



Nouns, Noun Plurals, and Possessive Nouns

Nouns

1. A noun is a person, place, thing, or idea.
2. Nouns can either be proper or common.
3. A proper noun names a specific person, place, thing, or idea. Proper nouns are capitalized.
4. Common nouns name everything else and are not capitalized.
5. Examples:
 - a. Common noun: man Proper noun: George Washington
 - b. Common noun: store Proper noun: Kroger's

Noun Plurals

The plural form of most nouns is created simply by adding the letter *s*.

- more than one snake = snakes
- more than one ski = skis
- more than one Barrymore = Barrymores

Words that end in *-ch*, *x*, *s* or *s-like* sounds, however, will require an *-es* for the plural:

- more than one witch = witches
- more than one box = boxes
- more than one gas = gases
- more than one bus = buses
- more than one kiss = kisses
- more than one Jones = Joneses

There are several nouns that have irregular plural forms. For example:

- more than one child = children
- more than one woman = women
- more than one man = men
- more than one person = people
- more than one goose = geese
- more than one mouse = mice



- more than one deer = deer

And, finally, there are nouns that maintain their Latin or Greek form in the plural.

- more than one syllabus = syllabi
- more than one fungus = fungi
- more than one cactus = cacti
- more than one thesis = theses

When using plural nouns in a sentence, be sure to use singular verb. Likewise, singular nouns should have plural verbs. For example:

Singular noun: The girl is pretty.

Plural noun: The girls are pretty.

Singular noun: Her necklace was stolen.

Plural noun: Her necklaces were stolen.

Possessive Nouns

Most singular nouns can be made possessive by adding an apostrophe and an s. For example:

- The car's door
- The child's toy
- A dog's tail

Most plural nouns already end in s. To create their possessive, simply add an apostrophe after the s:

- The Williams' house is the big blue one on the corner.
- The lions' usual source of water has dried up.
- The gases' odors mixed.

With nouns whose plurals are irregular, you will need to add an apostrophe followed by an s.

- She plans on opening a women's boutique.
- Children's programming is not a high priority.
- The geese's food supply was endangered.

When you are showing possession with compounded nouns, the apostrophe's placement depends on whether the nouns are acting separately or together.

- Miguel's and Cecilia's new cars are in the parking lot.

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/nouns.htm>



This means that each of them has at least one new car and that their ownership is a separate matter.

- Miguel and Cecilia's new cars are in the parking lot.

This construction tells us that Miguel and Cecilia share ownership of these cars. The possessive belongs to the entire phrase, not just to Cecilia.