Nouns

A noun is a person, place, thing, or idea. Sometimes nouns are introduced by an article (a, an, or the) but not always. The nouns in the following sentences are italicized:

Variety is the spice of life.

The squeaky wheel gets the grease.

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

There are many types of nouns: proper, common, abstract, concrete, count, noncount, singular, plural, collective, and possessive. These classifications can often overlap.

- Proper nouns refer to specific names that need to be capitalized, such as Eiffel Tower, Joanna, and Detroit.

- Common nouns are the opposite of proper nouns and require no capitalization: monument, woman, and city.

- Abstract nouns are those that fall into the category of ideas like variety, love, and haste.

- Concrete nouns are the counterpart to abstract and are literal people, places, or things.

- Count nouns are those that require articles (the glass of water, a pretty girl, the cities), while noncount nouns do not need articles (water, oil, freedom).

- Singular nouns involve a single person, place, thing, or idea: man, dog, emotion, street.

- Plural nouns involve more than one: men, dogs, emotions, streets.

- Collective nouns are singular nouns that represent multiple people/objects, such as family, band, and class.

- Possessive nouns are those that work as adjectives and need to be made possessive: Clark's shoe, the dog's ear, a day's work.