

Nouns

A noun is a person, place, thing, or idea. Sometimes nouns are introduced by an article (a, an, or the) but not always. The nouns in the following sentences are italicized:

Variety is the *spice* of *life*.

The squeaky *wheel* gets the *grease*.

A *bird* in the *hand* is worth *two* in the *bush*.

There are many types of nouns: proper, common, abstract, concrete, count, noncount, singular, plural, collective, and possessive. These classifications can often overlap.

- Proper nouns refer to specific names that need to be capitalized, such as *Eiffel Tower*, *Joanna*, and *Detriot*.
- Common nouns are the opposite of proper nouns and require no capitalization: monument, woman, and city.
- Abstract nouns are those that fall into the category of ideas like *variety*, *love*, and *haste*.
- Concrete nouns are the counterpart to abstract and are literal people, places, or things.
- Count nouns are those that require articles (*the glass of water*, *a pretty girl*, *the cities*), while noncount nouns do not need articles (*water*, *oil*, *freedom*).
- Singular nouns involve a single person, place, thing, or idea: *man*, *dog*, *emotion*, *street*.
- Plural nouns involve more than one: *men*, *dogs*, *emotions*, *streets*.
- Collective nouns are singular nouns that represent multiple people/objects, such as *family*, *band*, and *class*.
- Possessive nouns are those that work as adjectives and need to be made possessive: *Clark's* shoe, the *dog's* ear, a *day's* work.