

Nouns

Let's read and underline the nouns if we know them

The Black Cat.

The narrator keeps many pets because animals such as dogs are so loving and faithful, and at a young age he marries a woman who also loves pets. In their household, they have a number of animals, including a large and beautiful black cat named Pluto. Although his wife often refers to the superstition that black cats are actually disguised witches, the narrator is particularly fond of the unusually intelligent cat.

In subsequent years, the narrator becomes increasingly moody and irritable due to alcoholism, and he begins to verbally abuse and threaten his wife as well as his pets. He remains less harsh to Pluto until one day, when he comes home drunk and, imagining that Pluto is avoiding him, he seizes the cat, which bites him on the hand in fear. In response, the narrator loses control and cuts one of Pluto's eyes out with a pen-knife. After sobering up the next morning, he feels a modicum of remorse but returns to drinking. The cat recovers, but it conspicuously avoids its owner, who is at first grieved and later annoyed and provoked. He describes it as a primitive impulse of perverseness that drives him to complete his attack on Pluto by hanging the cat from a tree, although he cries as he does the deed, aware that he has committed a deadly sin on an animal that once loved him.

The same night as the cat's death, the house is set on fire, and the narrator, his wife, and his servant barely escape, although he is left with little wealth. Peculiarly, on the single wall that did not fall in the fire is an image of a gigantic cat with a rope around its neck. The narrator explains the phenomenon away, reasoning that someone must have thrown the cat into his window to try to wake him up in the fire and that as other walls fell, they must have compressed the animal into the plaster, where the lime, the heat, and the ammonia from the cat's body combined to form the image. However, he remains disturbed and feels a sense of regret that falls just short of remorse.

For months, the narrator searches for a replacement cat, which he discovers while drinking. The new cat resembles Pluto except for a patch of white hair on its chest. The landlord has never seen the animal before, and the cat takes a liking to the narrator, who brings it home. His wife becomes fond of the cat, but the narrator is increasingly annoyed with the cat's affection towards him, and his annoyance turns into hatred. He begins avoiding the cat, although his shame about his previous cruelty prevents him from being violent towards it. His hatred of the animal increases until one day the cat loses one of its eyes. This endears it even more to his loving wife, who has retained the kindness that the narrator admits he used to have. narrator fearfully explains that he has lost what was left of his former goodness, and he indulges in hatred and fury, although his wife never complains.

At one point, when the protagonist and his wife enter their cellar, the cat trips him. Enraged, he starts to take an axe to the cat, but his wife's hand stops his arm. Furious at her interruption, he strikes her head with the blade, killing her instantly. Realizing that he cannot remove the body from the house, he considers ways to conceal it, including cutting it up and burning it, digging a grave in the cellar, throwing the corpse into the well, and packing it up in a box and having it carried out of the house under the guise of merchandise. Eventually he decides to wall it

up with plaster in the cellar behind a false fireplace, leaving no evidence of the deed. The narrator tries to find the cat so he can kill it, but the animal is nowhere to be found, and he sleeps well that night, free of guilt.

On the second and third days, the cat does not appear, inspiring relief in the narrator, but on the following day, policemen come to investigate. The narrator calmly cooperates, and the policemen find nothing, despite searching the cellar multiple times. The narrator bids the police farewell, but in a fit of bravado, he mentions that the walls of the house are sturdily constructed, and with a cane, he raps on the wall that hides his wife.

A cry emanates from behind the wall, evolving from a muffled, broken moan into an inhuman scream. Seeing that the game is up, the narrator staggers away from the wall, and after pausing from terror and awe, the police disassemble the wall and find the cat "with red extended mouth and solitary eye of fire" sitting on the head of the corpse. The narrator realizes, to his horror, that he must have trapped the cat behind the wall along with his wife.

Author : Edgar Alan Poe

1. Let's define the nouns:

They name people, places, things or ideas". Examples of the nouns are: teacher, school, book, color, life and truth.

2. *Kinds of Nouns?*

a. **COMMON VS. PROPER NOUNS:** A noun that names a particular person place or thing is a proper noun. Proper nouns begin with capital letters. All other nouns are common.

e.g.	Common	Proper
	man	Michael Jordan
	country	Indonesia
	statue	Statue of Liberty

b. **ABSTRACT vs. CONCRETE NOUNS:** Nouns that name places or things that can be seen touched, tasted, heard or smelt are concrete. The rest are abstract:

e.g.	Concrete	Abstract
	Lip stick	beauty
	Pen	liberty

c. **Collective nouns:** Nouns that are singular in for; but plural in meaning

e.g.	Group (number of people, things) pl. groups
	Committee (number of people) pl. committees
	Council (number of people) pl. councils
	Government (number of people) pl. governments

Let's practice (01): classify the nouns in the text above according to their types

Common	Proper	Abstract	Concrete	Collective

N.B. one noun can be classified in two or more types.

3. **Countable and Uncountable Nouns** ▶ Nouns can be divided into two kinds: *countable* and *uncountable*.

a. **Countable Nouns:** are nouns that we can count. They can be singular or plural.

e.g. I have **a boiled egg** for breakfast.
I bought **three story books** yesterday.
The students in this school are very polite.

- We use the indefinite article (a/ an) before singular nouns. e.g. **a boiled egg**
- We use a definite article (the) or a number before plural nouns. e.g. **the students** **three story books**
- We change most singular nouns to plurals by adding -s. However, there are some that follow different rules.

Nouns	We ...	Examples
Nouns ending in -s, -x, -ss, -ch, -sh	+ es	buses, boxes, dresses, watches, bushes
Nouns ending in -o	+ s or + es	pianos, zoos, tomatoes, potatoes, heroes
Nouns ending in a vowel + -y	+ s	boys, cats, days, monkeys,
Nouns ending in a consonant + -y	change y to ies	bodies, cities, countries, ladies, families
Nouns ending in -f/-fe	change -f/-fe to -ves	leaves, shelves, lives, knives
Some special nouns	change the vowel(s), change some letters at the end, add letters at the end	foot→feet, man→men mouse→mice child→children
Some animals	Make no change	fish→fish, deer→deer, sheep→sheep

b. **Uncountable Nouns:** are nouns that we cannot count. We cannot count them because they - are too difficult to count.

e.g. **rice, hair, sugar** - do not have separate parts.

e.g. **air, water, steam**

e.g. **friendship, happiness, health** - are abstract.

- Uncountable nouns do not have a plural form. We do not use an indefinite article (a/an) or numerals (one, two, three, etc.) in front of these nouns.
- If we want to show the amount of an uncountable noun, we use quantity words in front of it.
e.g. *two cups of tea* *a bowl of rice* *three tins of paint*
- We cannot use **many/few** with uncountable nouns, but we can say **some/much/ a lot of/ all of the/ most of the water, butter, cheese.**

Let's practice (02): Underline the noun in each sentence and write 'C' or 'U' to show whether the noun is countable or uncountable.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would you like some chicken? _____ • Too much cake isn't good for you. _____ • She ate a whole chicken. _____. • How much flour did you buy? _____. • Hope keeps me going. _____ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That is a very good painting. _____ • I don't like coffee. _____ • I need two clean glasses. _____ • She bought a new iron yesterday. _____ • They've got plenty of coal. _____ |
|--|---|

Let's practice (03): Use the correct form of the given nouns to complete the following sentences.

language party fun vegetable information fruit money hair advice sleeve

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't know what to do. Please give me some _____. • Karen has beautiful _____. • We had a lot of _____ at the party last night. • Susan enjoys going to _____. • Alan eats a lot of _____. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can buy fresh _____ from the supermarket. • Mrs. Lee went to the travel agent for some _____ about the tour to Japan. • I can't wear this shirt. The _____ are too long. • How many _____ does Jenny speak? • Miss Smith spends a lot of _____ on clothes. |
|--|---|

Let's practice (04): Choose the correct answer.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you want to get well, you should take the doctor's _____ (advice/ advices). • Mary never does her _____ (homework/ homeworks) • Johnny has lost his _____ (luggage/ luggages). • The factory workers stopped working and took (a rest/ rest). • The children sat on the _____ (grass/ grasses). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She burst into _____ (tear/ tears) when she heard the bad news. • Peter and Jack shake _____ (hand/ hands) and become friends again. • She can't see what is written on the blackboard without her contact _____ (len/ lens) • The two sisters took _____ (turn/ turns) at sitting up with their sick mother. • Quite a number of _____ (DJ/ DJs) have extended their careers to singing. |
|--|---|

4. Plural Forms of Nouns

Plural Noun : When a noun means more than one, it is said to be plural.
Examples: boys, girls, books, churches
Plural nouns use these and those.

Singular Noun: When a noun means one only, it is said to be singular.
Examples: boy, girl, book, church
Singular nouns use this and that.

a. The plural of nouns is usually formed by adding -s to a singular noun.

Example: lamp, lamps; cat, cats; fork, forks; flower, flowers; pen, pens

Let's practice (06): Write the plural of each of these nouns

Chair star farm storm door rock owner paper cup bear

b. Nouns ending in (**s, z, x, sh, and ch**) form the plural by adding **-es**.

Example: moss, mosses buzz, buzzes box, boxes dish, dishes church, churches

Let's practice (07): Write the plural of each of these nouns

dress brush hex wish class fox cross bench bush ax grass glass

N.B. If you add -s to such nouns as fox, bush, and bench, you will find that you cannot pronounce them without making an additional syllable. This is why such nouns form the plural by adding **-es**.

Let's practice (08): Tell if the following nouns are singular or plural

slipper books desk wagon shoes garden horses dog carts kitchen star pencil girl
boy coat tree sketch touch mug bells churches coals pictures clocks
boxes basins chairs days houses trees tables

- c. Nouns ending in **y** preceded by a consonant is formed into a plural by changing **y** to **ies**.

Examples: lady, ladies; city, cities; army, armies

Let's practice (9): Write the plural of the following words

fly baby injury cherry beauty story history berry sky duty study theory

- d. Nouns ending in **-y** preceded by a vowel form their plurals by adding **-s**.

Example: boy, boys; day, days

Let's practice (10): Write the plural of the following words

Day toy essay turkey chimney play joy valley alley volley

- e. Most nouns ending in **-o** preceded by a consonant is formed into a plural by adding **es**.

Example: hero-heroes buffalo-buffaloes potato-potatoes volcano- volcanoes
 mosquito- mosquitoes tomato- tomatoes tornado- tornadoes veto- vetoes

- f. The following may add **-s** or **-es**

Example:

grotto, grottoes/s motto- mottoes/s calico-calicoes/s cargo-cargoes/s
 portico- porticoes/s

- g. The following are among those that add **s** only

canto cantos solo solos piano pianos lasso lassos
 memento mementos albino albinos sirocco - siroccos

N.B. Most nouns ending in **o** preceded by a vowel is formed into a plural by adding **s**.

Example: folio-folios cameo- cameos studio- studios portfolio- portfolios

- h. Some nouns ending in **f** or **fe** are made plural by changing **f** or **fe** to **ves**.

Example: beef, beeves; wife, wives

Let's practice (11): Write the plural of the following words

Calf self leaf sheaf life loaf shelf half wolf knife elf half thief
 wife gulf chief dwarf* proof turf

Exceptions: The following may form their plurals by adding **s**.

chief, chiefs fife, fifes mischief, mischiefs hoof, hoofs
 grief, griefs kerchief, kerchiefs safe, safes roof, roofs

➤ **Irregular Plurals**

man, men foot, feet mouse, mice woman, women tooth, teeth louse, lice
 child, children ox, oxen goose, geese

- a. The following nouns have no singular:

scissors oats tongs dregs trousers pinchers bellows
 snuffers cattle shears measles mumps victuals tweezers
 vespers

- b. Some nouns are always singular. Some of these nouns may be used in the plural when different kinds are meant as :
 sugars, coffees, cottons gold, silver, wheat, corn, molasses, copper, sugar, cotton news, gallows, mathematics, ethics
 (other words ending in **ics**)

➤ **Plurals in Noun Phrases** maid of honor/ maids of honor**** secretary of state/ secretaries of state

➤ In forming the plural of proper names with a title, some pluralize the title, e.g., **the Misses Brown**.

Others pluralize the name, e.g., **the Miss Browns**. If a title belongs to each of the two names, it should take the **s** in forming the plural, e.g., **Dr. Scott**

5. Compound Nouns

Compound nouns can also be formed using the following combinations of words:-

Plurals of compound nouns :

Noun	+	Noun	toothpaste
Adjective	+	Noun	monthly ticket
Verb	+	Noun	swimming pool
Preposition	+	Noun	underground
Noun	+	Verb	haircut
Noun	+	Preposition	hanger on
Adjective	+	Verb	dry-cleaning
Preposition	+	Verb	output

Plural forms of compound nouns

In general we make the plural of a compound noun by adding **-s** to the "base word" (the most "significant" word).

Look at these examples:

Singular	plural
a tennis shoe	three tennis shoes
one assistant headmaster	five assistant headmasters
the sergeant major	some sergeants major
a mother-in-law	two mothers-in-law
an assistant secretary of state	three assistant secretaries of state
my toothbrush	our toothbrushes
a woman-doctor	four women-doctors
a doctor of philosophy	two doctors of philosophy
a passerby, a passer-by	two passersby , two passers-by

Note that there is some variation with words like spoonful or truckful. The old style was to say spoonsful or trucksful for the plural. Today it is more usual to say spoonfuls or truckfuls. Both the old style (spoonsful) and the new style (spoonfuls) are normally acceptable, but you should be consistent in your choice. Here are some examples:

Some compound nouns have no obvious base word and you may need to consult a dictionary to find the plural:

- **higher-ups**
- **also-rans**
- **go-betweens**
- **has-beens**
- **good-for-nothings**
- **grown-ups**

	old style plural (very formal)	new style plural
teaspoonful	3 teaspoonsful of sugar	3 teaspoonfuls of sugar
Truckful	5 trucksful of sand	5 truckfuls of sand
Bucketful	2 bucketsful of water	2 bucketfuls of water
Cupful	4 cupsful of rice	4 cupfuls of rice

Note that with compound nouns made of [noun + noun] the first noun is like an adjective and therefore does not usually take an -s. A tree that has apples has many apples, but we say an **apple tree**, not ~~apples tree~~; **matchbox** not ~~matchboxes~~; **toothbrush** not ~~teethbrush~~.

long plural form becomes >	plural compound noun [noun + noun]
100 trees with apples	100 apple trees
1,000 cables for telephones	1,000 telephone cables
20 boxes for tools	20 tool boxes
10 stops for buses	10 bus stops
4,000 wheels for cars	4,000 car wheels

With compound nouns made of [noun + noun] the second noun takes an -s for plural. The first noun acts like an adjective and as you know, adjectives in English are invariable. Look at these examples:

Let's practice (12): Identifying Compound Nouns

Underline every compound noun in the following sentences.

1. Did you see the moving van parked in our neighbor's driveway?
2. The school board voted for safety belts on buses.
3. My sister-in-law recently bought a car so she could drive it to her new job at the department store.
4. You can catch the cable car at a stop on Market Street.
5. The steering wheel on that car is covered with cowhide.

Let's practice (13): Using Plural Compound Nouns

Underline the compound nouns that are spelled incorrectly. Rewrite the sentences, using the correct plural form of those nouns.

1. Two carwashes are located on Main Street.
2. Dad's brother-in-laws both have red sports cars.
3. Some mother-to-bes are interested in buying antique high chairs for their babies.
4. In our state, 16-years-old cannot drive alone.

6. Gender

- a. **Masculine Gender** : Nouns which are the names of males.
Example: tiger, duke, husband, gentleman, boy
- b. **Feminine Gender**: Nouns which are the names of females.
Example: tigress, duchess, wife, lady, girl
- c. **Neuter Gender**: Nouns which are neither male nor female.
Example: box, book, desk, bench, book, barn
- d. **Common Gender**: Nouns which the gener of an object is not known.
Example: neighbor, parent, friend, bird, people, cousin

Let's practice (14):Name the gender of each of the following nouns

son	daughter	brother	sister	father	cousin	mouse
general	house	ship	mother	tree	apple	goose
drake	brush	uncle	Douglas	Anne	niece	England
clock	pitcher	leaf	cow	friend	George	road

- Here are some more masculine and feminine nouns for people.

nephew niece
 prince princess
 steward stewardess
 uncle aunt
 wizard witch

Actor actress
 emperor empress
 grandfather grandmother
 grandson granddaughter
 headmaster headmistress
 master mistress

Let's practice (15): Look at the words in the box. Write each word under its correct heading.

Children	sun	witch	king	boy	son	father	girl	mother	queen	file
teacher	lamp	doctor	dancer	wizard	ram	rooster	elf	fish		
Masculine	Feminine	Common	Neuter							
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-----	-----	-----	-----							
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7. Possessive nouns

The **possessive** form of a noun shows ownership or relationship. Use an apostrophe to show possession.

For example, *Mom's* car (ownership); *brother's* friend (relationship).

You may use possessive nouns in place of longer phrases.

e.g. Head coverings are used for the protection of the beekeeper.

Head coverings are used for the beekeeper's protection.

The following chart shows the usual ways to form the plurals of possessive nouns.

Nouns	Rule	Possessive
Singular : dog	Add an apostrophe and -s	Dog's bone
Plural ending in -s : spiders	Add an apostrophe	Spiders' webs
Plural not ending in -s : children	Add an apostrophe and -s	Children's caps

Let's practice (16) : Identifying Possessive Nouns

Underline each possessive noun. underline it, write **S** for a singular noun and **P** for a plural noun.

- Termites' nests are the most amazing sights!
- Moths' bodies are plumper than butterflies' bodies.
- Those children's lunches are being attacked by ants.
- A queen bee's life span is about four years.

Let's practice (17) : change the phrases to possessive nouns

Examples: the toes of the children = children's toes
 the feet of the horses = horses' feet

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • the howling of the dogs _____ | • the cheering of the children _____ |
| • the singing of the choirs _____ | • the laughter of the men _____ |
| • the handbags of the women _____ | • the horn of the oxen _____ |
| • the cheese of the mice _____ | • the jump rope of the girls _____ |

Let's practice (18) : Change these expressions to form the possessive case

Example: the blocks of the children = children's blocks

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • the titles of the books _____ | • the pedals of the bicycles _____ |
| • the windows of the castles _____ | • the legs of the chairs _____ |
| • the colors of the crayons _____ | • the clucks of the hens _____ |
| • the brushes of the paints _____ | • the ticking of the clocks _____ |