

Types of Nouns - Study Guide

13.1 Nouns

Nouns are naming words. Words such as *friend, sky, dog, love, courage*, and *Seattle* are nouns.

Rule 13.1.1: A **noun** names something. Most nouns fall into four main groups. **People, Places, Things, and Ideas**

The nouns in the chart are grouped under four headings. You may know most of the nouns under the first three headings. You may not have realized that all the words in the fourth group are nouns.

PEOPLE	PLACES	THINGS	IDEAS
doctor	Houston	collar	strength
Americans	classroom	book	honesty
student	kennel	motorcycle	love
leader	Bunker Hill	pen	obedience

Example: *Amira* went to *Austin* last *week*. **Answer:** Amira – Austin – week

Eric kicked the *ball*.

Answer: Eric – person; ball - thing

Concrete and Abstract Nouns

Nouns may be classified as **concrete** or **abstract**. In the chart above, People, Places, and Things are concrete nouns. Ideas are abstract nouns.

Rule 13.1.2: A **concrete noun** names something that can be recognized through any of the five senses. An **abstract noun** names something that cannot be recognized through the senses.

CONCRETE NOUNS			
pencil	dog	tractor	river
ABSTRACT NOUNS			
courage	fun	honor	exploration

Example: *Jules* never forgot the stranger's *kindness*. **Answer:** Jules – concrete; kindness - abstract

Collective Nouns

A few nouns name groups of people or things. A pack, for example, is "a group of dogs or other animals that travel together." These nouns are called collective nouns.

Rule 13.1.3: A **collective noun** names a group of people or things.

COLLECTIVE NOUNS		
club	herd	army
troop	orchestra	committee
class	team	group

A collective noun names a group of people or things.

Examples of collective nouns are audience, crowd, couple, and family.

Collective nouns are usually followed by the word "of" and a noun telling who or what belongs in that group.

What Verb To Use With a Collective Noun?

Collective nouns can be tricky to pair with verbs. They can often appear to be plural when in fact they are singular. Nouns and verbs must be in agreement to make an accurate sentence. Most collective nouns use a singular noun instead of a plural noun. This means that they require a singular verb.

Examples: The *litter* of kittens *was born* under the stars. The *family* *takes* a lot of photos on vacations.

Read the examples below. Here, the collective nouns and the verbs are shown in bold

Example: The *pride* of lions hunts every night. **Answer:** pride – refers to a group of lions, which works as a unit.

Count and Non-count Nouns

Nouns can be grouped as count or non-count nouns.

Count nouns take an article (*a, an, or the*) and can be either singular or plural. Non-count nouns do not take a or an and cannot be plural. See the examples below.

Count nouns	a pencil, an eyebrow, the books, two parties
Non-count nouns	equipment, fun, knowledge, water, wheat

Rule 13.1.4: **Count nouns** name things that can be counted. **Non-count nouns** name things that cannot be counted.

Count nouns can take an article and can be plural.

EXAMPLE an orange the orange three oranges

Non-count nouns do not take an indefinite article (a or an) and cannot be plural: **EXAMPLE** We heard thunder last night.

(**not** We heard **a** thunder last night.)

He needs clothing for the camping trip.

(**not** He needs **clothings** for the camping trip.)

Example: My parents are buying new **furniture** for the family room. **Answer:** furniture – non-count noun
John had a fresh **orange** for breakfast. **Answer:** orange- count noun