

Definition of a noun

Nouns

We use a **noun** to name a person, place, or thing.

In a sentence, it can be a subject or an object. In English, **nouns** do not have genders [masculine or feminine].

Jenny is a **teacher**. She lives in **London** with her **husband**, **Bill**, and their two **children**. **Bill** is a **musician**. He plays the **guitar** in a **band**. Their **daughter** goes to **school** and their **son** is studying **medicine** at **King's College**.

Common nouns and proper nouns

We use proper **nouns** for specific people, places, institutions or organisations. Proper **nouns** always start with a capital letter.

Common **nouns** are not the names of a specific or single person, place or thing. They do not start with a capital letter.

Examples

Common nouns	Proper nouns
continent	Europe
country	England
town/city	Paris
street	Oxford Street
station	Victoria Station
doctor	Doctor Smith
uncle	Uncle James
theatre	the National Theatre
river	the River Seine
airport	Heathrow Airport
building	Buckingham Palace
woman	the Queen
president	the President

Concrete nouns and abstract nouns

We use concrete **nouns** to name people or things which we can see, hear, touch, smell or taste - things which exist physically.

We use abstract **nouns** to name feelings, ideas and states - things which do not exist physically.

Examples

Concrete nouns	Abstract nouns
chair	love
computer	sadness
man	hope
woman	comfort
house	truth
dog	confidence
cheese	fear
garden	bravery
pen	opportunity

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