

Lesson Three

NOUNS

Definition : A noun is a word used to refer to people, animals, objects, substances, states, events and feelings. Noun can be a subject, or an object of a verb, can be modified by an adjective, and can take an article or determiner.

Kinds of Nouns

1-Common Nouns : A common noun is a word that names people, places or things. They are not the names of a single person, place or thing. A common noun begins with a lowercase letter unless it is at the beginning of a sentence. Ex : man, woman, girl, cat, dog, book, table, school, shop.

2-Proper Nouns : Are words which name specific people, places, organisations, titles, calendar times, etc. They are always written with a capital letter. Ex : Simon, London, The President, Tuesday.

3-Abstract Noun : An abstract noun refers to states, events, concepts, feelings, qualities, etc., that have no physical existence. Ex : friendship, peace, romance.

4-Collective Nouns : A noun which, though singular refers to a group of people, things or animals. Ex : swarm, team, crowd, flock.

Noun can be :

A- Countable : They can be modified by a numeral, and occur in both singular and plural form, as well as co-occurring with quantificational determiners like every, each, several, etc. Countable nouns are individual objects, people, places etc. which can be counted. Countable nouns can be made plural, usually by adding 's' or 'es' at the end. Ex : There is a cow in the garden.

She saw seven cows in the garden.

Every cow is an animal.

B-Uncountable Nouns : Cannot be modified by a number without specifying a unit of measurement. In general, non-count nouns are considered to refer to indivisible wholes. Uncountable nouns are used to describe a quality, action, thing, or substance that can be poured or measured. Noun-Count nouns also refer to a whole category made up of different varieties or a whole group of things that is made up of many individual parts. Uncountable nouns are always singular. Use the singular form of the verb with uncountable nouns. Ex : There is some water in that pitcher.

That is the equipment we use for the project.

(money, advice, dust, information, psychology, walking, thinking, sincerity etc.).

Compound Nouns : Words can be combined to form compound nouns.

Ex : police + man= Policeman

Water+ tank = Watertank

*** The two parts can be written in a number of ways :

1-As one word. Ex : penfriend.

2-As two words joined with a hyphen. Ex : dining-table.

3-As two separate words. Ex : fish tank

*** **The two parts may be :**

Activity : combine these words to form compound nouns, then say what are they made up of .

Ex : bed/room bedroom (noun+ noun).

1- water / tank → water tank (noun+ noun).

2- Rain / fall →

3- Passer / by →

4- Washing / machine →

5- Look / out →

6- Take / off →

7- Green / house →

8- Dry / cleaning →

9- By / stander →

10- On / looker →

11- Out /put →

12- Motor/ cycle →

13- Hanger/ on →

14- Draw / back →

15- Hair / cut →

16- Driving / licence →

17- Over / throw →

18- Public / speaking →

19- Swimming / pool →

20- Train / spotting →

Note :

*** compound nouns often have a meaning that is different from the two separate words.

*** stress usually falls on the first syllable.

greenhouse →

green house →

A noun can function as :

1-Robert arrived.

2-Jane is a student.

3-I saw Richard.

4-I spoke to Anne.

5-Jane's work .

Gender

Masculine : men, boys and male animals (pronoun he / they).

Feminine : women, girls and female animals (pronoun she / they).

Neuter : inanimate things, animals and sometimes babies whose sex we don't know (pronoun it / they).

*** exceptions

Agreement Between Subject and Verb

Agreement between subject and verb1

1-If a sentence has a singular subject, it is followed by a singular verb, and if it has a plural subject, it is followed by a plural verb, that is the verb agrees with the subject.

Ex : She lives in Scotland.

Many people live in Scotland.

2-When the subject of the sentence is complex, the following verb must agree with the main noun in the subject.

Ex : Many leading members of the opposition party have criticised the delay.

3-The verb must agree with subject when the subject follows the verb.

Ex : Displayed on the board were the exam results.

4-If the subject is a clause, we usually use a singular verb.

Ex :To keep these young people in prison is inhuman.

*** However, if we use a what-clause as subject, we use a singular verb if the following main noun is singular, and either a singular or a plural verb if the following main noun is plural.

Ex : What worries us is the poor selection process.

What is needed are additional resources.(or needed is...)

5-Some nouns with a singular form, referring to groups of some kind, can be used with either a singular or plural form of the verb.

Ex :The council has (or have) postponed a decision on the new road.

*** In some contexts we have to use a singular or a plural form of the verb.

6-When names and titles ending in-s refer to a single unit we use a singular verb.

Ex : The Netherlands is one hour ahead of the UK.