

## Nouns

A noun names a person, place, or thing. In a sentence, it answers the question “Who?” or “What?” It can be the subject of a sentence, but it can also be a direct object, an indirect object, or the object of a preposition.

*Juan is coming with us. (Who is coming with us? Juan.)*

*I ate a mango. (What did I eat? A mango.)*

*We went up the stairs. (We went up what? The stairs.)*

A noun that names a particular person, place, or thing is a proper noun. It is capitalized. A noun that names a general, non-specific person, place, or thing is a common noun. It is not capitalized.

Proper nouns—particular persons, places, things	Common nouns—general, non-specific persons, places, things
<i>Pablo Neruda</i>	<i>poet</i>
<i>Albert Einstein</i>	<i>scientist</i>
<i>Yuba College</i>	<i>college</i>
<i>Mount Fuji</i>	<i>mountain</i>
<i>Pepsi</i>	<i>soda</i>
<i>Mustang</i>	<i>car</i>

Most nouns are either singular (one) or plural (more than one). You usually make a singular noun plural by adding an –s or –es. But some plural nouns are irregular and do not follow this pattern.

	Singular noun	Plural noun
Regular	<i>poet</i>	<i>poets</i>
	<i>scientist</i>	<i>scientists</i>
	<i>potato</i>	<i>potatoes</i>
	<i>kiss</i>	<i>kisses</i>
Irregular	<i>child</i>	<i>children</i>
	<i>man</i>	<i>men</i>
	<i>woman</i>	<i>women</i>
	<i>person</i>	<i>people</i>

A few nouns cannot be made plural. These are called *non-count* nouns. No matter what quantity of *furniture* you have, for example, you still just have *furniture*. Here are some common non-count nouns:

<i>milk</i>	<i>beer</i>	<i>money</i>	<i>bread</i>
<i>rice</i>	<i>water</i>	<i>furniture</i>	<i>guacamole</i>
<i>equipment</i>	<i>homework</i>	<i>ice</i>	<i>air</i>
<i>oxygen</i>	<i>hair</i>	<i>wool</i>	<i>sunshine</i>
<i>electricity</i>	<i>weather</i>	<i>advice</i>	<i>heat</i>

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