



## The Betty East Tutoring Center at Victoria College

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### Nouns

Nouns are one of the eight different parts of speech. They can change in form to show different meanings. A noun is a person, place, or thing. They are divided by proper and common nouns, as well as by gender and number.

#### Proper Nouns:

These nouns name a particular person, place, or thing. Proper nouns are *always* capitalized.

Examples: Patrick, Oklahoma, Germany, History 1301

#### Common Nouns:

Common nouns give a general term for a person, place, or thing. These nouns are not capitalized unless they begin a sentence.

Examples: the man, a country, history class

#### Gender:

The English language has three genders: masculine, feminine, and neuter.

Masculine Examples: milkman, cowboy

Feminine Examples: mother, policewoman

Neuter Examples: tree, car

Neuter nouns are always inanimate objects.

#### Number:

Nouns are classified by number and are either singular or plural. The plural form of nouns is regularly made by adding an "s" to the singular form, but this is not always the case.

Adding "s" Examples: dog—dogs, place—places

Irregular Examples: goose—geese, mouse—mice

If you are not sure whether or not the plural form of the word is different from simply adding "s," seek the help of a dictionary or online resource.