



The Betty East Tutoring Center at Victoria College

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Nouns

Nouns are one of eight different parts of speech. A noun is a person, place, or thing. Nouns 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.

Ex: Patrick Oklahoma Germany History 1301 Civil War

Common Nouns:

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

Ex: man country history class sheep pneumonia

Gender:

The English language has three genders:

masculine, feminine, and common gender, referring to either male or female

Masculine Ex: milkman, cowboy

Feminine Ex: mother, policewoman

Common Gender Ex: student, worker, librarian

Neuter nouns are inanimate objects that have no gender, such as trees, cars, and apples.

Number:

Nouns 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.

Ex: singular noun to plural noun: dog—dogs place—places mother—mothers

Ex: Irregular nouns goose—geese mouse—mice sheep—sheep

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.