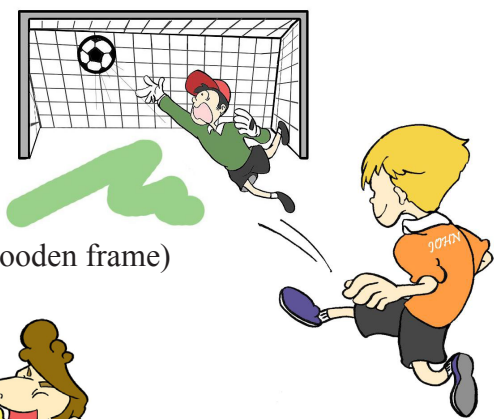
Lesson 1
Nouns and Adjectives

Reminder

Please don't get deceived by the simple appearance of Lesson One. In fact, it lays the sound foundations of all upcoming lessons and is often referred to later on when your studying gets stuck.

Nouns



A *NOUN* is the *NAME* of anything.

1. ***John*** kicked the ***football*** through the ***goal***. (***goal*** - a wooden frame)
2. The ***result*** was one ***goal*** to ***nil***. (goal - a point)
3. His ***team*** won a narrow ***victory***.
4. His ***wish*** came true.
5. ***John*** got excited and drank up a ***can*** of ***beer***.



The Positions of Nouns:

1 When we ***WRITE***, a noun has to be decided first.

a. b. c. d.	We put a **noun**	**before** **after** **after** **after**	a verb. a verb. a preposition. a 'be'.	- John kicked - kicked the football - through the goal - was one goal

2 When we ***READ***, a verb or preposition should catch our eyes first. Then a noun comes next.

a. **Before** any verb we can find a ***subject noun***
- ***John*** kicked.

b. **After** a verb we can find an ***object noun***
- kicked the ***football***.

c. **After** a preposition we can find an ***object noun***
- through the ***goal***.

d. **After** a 'be' we can find a ***complement noun***
- was one ***goal***.

3 Now turn our thoughts the other way round.

Any words or a group of words will be taken as **nouns** when they are found in these four positions:

a. **Before** a verb.

b. **After** a transitive verb.

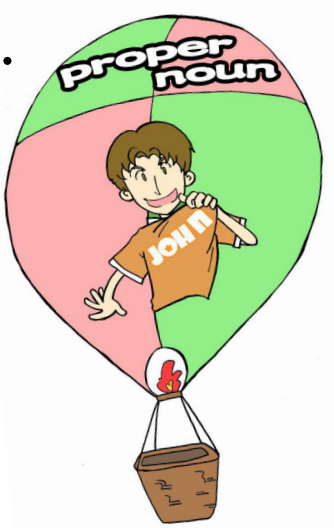
c. **After** a preposition.

d. **After** a 'be'.

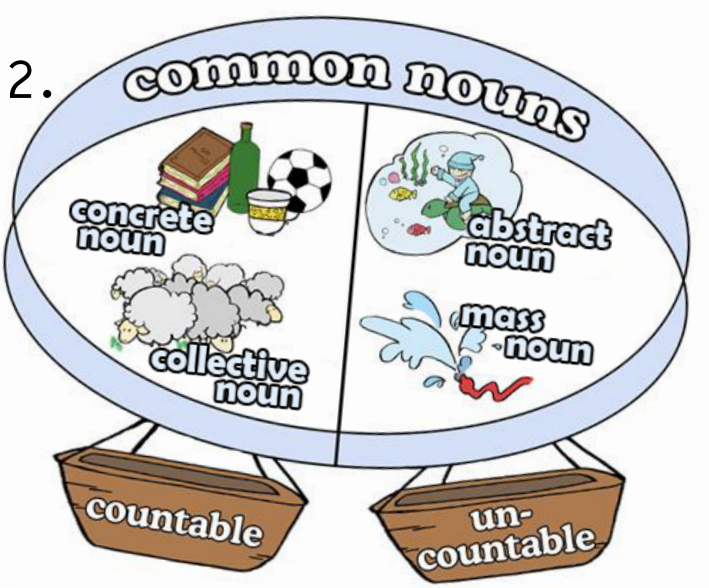
This important concept will help us understand the formation of noun phrases, gerunds (pages 89 - 91) and even noun clauses (pages 150, 155, 237, 310, 312, 324).

Kinds of Nouns:

1.



2.



1. Proper Noun

A name for a special person, place or company, such as John, Paris, IBM, etc.



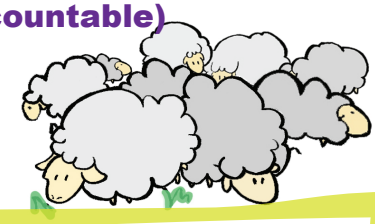
2. Common Nouns

a. Concrete Noun (countable)

Things that we can see and touch, such as book, table, cup, bottle, car, house, etc.



b. Collective Noun (countable)



A number or collection that we treat as a whole, such as family, mob, flock, army, fleet, etc.

c. Abstract Noun (uncountable)



Something that we can't touch or see but only feel, such as happiness, success, bravery, energy, wisdom, honesty, etc.



d. Mass Noun (uncountable)



Things that don't have separate units, such as wood, water, gold, cotton, homework, money, advice, travel, weather, jewelry, news, etc. In 'two pieces of gold', we count 'pieces'.

Note:

A common noun is the name used for any one of a class, such as 'book' (concrete), 'family' (collective), 'happiness' (abstract) and 'copper' (mass). It is contrasted with a proper noun, which is used for a special person or place.

A. Please put the underlined nouns of the following passage in the boxes below.

The Dog and His Shadow

Lucky, a little dog, is crossing a bridge with a piece of meat in his mouth when he happens to see his shadow in the water below. He mistakes his own shadow to be another dog with a bigger piece of meat. Now he wants the other dog's meat and tries to snatch it. While he does so, the piece of meat in his mouth drops into the water and disappears in darkness forever. Sadly, Lucky goes back to join his family with empty hands.
(You may lose everything if you are greedy.)

Proper	Concrete	Collective	Abstract	Mass



Why do we classify a noun?

From the kind of noun we can get: **(1) its exact meaning**, **(2) its countable or uncountable nature**. This nature will guide us to the correct uses of: **(3) articles (a, an, the)**, **(4) verb forms (singular / plural)** and **(5) adjectives of quantity**.

(1) We come to understand the meaning of a noun according to its type.



My cat ***Beauty*** does not like fish. (proper noun)
Mary is still a ***beauty*** in her middle age. (concrete noun)
Everybody admires her ***beauty***. (abstract noun)

(2) Countable or uncountable nature of a noun carries a different meaning.

Beer [U] an alcoholic drink (mass noun – uncountable)
Beer is sold here.

[C] a bottle, can or glass of beer (concrete noun – countable)
Give us two beers, please. (=two bottles, two cans or two glasses)

(3) Countable concrete and collective nouns take articles (a, an, the); uncountable mass and abstract nouns don't.

In a bar **the** attendants (concrete n.) were serving **a** group (collective n.) of tourists from **an** India town (proper n.).
Beer (mass n.) brings temporary pleasure (abstract n.) to drinkers. (no articles)

(4) Some nouns in singular number take a singular verb under one meaning, and in plural number take a plural verb for another meaning.

Singular		Plural	
FORCE	- strength	FORCES	- army
MANNER	- method of doing things	MANNERS	- politeness
PAPER	- sheet	PAPERS	- documents
RETURN	- coming back	RETURNS	- profits
WATER	- liquid	WATERS	- an area of water

The return of the company's former CEO was good news to the staff.
The returns on the new investment of the company were encouraging.

(5) Some adjectives of quantity such as 'many' and 'few' are used to qualify countable nouns, while 'much' and 'little' to describe uncountable nouns.

Much beer (mass n.) has been sold during holidays.
At the close of business hours, only a few beers (concrete n.) were left unsold.

Know your name!

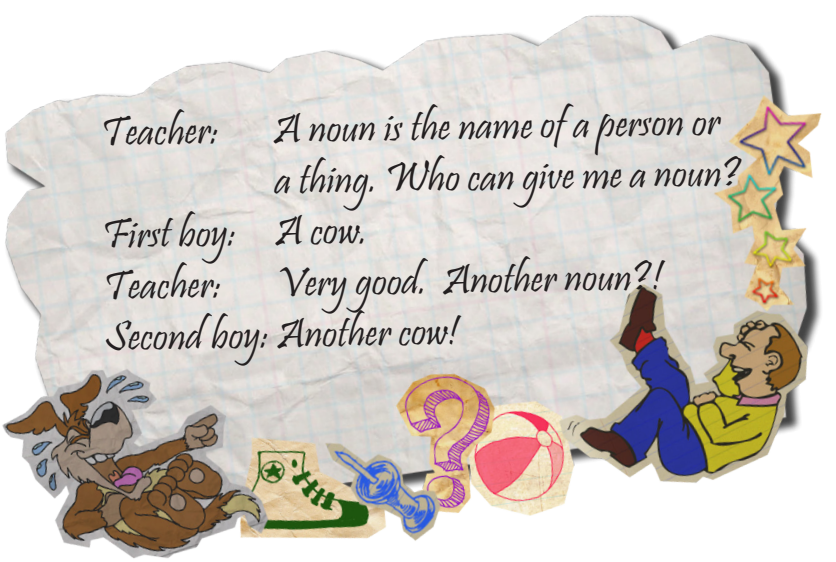
Know your name!
Know your name!
Know your name!

First name	Middle name	Last name
Ronald	Wilson	Reagan
Christian name		Surname
Forename (Given Name)		Family name

We usually write:
Ronald W. Reagan or Ronald Reagan



Barack Hussein Obama



Nouns: singular and plural

Nouns that refer to "only one" are singular.
Nouns that refer to "more than one" are plural.

	Singular	Plural	Exceptions
Regular	book horse cat	books horses cats	
Nouns that end in a "hissing" sound (-sh,-ch,-s,-x,-z)	dish bench box buzz ass glass inch	dishes benches boxes buzzes asses glasses inches	stomachs monarchs ('ch' pronounced as 'k')
Nouns that end in -o	potato tomato echo	potatoes tomatoes echoes	photos pianos casinos hippos
Nouns that end in -f or -fe	life knife loaf shelf thief dwarf scarf wharf	lives knives loaves shelves thieves dwarfs/ dwarves scarfs/ scarves wharfs/ wharves	proofs beliefs chiefs
Nouns that end in -y	duty army lady city fly body	duties armies ladies cities flies bodies	keys days valleys monkeys (A vowel before 'y')
Nouns that don't follow any of these rules	man tooth goose child mouse sheep ox German	men teeth geese children mice sheep oxen Germans	

- The following nouns are used **ONLY** in the **singular:**

News / Information	(No ***news*** is good ***news***.)
Aerobics	(***Aerobics*** is a form of exercise.)
Physics	(***Physics*** is a science subject.)
Garbage / Trash	(***Garbage*** is collected on Wednesdays in this town.)
Equipment	(Our office ***equipment*** is said to be up-to-date.)
Baggage / Luggage	(Too much ***baggage / luggage*** is not allowed on the plane.)
Furniture	(The ***furniture*** of the home suits the style of the house.)

- The following nouns are used **ONLY** in the **plural:**

Sweets	(My sister bought a packet of ***sweets*** to suck on her way to school.)
Thanks	(It was ***thanks*** to my uncle that I got the job.)
Riches	(Some people wanted fame, while others were crazy about ***riches***.)
Goods	(Our company supplies honest ***goods*** at honest prices.)
Fireworks	(Last night the whole city was entertained with ***fireworks***.)
Wages	(The little shop pays very low ***wages*** per week.)
Remains	(The ***remains*** of yesterday's lunch were still seen lying on the table.)

- Some nouns in certain expressions must be in **plural** number:

exchange seats; shake hands; make friends with; take turns; be friends with

E.g. We may **change trains** at the next station. (NOT 'train')

Usage:

Singular	Plural	Examples
cloth (C)	cloths	a yard of cloth
clothing (U)	——	an item of clothing
——	clothes (C)	a suit of clothes

1. In winter people wear heavy ***clothing*** like hats, scarves, boots, and overcoats.
2. Many ***cloths*** of high quality are used for making fashionable and expensive ***clothes***.

Some Final Words on Nouns at this early stage:

1. A noun has first to be classified as **countable** (concrete and collective) or **uncountable** (abstract and mass).
2. **Countable** nouns require articles (**a**, **an**, **the**); **uncountable** nouns **don't**.
3. **Countable** nouns take **singular / plural verbs**; **uncountable** nouns **only singular.**
4. **Before a noun** we find a transitive verb / preposition, e.g. ... show (tr. v.) love, ... in (prep.) love. **After a noun** we find a transitive / intransitive verb. E.g. Birds eat (tr. v.) worms. Birds fly (int. v.).
   Please refer to Lesson 2.

Adjectives

- **An adjective adds information to a noun.**
- **We say that the adjective qualifies the noun.**
- **Usually an adjective goes before a noun or comes after a linking verb.**
  (Please see page 19.)

Any word that adds information to a noun is an adjective.



The adjective **qualifies** the noun.

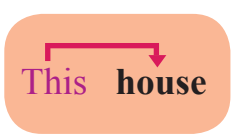
Adjectives are classified in order to make a neat stacking (arrangement) for a smooth, natural description of a noun. (Please see page 12.)

1. Demonstrative Adjectives (this, that, these, those, the, a(n), etc.)

These adjectives point out people, things, etc.

This and **these**	refer to things close to the speaker.
That and **those**	point at things less close to the speaker.
This and **that**	go with singular nouns.
These and **those**	go with plural nouns.
The	goes with both singular and plural nouns.

This house is old. (singular)
That house is old. (singular)
These houses are new. (plural)
Those houses are new. (plural)
The school is open. (singular)
The children are playing. (plural)

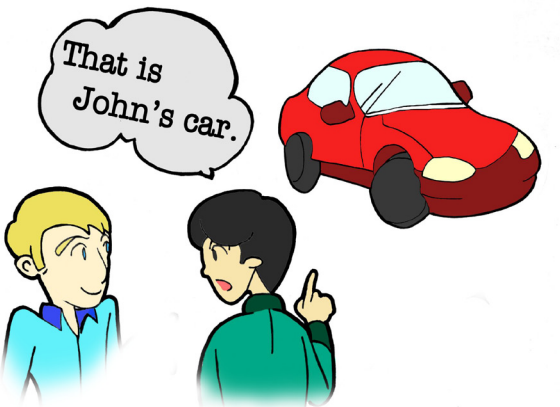


2. The Possessive (noun in the possessive form used as an adjective)

This kind of adjectives shows ownership.

That is **John's** car.

John's	→	shows ownership or possession.
John's car	=	The car that belongs to John.



The Possessive answers the question, 'Whose?'
Whose car? ——— **John's**.

Formation of the Possessive:

1. The Possessive of a noun whether singular or plural is formed by adding **'s** to the noun:



the boy**'s** book; the king**'s** crown; the family**'s** income;
men**'s** club; children**'s** school; people**'s** leader

2. When a noun ends in **s**, the Possessive is formed by adding an apostrophe (') after the s:

the boys**'** school; the students**'** teacher



3. Adjectives of Quantity

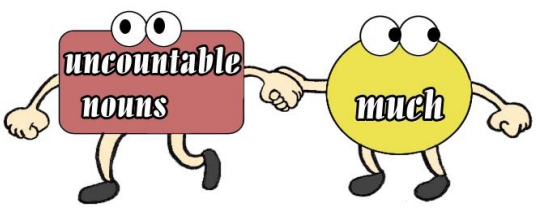
some money	**much** patience
enough food	**all** his wealth
no sense	**whole** amount
many days	**each** boy

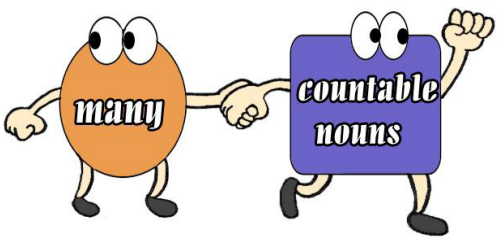
some **money**

These adjectives answer the question: How much or how many?

Note:

'Many' goes with countable nouns. (concrete and collective nouns)
'Much' goes with uncountable nouns. (abstract and mass nouns)



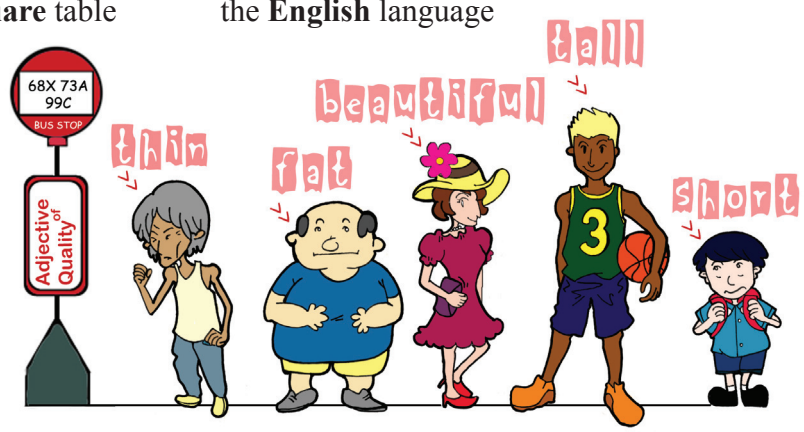


4. Adjectives of Quality

(i opinion, ii size/shape/age, iii color, iv proper adjectives)

a i **nice** man	an iv **old** car	a i **beautiful** ii **big** iii **round** iv **old** table
a ii **large** city	a v **blue** shirt	a v **black** vi **Japanese** car
a iii **square** table	the vi **English** language	

thin **man**



These adjectives answer the question: Of what kind?

Note:

Adjectives of opinion include **beautiful**, **ugly**, **nice**, **bad**, **dirty**, **good** ... .

A NOUN QUALIFIES ANOTHER NOUN

A noun can be used as an adjective to qualify another noun in order to show the **Function** or **Element** of the second noun.

Function:

n. n. A beauty salon	(A salon that provides beauty services)
adj. n. A beautiful salon	(A salon that looks beautiful)
n. n. An information center	(A center that provides information)
adj. n. An informative talk	(A talk that gives people helpful ideas)

Element:

n. n. A gold chain	(A chain that has the element of gold)
adj. n. Golden hair	(Hair that has bright yellow color)
n. n. A silk suit	(A suit that is made of silk)
adj. n. A silky voice	(A gentle voice that is like soft silk)

Word order of the adjectives

opinion size shape age color proper adj.

The chairman's two beautiful large round old brown Indian teak tables.

- demonstrative (1)
- possessive (2)
- of quantity (3)
- of quality (4)
- noun used as adj. to show 'element'

Collocation (matching of different parts of speech)

A noun and an adjective are **close partners**.

An adjective can qualify a few nouns, and, likewise, a noun can be qualified by a few adjectives.

Examples

Adjectives	Nouns
female	charm intuition (= feeling) a ... dog a ... officer a ... fig-tree
vital (= chief)	a ... role a ... person a ... game clues importance

Adjectives	Nouns
all-round secondary full-time adult consumer	education

a new
a rare
the human
an extinct
an endangered

species
(singular and plural)

Note:

The secret of writing good English lies in a good match between nouns and adjectives. **ONLY** through extensive reading can a learner acquire such a kind of valuable knowledge.



B. Please underline all the adjectives in this passage.

Janet's family had a big, old house with a beautiful garden, a lot of flowers and many old trees. One morning, Janet came in from the garden. She was a tall, fat woman, thirty years old. It was the hottest day of the year, but she wore a warm, brown skirt and yellow shirt. She went into the kitchen to get a refreshing drink of cold water. Just then the back door opened. And her mother came in. Her mother Molly was a tall, dark woman with gray hair.

A black and white dog came into the kitchen after her and ran across to her. She sat down, put her hands on its head and said to Janet, "I usually did the same to you when you as a kid were having a sad and depressed look."

Comparison of Adjectives

Most adjectives have the **positive degree**, the **comparative degree** followed by '***than***' to compare 2 things, and the **superlative degree** preceded by '***the***' to compare more than 2 things.

- All one-syllable adjectives follow the -er / -est pattern.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
tall	taller	tallest
quick	quicker	quickest
old	older/elder	oldest/eldest
If the vowel of the positive is short, the last consonant is doubled.		
big	bigger	biggest
red	redder	reddest
wet	wetter	wettest
If the positive ends in -e, only -r and -st are added.		
brave	braver	bravest
cute	cuter	cutest
wide	wider	widest
If the positive ends in -y, it changes to -ier and -iest.		
dry	drier	driest
sly	slier /slyer	sliest /slyest
shy	shier /shyer	shiest /shyest

- Most two-syllable adjectives, especially those ending in -able, -ful, -ing, -ish, -ive, -less and -ous, take MORE / (LESS) in the comparative and MOST / (LEAST) in the superlative.

readable	more readable	most readable
hopeful	more hopeful	most hopeful
charming	more charming	most charming
foolish	more foolish	most foolish
active	more active	most active

- Other two-syllable adjectives follow the -er / -est pattern as the one-syllable adjectives do.

clever	cleverer	cleverest
simple	simpler	simplest
happy	happier	happiest
friendly	friendlier	friendliest

- However, some two-syllable adjectives can take **EITHER** -er / -est **OR** more / most:

  common; stupid; pleasant; handsome; polite; gentle

  e.g. Your servant was **stupider *than*** I thought.
  Your servant was **more stupid *than*** I thought.

Irregular Comparison

- The following Adjectives are exceptions:

good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
little	less, lesser	least
much	more	most
many	more	most
far	farther/further	farthest/furthest

SENTENCE WRITING

Writing comparative clauses

- ***We use 'as...as' with the positive degree.***

  John is ***as*** fat ***as*** Jack.
  Mary is not ***as*** fat ***as*** John.

- ***We use 'than' with the comparative degree.***

  John is fatter ***than*** Mary.
  This dress is more beautiful ***than*** that dress.

- ***'The' is used with the superlative degree.***

  John is ***the*** fattest of the three boys.
  Mary is ***the*** most beautiful girl in the class.
  This is ***the*** fastest car on the running track.

Note:

'MOST' can be used without 'the' to mean 'very'.

E.g.
-The movie was most interesting.

-People opposed the bill most strongly.



To Learn English (1)

Clear and correct English makes people easily understand you, and they would immediately decide that you are well educated. As a result, they truly respect you: this brings to your career every chance of success.

However, to achieve good English, people need some basic tools for the long, steep climb to the goal. These are determination, patience and effort.

To begin with, the meaning of a word varies according to what part of speech it is. Often, a different part of speech of a word carries a different meaning:

Examples:

1) The dog was taken ill. (**adjective** - sick)
Poverty is an ill. (**noun** - problem)

2) The children are running about. (**adverb** - in different directions)
The report is about the weather. (**preposition** - concerning)
The movie is about to start. (**adjective** - soon going)

3) To understand a clause, we first find out its verb and next its subject/object.

Tokyo office costs cost a lot of money.
('Cost' is a transitive verb, meaning 'need')
('Costs' is a plural noun, meaning 'expenses', subject of the transitive verb 'cost'.)

Bush ducks shoe throw in Iraq.
('Ducks' is a transitive verb, meaning 'avoids'.)
('Throw' is a noun, object of 'ducks'.)
('Shoe' is a noun, used as an adjective to qualify 'throw'.)

So English is a language of definition (to read according to rules).

Remarks:

Was taken ill (idiomatic expression) = fell ill

'Bush ducks shoe throw in Iraq' is newspaper English, which usually omits the articles (a,an,the). Traditional English is 'Bush ducks a shoe throw in Iraq.' ('Throw' is a countable noun, which requires an article.)

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