- Types of nouns
- Functions of nouns
- Positions of nouns
- Forms of nouns
- Markers of nouns
Types of nouns

- Meaning classification
  1. Proper versus common nouns
  2. Concrete versus abstract nouns
  3. Countable versus uncountable nouns
  4. Collective nouns versus unit nouns

- Form classification
  1. Compound nouns
Proper versus common nouns

- Proper nouns
  1. Personal names: David; Henry Widdowson;
  2. Names of geographic units: Iran; Isfahan; New York; the Nile; the Pacific; Mount Everest; the Great Salt Lake
  3. Names of holidays: Valentine’s Day; Golden Week; Now Rowz
  4. Names of time units: Sunday; Esfand;
  5. Names of historic events and documents: the French Revolution; the Emancipation proclamation; World War I
6. Words used for personification:
Justice; Death; Liberty; Destiny

7. Names of objects and commercial products:
Mazda 3; Kleenex

8. Names of religions, followers of particular religions, and some religious concepts:
Islam; Christianity; Shinto; Shiite; Doomsday; Heaven; the Devil

9. Persons or bodies with a particular function:
the Leader; the King; Majlis; Congress
10. Public buildings, institutions, laws etc: the University of Tabriz; Iran Language Institute; Bank Tejarat;
11. Political parties and their members: the Conservative party; the Republicans;
12. Languages and nationalities: Chinese; Japanese; Iranian; Lebanese
Defining features of proper nouns

Grammatically:
1. Proper nouns do not vary for number.
2. Proper nouns are not used with determiners.

Orthographically:
1. Proper nouns begin with capital letters.
Common nouns

1. Common nouns are preceded by determiners.
2. Common nouns begin with small letters.

books; vegetables; people; houses; war; independence
Concrete versus abstract nouns

- Concrete nouns: words for physical objects perceived by the senses
  - Boat; car; house; food; coffee; flower;
- Abstract nouns: words for concepts, ideas existing in speakers’ minds
  - Justice; brotherhood; nationality; religion
- Is “music” a concrete or an “abstract noun”?
Countable versus uncountable nouns

Countable (count) nouns

1. Names of separate people, objects, ideas: doctor; carpet; hour
2. Countable nouns have plural forms: doctors; carpets; hour
3. Countable nouns are preceded by a/an: a doctor; a carpet; an hour
4. Countable nouns are preceded by numbers: two doctors; five carpets; three hours
Uncountable (noncount(able) or mass) nouns

1. Names of materials, liquids, abstract qualities, collections, and other things without clear boundaries: coffee; life; weather;
2. Uncountable nouns are usually singular without plural forms: waters; golds; woods
3. Uncountable nouns are not usually preceded by a/an: a water; a gold; a wool; an accommodation
4. Uncountable nouns are not preceded by numbers:
   two waters; three golds; five woods
Types of uncountable nouns

- Foods: rice; wheat; barley; salt; milk; corn; spaghetti; rye; maize; sugar; fruit; bread; butter; cheese; chicken; beef; lamb; cream; soup
- Fluids: water; tea; coffee; oil; gasoline; vinegar; wine; ink
- Raw materials: wood; paper; glass; iron; metal; cement; plastic; glass;
- Gases: oxygen; air; steam; nitrogen;
- Languages: English; French; Persian
- Groups: baggage; luggage; machinery; scenery; cash; clothing; jewelry;
- Academic field of study: physics; mathematics; statistics; psychometrics; medicine; dentistry
- Names of sports: football; chess; darts;
Names of diseases or illnesses: mumps; measles; flu; smallpox; malaria; typhoid; gastritis; blephritis

Metals: gold; silver; copper; lead

Abstract nouns: beauty; relief; suspicion; information; management;

Verbs ending in--ing: swimming; coughing; surfing; flying; merging; shopping; parking; camping

Others: damage; furniture; equipment; furniture; homework; mail; traffic
Collective nouns: words for a group of people, animals, plants, or objects as a single unit

Army, audience, board, committee, crew, family, jury, staff, team, class, crowd, enemy, faculty, flock, folk, government, herd, majority, minority, orchestra, press, public, the Air Force, the BBC, the Senate, Congress, Parliament, bank, choir, firm, union, school, ministry, party
1. Collective nouns are countable
   a. A welcoming committee greets newcomers to the neighbourhood.
   b. Civil servants give evidence to parliamentary committee and other official inquiries.

2. Collective nouns are followed by either singular or plural verbs
   Editorial board has/have decided to reject your paper.
Unit nouns

- Like collective nouns, unit nouns are also countable.
  A slice/slices

- Unlike collective nouns, unit nouns refer to separate instances of a phenomenon.
  Compare: A pack of wolves, but an item of news.

- Unlike quantifying collectives, unit nouns are always followed by an of + uncountable nouns.
  Compare: a set of factors, but a sprinkling of snow.
Compound nouns (noun compounds)

- Noun + noun: log book; football match; motherboard; gas station; restroom; waste-bin
- Adjective + noun: common practice; highway; blueberry; whiteboard
- Possessive noun + noun: doctor’s office; singer’s bodyguard; men’s room; gents hairdressing shop;
- Verb + noun: cookbook; swimsuit; pickpocket
- Noun + verb: handshake; lifeguard;
- Gerund + noun: dining room; swimming pool; parking lot;
- Noun + gerund: windsurfing; Thanksgiving; ethnic cleansing; air conditioning;
- Preposition + noun: by-product; overalls;
- Verb + preposition/adverb: push-up; sit-up; break-out; breakdown; downtown
- Noun + prepositional phrase: commander-in-chief; brother-in-law;
Functions of nouns

- Subject of the verb
  1. **Mom** is cooking in the kitchen.
  2. **Enemy fighters** shot down his plane.

- Object (of the verb)
  1. Direct object: He lent me **his book**.
  2. Indirect object: I sold **him** my bicycle.
  3. Cognate object: He lived **a happy life**.
  4. Object of preposition: He was sitting in **the sitting room**.
  5. Prepositional object: She frowned at **the young man**.
Complement

1. Subjective complement:
The Catcher in the Rye is an American novel. He is the English department head.

2. Objective complement:
Students elected him the chairperson. We called him a coward.
- **Appositive:**
  1. Earnest Hemingway, the famous American short story writer and novelist, won the Noble prize.
  2. The US poet and short story writer Edgar Allen Poe most is famous for his strange, frightening stories about death and evil powers.

- **Vocative or direct address**
  1. Edward, open the window please!
  2. Hold these books for a second please, David!
Noun adjunct

1. Babies are fond of playing with toy guns.
2. These youngsters work 70 meters below ground level.
3. His house was surrounded by high stone walls.
Number

- Singular and plural nouns
  - Plural nouns
    1. Regular plurals
    2. Irregular plurals
    3. Special plurals
    4. Distributive plurals
    5. Others
In English, nouns are made plural by adding -s.

Cat - cats
Hat - hats
Tree - trees
Mountain - mountains
Computer - computers
Pager - pagers
Mp 5 player - mp 5 players
- Words ending in—y preceded by a consonant change to—i and add—es.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Plural</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Party</td>
<td>parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady</td>
<td>ladies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ferry</td>
<td>ferries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fly</td>
<td>flies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Words ending in –ch, sh, x, s(s), or zz are made plural by adding –es.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Match</td>
<td>matches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dish</td>
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<td>Class</td>
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<td>Buzz</td>
<td>buzzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church</td>
<td>churches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waltz</td>
<td>waltzes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Words ending in a single—o are also made plural by adding –es.

Tomato  tomatoes
Negro   negroes
Hero    heroes
Potato  potatoes
Echo    echoes
Irregular plurals

- Words ending in –f(e)
- Foreign plurals
- Plurals by changing a vowel
They change into “ves” when they are made plural.

Shelf  shelves
Self   selves
Calf   calves
Loaf   loaves
Wolf   wolves
Wife   wives
Knife  knives
Life   lives
Sheaf  sheaves
Thief  thieves
Half   halves
Leaf   leaves
Elf    elves
They vary according to the origin of the words (these are mostly Greek or Latin words).

1. Words ending in—is become—es:
   - Basis: bases
   - Analysis: analyses
   - Synthesis: syntheses
   - Parenthesis: parentheses
   - Oasis: oases
2. Words ending in—um and on become—a
   Continuum continua
   Spectrum spectra
   Datum data
   Bacterium bacteria
   Criterion criteria
   Phenomenon phenomena

3. Words ending in—a become-ae
   Formula formulae
   Vertebra verterbrae
4. Words ending in --us become — i
   Fungus        fungi
   Focus         foci
   Radius        radii

5. Words ending in — ex or ix become — ices
   Appendix      appendices
   Index         indices

6. Words ending in — eau become — eaux
   Plateau       plateaux
   Bureau        bureaux
- Some nouns are made plural by a vowel change:
  - Man \(\rightarrow\) men
  - Woman \(\rightarrow\) women
  - Foot \(\rightarrow\) feet
  - Goose \(\rightarrow\) geese
  - Mouse \(\rightarrow\) mice
  - Louse \(\rightarrow\) lice
  - Tooth \(\rightarrow\) teeth
Compound nouns

1. The last word is usually made plural
   Car parks; road bridges; bookshelves
2. Both parts are made plural when compounds are made up with man and woman
   Men drivers; women players
3. The noun is made plural when the compound is made up with prepositions or a noun + er + adverbs
   Prisoners of war; editors-in-chief; passers-by; lookers-on; runners-up
Letters of alphabets, dates, and abbreviations are made plural by adding -s

Two As; 1960s; Mps

Child, brother, ox, person, penny and die have the following plurals:

Children; brethren; oxen; people; pence; dice
Markers of nouns

Modifiers

1. Determiners
   a. Articles: a, an, the: a book, an orange, the students
   b. Possessive adjectives: my, your, his, her, its, our, your, their; your bicycle; their houses
   c. Demonstratives: this, that, these, those: this tree, those cars
   d. Quantifiers: all, each, some, no, enough: enough money, some sugar
e. Cardinal and ordinal numbers: one/first; two second; three/third; four/fourth
One country/the first country/ three libraries; the third library

f. Adjectives, present and past participles, nouns acting as adjectives: nice job/ smiling faces/ given conditions/ door handle

2. Prepositions: in, on, over, down, up etc
In the car, down the village, up the river