



The Betty East Tutoring Center at Victoria College

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Nouns

Nouns are one of eight different parts of speech. A noun is a person, place, thing, or idea. Nouns are divided by proper and common nouns, as well as by gender and number.

Proper Nouns:

These nouns name a particular person, place, thing, or idea. Proper nouns are *always* capitalized.

Ex: Patrick Oklahoma Germany History 1301 Civil War

Common Nouns:

Common nouns give a general term for a person, place, thing, or idea. These nouns are not capitalized unless they begin a sentence.

Ex: man country history class sheep pneumonia faith justice peace

Gender:

The English language has three genders:

masculine, feminine, and common gender, referring to either male or female

Masculine Ex: milkman, cowboy

Feminine Ex: mother, policewoman

Common Gender Ex: student, worker, librarian

Neuter nouns are inanimate objects that have no gender, such as trees, cars, and apples.

Number:

Nouns are either singular or plural. 1) The plural form of nouns is regularly made by adding an "s" to the singular form, but this is not always the case. If the word ends with "ss", "x", "ch", or "sh", the plural form is made by adding "es". 2) If a noun ends with "y" and is preceded by a consonant, the plural form is made by changing the "y" to "i" and adding "es". But, if a noun ends with "y" and is preceded by a vowel (ey, ay, oy), the plural form is made just by adding "s". 3) If a noun ends with a vowel then an "o", the plural form is made by adding "s". But if the noun ends with a consonant then an "o", the plural form is made by adding "es".

Some exceptions exist so consult a dictionary if unsure.

Example 1: dog--dogs place--places mother--mothers dress--dresses dish--dishes

Example 2: cherry--cherries journey--journeys

Example 3: stereo--stereos hero--heroes (exception example: piano--pianos)

If you are not sure whether or not the plural form of the word is different from simply adding "s," seek the help of a dictionary or online resource.