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# NOUN

A **noun** (from Latin *nōmen*, literally **name**) is a word that functions as the **name** of a specific **object** or set of objects, **such** as living creatures, places, actions, qualities, states of existence, or ideas. However, **noun** is not a semantic category, so it cannot **be** characterized in terms of its meaning. Thus, actions and states of existence can also **be** expressed by **verbs**, qualities by **adjectives**, and places by adverbs. Linguistically, a **noun** is a member of a large, open part of speech whose members can occur as the main word in the subject of a clause, the **object** of a **verb**, or the **object** of a **preposition**.

## Classification

### Proper and common nouns

Main article: Proper and common **nouns** A proper **noun** or proper **name** is a **noun** representing unique entities (**such** as India, Pegasus, Jupiter, Confucius, or Pequod), as distinguished from common **nouns**, which describe a class of entities (**such** as country, **animal**, planet, **person** or **ship**).

- ANIMALS
  - AQUATIC ANIMALS
  - TERRESTRIAL ANIMALS
- BIRDS
- REPTILES

### Countable nouns and mass nouns

Main articles: Count **noun** and Mass **noun** Count **nouns** or countable **nouns** are common **nouns** that can take a plural, can combine with numerals or counting quantifiers (e.g., one, two, several, every, most), and can take **an** indefinite article **such** as a or **an** (in languages which have **such** articles). Examples of count **nouns** are **chair**, **nose**, and occasion.

- COUNTABLE NOUNS
  - FURNITURES
  - BEVERAGES
  - CLOTHES
  - ROOM
  - BODY PARTS

Mass **nouns** or uncountable (or non-count) **nouns** differ from count **nouns** in precisely that respect: they cannot take plurals or combine with number words or the above type of quantifiers. For example, it is not possible to refer to a furniture or three furnitures. This is true even though the pieces of furniture comprising furniture could **be** counted. Thus the distinction between mass and count **nouns** should not **be** made in terms of what sorts of things the **nouns** refer to, but rather in terms of how the **nouns** present these entities.

Many **nouns** have both countable and uncountable uses; for example, soda is countable in “give me

three sodas”, but uncountable in “he likes soda”.

- UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS
  - WATER
  - FIRE
  - AIR
  - SAND
  - TREE

## Collective nouns

Main article: Collective [noun](#) Collective [nouns](#) are [nouns](#) that – even when they are inflected for the singular – refer to groups consisting of more than one individual or entity. Examples include committee, government, and police. In English these [nouns](#) may [be](#) followed by a singular or a plural [verb](#) and referred to by a singular or plural [pronoun](#), the singular being generally preferred when referring to the [body](#) as a unit and the plural often being preferred, especially in British English, when emphasizing the individual members. Examples of acceptable and unacceptable use given by Gowers in Plain Words include:

“A committee was appointed to consider this subject.” (singular) “The committee were unable to agree.” (plural) \* “The committee were of one [mind](#) when I [sat](#) in on them.” (unacceptable use of plural)

## Concrete nouns and abstract nouns

Further information: Physical [body](#) and Abstract [object](#) Concrete [nouns](#) refer to physical entities that can, in principle at least (i.e. different schools of philosophy and sciences may question the assumption, but, for the most part, people agree to the existence of something. E.g. a rock, a [tree](#), universe), [be](#) observed by at least one of the senses (for instance, [chair](#), apple, Janet or atom). Abstract [nouns](#), on the other [hand](#), refer to abstract objects; that is, ideas or concepts ([such](#) as justice or hatred). While this distinction is sometimes exclusive, some [nouns](#) have multiple senses, including both concrete and abstract ones: for example, the [noun](#) art, which usually refers to a concept (e.g., Art is [an](#) important element of [human](#) culture.) but which can refer to a specific artwork in certain contexts (e.g., I put my daughter's art [up](#) on the fridge.)

Some abstract [nouns](#) developed etymologically by figurative extension from literal roots. These include drawback, fraction, holdout and uptake. Similarly, some [nouns](#) have both abstract and concrete senses, with the latter having developed by figurative extension from the former. These include view, filter, structure and key.

In English, many abstract [nouns](#) are formed by adding a suffix (-ness, -ity, -ion) to [adjectives](#) or [verbs](#). Examples are happiness (from the [adjective](#) happy), circulation (from the [verb](#) circulate) and serenity (from the [adjective](#) serene).

## Alienable vs. inalienable nouns

Main article: Inalienable possession Some languages, [such](#) as the Awa [language](#) spoken in Papua New Guinea, refer to [nouns](#) differently, depending on how ownership is being given for the given [noun](#).

This can be broken into two categories: alienable possession and inalienable possession. An alienably possessed noun is something that can exist independent of a possessor: for example 'tree' can be possessed ('Lucy's tree') but need not be ('the tree'), and likewise for 'shirt' ('Mike's shirt', 'that shirt') and 'roads' ('London's roads', 'those roads').

Inalienably possessed nouns, on the other hand, refer to something that does not exist independently of a possessor; this includes kin terms such as 'father', body-part nouns such as 'shadow' or 'hair', and part-whole nouns such as 'top' and 'bottom'.

## GRAMMATICAL AGENT

In linguistics, a grammatical agent is the thematic relation of the cause or initiator to an event. The agent is a semantic concept distinct from the subject of a sentence as well as from the topic. While the subject is determined syntactically, primarily through word order, the agent is determined through its relationship to the action expressed by the verb. For example, in the sentence "The little girl was bitten by the dog", girl is the subject, but dog is the agent.

The word agent comes from the present participle agens, agentis ('the one doing') of the Latin verb agere, to 'do' or 'make'.

The grammatical agent is often confused with the subject, but the two notions are quite distinct: the agent is based explicitly on its relationship to the action or event expressed by the verb (e.g. "He who kicked the ball"), whereas the subject is based on a more formal title using the theory of the information flow (e.g. "Jack kicked the ball"). In the sentence "The boy kicked the ball", the boy is the agent and the subject. However, when the sentence is rendered in the passive voice, "The ball was kicked by the boy", the ball is the grammatical subject, but the boy is still the agent. Many sentences in English and other Indo-European languages have the agent as subject.

## TYPES OF AGENT

### ACTIVE AGENT

### PASSIVE AGENT

- the person who has been harmed
- the person who has been sick
- the person watching

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