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Level : First year

 Module : Grammar

 Course : Nouns and pronouns

 **NOUNS**

**Definition**

A noun names something, a person, a place or an animal. It can usually form a plural ( by adding **s** or **es**) except for non-count nouns such as information.

**Kinds and functions**

There are four kinds of nouns in English

*Common nouns*: dog, table, man

*Proper nouns*: Bill, Salim, Egypt, Mr Smith

*Abstract nouns*: beauty, happiness, fear, courage, joy

*Collective nouns*: Team, crowd, group

So a noun can be a noun of :

a) a person like George, man, people, animals d) things like paper, spoon, eraser

b) animals as cat , fish, butterfly e)ideas as horror, charity

c) a place like Mostaghanem, Cairo, city

Task A) Underline the nouns in each statement

1. Mark enjoyed the movie about France

2. The musicians play classical songs

3. Boys and girls are often eager to listen

4. There is no death penalty for criminals in Puerto Rico.

5. Alabama is a city.

6. Tinsley and Scott Myrick are from Alabama, a state between Mississippi to the North, Tennessee to the East, Georgie to the South and the Gulf of Mexico.

7. Emir Abdelkader was the man whose courage led Algeria for years against colonialism.

Task B) A noun can function as:

The *subject* of a verb. *Mark* arrived

The *complement* of the verb *be*, *become*, *seem*. *Mark* is an actor

The *object* of a verb. I saw *Mark*

The *object* of a preposition. I spoke to *Mark*.

A noun can also be in the possessive case. *Leonardo da Vincci’s* works= The works of *Leonardo da Vincci*

**Gender**

1. **The three genders**

**Masculine Feminine Neuter**

Men women things

 Boys girls animals

 Male animals female animals

**2.Exceptions**

1) Ships and countries are often She’s a wonderful ship, isn’t she?

 referred to as feminine.

2) Animals also are referred to as neuter with the pronoun it as species and when the sex is important.

This *bird* lays in eggs in sand. The *mouse* ran back in its hole.

3) Words with a masculine and feminine form add *ess* in the feminine. If the word ends in *er* or *or, the e,* or *is left out.*

 Masculine Feminine

 Prince princess

 actor actress

 waiter waitress

 host hostess

4) With the article

The definite and indefinite articles do not change according to gender.

**Formation of the plural**

Task 1: Read the paragraph below, spot the incorrectly spelt plurals, and then proceed to correcting them.

The children from London were sitting on sofas crying like babys. They took off their coats and scarfs. They were afraid their lifes were about to changes on the train to Liverpool. The train moved, citys flashed by and soon followed by hills and valleys. At a distance, in the green countryside of village, smart ladys and gentlemen were having a picnic.

1. Depending on your previous experiences, explore the general rules in the formation of the plural.

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Plurals

The plural of a noun is usually made by adding ‘s’ to the singular of regular nouns.

1.Regular nouns : Add **s**

**Singular :** record chair house

**Plural:** recordschair**s** house**s**

**Irregular nouns**

1. Nouns in ‘ ch, sh, ss, o, x, or s ’ take **es** in the plural

**Singular :** box brush bus glass potato watch

**Plural: boxes** brush**es** bus**es** glass**es** potato**es** watch**es**

But words of foreign origin ending in **o** add **s** only:

**Singular:** piano photo dynamo

**Plural:** piano**s** photos dynamos

1. Nouns in **y** after a consonant take **ies**

**Singular:** city country lady

**Plural :** cities countries ladies

But nouns in y after a vowel are regular

**Singular:** day key boy

**Plural :** day**s** key**s** boys

We drop f or fe for 12 nouns: wife, life, knife, wolf, self, calf, shelf, leaf, loaf, thief, sheaf, half.

**Singular**: knife loaf wife

**Plural:** knives loaves wives

Exceptions

The nouns scarf, wharf and hoof take either **s** or **ves** .

Scarf or scarves wharf or wharves hoof or hooves

Other words ending in f or fe add s in the plural in the ordinary way.

 Cliff, cliffs handkerchief, handkerchiefs safe, safes

A few nouns form their plural by a vowel change:

 Foot, feet Man, men goose, geese mouse, mice

Ox, oxen woman, women

The plural of child is children

D. Names of certain creatures do not change in the plural.

Fish is unchanged. Fishes exist but is uncommon.

Some fish do not change in the plural: salmon, trout, squid, turbot, but take a plural verb: sardines, lobsters, crabs, whales, dolphins.

E. Greek words make the plural retain their original forms.

Erratum (s) , errata (plr) crisis, crises axis, axes

F.Compound nouns: the last word is normally made plural.

Men students woman students bookcase, bookcases

Task A : Make these sentences plural

1.Ahmed put sand in the blue bucket. ........................................................................................

2.I’ve packed a bottle of water. ....................................................................................................

3.The coach was angry when the footballer lost the championship. ..............................................

4.The boy was flying a kite on the beach. .....................................................................................

5.I didn’t forget my key at home. ..................................................................................................

6.Did you have time to do this work? ............................................................................................

7.Betty noticed a strange man breaking the glass of juice at the party yesterday. ...........................

Task B: Fill in the spaces with only one suitable word from the following:

Days, inches, house-works, friends, students, diamonds, curtains, words, languages, learners, heroes, hours, versions, singers, sometimes, goose, sweet, plays.

1.Don’t eat.....................or you’ll get fat.

2.She dedicates enough time to her...................

3.Out of.....................1, 2 and 3 are the most difficult to learn.

4.Jane is fluent at foreign....................

5.Dan and Bob are great.........................!

6.We.............................need help from.......................

7.Tom and Dick were.........................but Dick is remembered today.

8.I’d like darker............................

9.We spent two.....................practicing the Shakespearean........................

Task C: Classify the following nouns accordingly: Animals, chairs, countries, foot, freedom, lady, leader, happiness, Mark, records, shelves, ship, Steve, mouse, prince, watches, waitress, wife, Yugoslavia.

Common: ...................................................................................................

Proper: ........................................................................................................

Abstract: .....................................................................................................

Collective: .................................................................................................

Task D: Use the nouns in the above task into meaningful statements.

1............................................................................................................

2............................................................................................................

3............................................................................................................

4............................................................................................................

5.........................................................................................................

  **Countable and Uncountable Nouns**

1. **Countable nouns**

**Count or countable nouns refer to anything that can be counted and has a singular and plural form. For instance: letter, letters; record, records.**

Task 1: Fill in the spaces with one item from the box below

|  |
| --- |
| Lives, grapes, panthers, statements, lights, problems, studies, euros, children, cars, activities, students. |

1.All............................were out.

2..............................are quicker than.............................

3.He went to the US after he finished..........................

4.Are the above..............................clearer?

5. Their......................were not in danger.

6.He was poor and could not send his............................to school.

7.My.........................are above average in intelligence.

8.These.......................are not difficult at all.

9.May I have twenty...................., please?

10.Would you like some more........................

11.Bribery is one of Algeria’s major......................

**B. Uncountable nouns**

Mass- is the opposite of count nouns. Mass nouns are also called un or non-countable nouns. They take only the singular form and include food, material and abstract nouns. For example, butter, bread, juice, gold, sand, wood, peace, honesty...etc.

Many other common nouns are uncountable such as furniture, permission, clothing, news, weather, information, advice.

Mass or uncountable nouns need to have ‘ counters ’ to quantify them. Counters are : kilo, cup, glass, meter.

-Please have another cup of tea.

-What about a permission for a second visit to the museum this week-end?

Task : Imagine the most suitable mass-nouns for these gaps.

1. A number of children need............................to join the club.

2. It’s often good to receive............................from real friends.

3. Try to get two kilos of.............................to make cakes this evening.

4. Does China produce enough..................for its population?

5. Tourists enjoy skiing on.................hills in the south of Algeria.

6. ................was a main feature of Indian people before being put in reservations by the Whites in the new world.

7. There’s no good war nor a bad .............

**C. Corresponding countable and uncountable nouns**

 **Countable Uncountable**

A piece of furniture furniture

 A loaf of bread bread

 A bottle of lemonade lemonade

 A job lemonade

 A piece of information information

A piece of news news

Task : Decide which is the right answer from a, b, or c?

1. We need someone with....................knowledge of German.
2. excellent b) an excellent c) the excellent

2.You speak………………….Hindi

 a) perfect b) a perfect c) the perfect

3. I’m looking for......................in Algiers this week.

 a) job b) a job c) the job

4. Allow me put in.........................., please.

 a) information b) a piece of information c) the information

5. My parents gave me..........................education.

 a) good b) a good c) the good

6. He has.....................love for his country.

 a) great b) a great c) the great

7. She has.........................understanding of the subject.

 a) thorough b) a thorough c) the thorough

**D. Countable and uncountable nouns with different meanings**

 **Countable Uncountable**

-He’s got 50 lambs -I like lamb. ( meat )

-Would you like a glass of milk? -It’s made of glass. ( material )

-I’ve got a few grey hairs already. –Her hair is blonde. ( colour )

Task 1: A) Classify the following words into count (cn) or uncountable (un) nouns.

Boot, chair, language, permission, picture, tour guide, work, weather.

CN : …………………………………………………..

UN : ..............................................................................

 B ) Complete the spaces with words from above. Some words need to be plural.

1.Alice and Sam enjoy taking visitors to places of interests. They are...............................................

2.Mike is unemployed. He can’t get.................

3.The.................... is horrible : cold, wet and windy.

4.You don’t need..........................to visit your relatives !

Task 2 : Underline the right words between brackets.

1.I bought (a paper / paper) to read during the trip to the capital.

2.Did you hear(a noise / noise ) just now?

3.I’ve seen (some good movies / any good movies) recently.

4.Questions, questions, questions ! You’re always asking (a question / questions) !

 **Compound nouns**

Normally the last word is made plural. armchair, armchair**s** ; bookcase, bookcase**s**

Where man or woman is prefixed, both parts are made plural:

 men student women student

Compound nouns formed with prepositions or adverbs make only the first word plural:

 sister-in-law , sister**s**-in-law

 Words ending in ful usually make their plural in the ordinary way:

 handful , handful**s**  armful , armful**s**

**The Possessive case form**

1.**’s** is used with singular nouns and plural nouns not ending in **s**:

 a man**’s** jacket a woman’s necklace a child’s room

men’s jacket**s** women’s necklace**s** children**’s** rooms

2.A simple apostrophe ( **’** ) is used with plural nouns ending in **s**:

 a girls**’** school the eagles**’** nest the Blacks**’** car

3.Classical names ending in s usually add only the apostrophe:

Phytagoras**’** Theorem Archimedes**’** Law

4.With compound nouns, the last word takes ’s

 My brother-in-law’s motorcycle.

Use of the possessive case, and of + noun used for possession.

1. The possessive case is chiefly used of people, countries or animals as shown above. But it can also be used :

1.of ships and boats : the ship’s bell

2.of planes, cars, trains and other vehicles, though here the expression of is super:

Th train’s heating system or the heating system of the train.

3.In time expressions : a week’s holiday today’s paper.

Noun + noun and noun + gerund combinations

Examples of these : 1. Noun + noun

 ’London ’Transport ’winter ’clothes ’Kitchen ’table

 ’Tower ’Bridge ’Travel ’agent

2.Noun + gerund, ’fruit ’picking ’stamp ’collecting

 ’lorry ’driving ’hitch ’hiking

3.gerund + noun, ’waiting ’list ’driving ’licence

We can also form nouns out of verb + adverb combinations:

 ’hold-up ’break-in ’break-out

1. Use of noun + noun and noun + gerund combinations :

1.They replace noun + of + noun as shown above

 ’table ’leg ’garden ’gate

2.The first noun can indicate the place of the second:

 ’Kitchen ’table ’corner ’shop

3.The first noun indicates the time of the second:

Summer holidays Sunday ’papers

4.The first noun can express the purpose or function of the second:

 ’Bottle-opener ’nail-scissors

5.These combinations are used to denote occupations, sports, hobbies, and people who practice occupations, sports. ’stamp-collecting ’surf-rider

Task A: Link each two parts to form a meaningful compound noun:

 A man’s clothes

 Women’s job

 Sisters’ room

 The people’s choice

 The students’ nest

 The pigeon’s bus

Task B: Imagine the missing part of each compound noun

1. Often enjoy themselves in.......................break.
2. I wonder whether Salim has arrived to the airport. He hasn’t phoned. He’s been out a...............delay.
3. It’s really cold today. Dad is required to call the heating system .....................

Task C: Use the following combinations in coherent statements.

 ’river bank, ’Fleet Street, ’Travel agent, ’petrol tank, ’driving licence, dining-room, swimming-pool.

Task D: Imagine a short story of 8 to 10 line where o series of compound nouns may be useful for a happy or unhappy end.

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