specific properties of a word that can cause that word and a related word to change in form for grammatical reasons (ensuring agreement between words). For example, the word 'boy' is a noun. Nouns have a grammatical category called "number". The values of number are singular (one) plural (two or more)

The boy is playing

The boys are playing.

In sentence 1, "boy" is in its basic form giving its 'number' the value of singular. There is one boy and the related auxiliary verb "to be" is in the singular form is.

In sentence 2, the form of "boy" has changed to 'boys' giving its 'number' the value of plural. There is more than one boy and the related 'to be' is in the plural form.

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