

Noun

Practice Exercise 1

Now read the following sentences. Underline the nouns and state the types:

1. Example: The car (common noun) went at a speed (abstract Noun) of 90 km (Common noun) an hour (common noun)
2. The teacher showed me great kindness.
3. He bore the pain with great courage.
4. He was filled with admiration for my skill in navigating the boat.
5. There is wisdom in the old man's advice.
6. The man was driving a herd of cattle.

The Curious case of the Plurals

There may be many ways to change a singular noun to plural. The simplest of course, is to add 's' at the end or replace the concluding letters in any of the several ways we will discuss here. However, there are nouns that are expressed as plurals with an 's' ending when we talk of a unit of them and without an 's' ending when denoting more than one unit! Scissors and trousers are two such nouns. This is so because each of these are actually made up of two parts. In the previous statement too we have used the plural verb are to denote these nouns. Then why the singular form to denote more than one unit? Well that is simply to differentiate between the singular and the plural. You also have the option of using the denotative word pair with these nouns. But there is a catch here too. Look at the following sentences:

- My trousers are splashed with mud as i was waling in the rain.
Here you cannot say—my pair of trousers is splashed with mud as i was walking in the rain. Here are some other variation:
If the singular noun ends in – us, the plural ending is frequently – i.
 - Cactus-cacti
 - Octopus-octopi
If the singular noun ends in – is, the plural ending is – es.
 - Analysis – Analyses
 - Ellipsis – Ellipses
If the singular noun ends in – is, the plural ending is – es.
 - Phenomenon – Phenomena
 - Criterion – Children
Irregular noun follow no specific rules.
 - Child – Children
 - Goose – Geese
 - Man – Men

Some nouns only have the plural form. Look at the list given below

- Alms
- Amends (to make 'amends' for causing some loss)
- Annals (pages of books of history)
- Archives
- Arms (weapons)
- Arrears
- Ashes (of a dead/cremated body)
- Auspices (patronage)
- Barracks
- Bowels
- Brains (intellect)
- Contents
- Crossroads
- Customs (duty)
- Earnings
- Entrails
- Fireworks
- Funds (money)
- Goods
- Guts (bowels, courage)
- Headquarters
- Letters (in the expression 'good manners')
- Means
- Odds (in the expression 'heavy odds')
- Outskirts
- Pains (e.g. to take pains)
- Premises (building)
- Proceeds
- Riches (wealth)
- Series
- Species
- Stairs (e.g. a flight of stairs)
- Surroundings (environment)
- Thanks
- Tidings
- Troops
- Tropics
- Valuables
- Wages

The following are unmarked plurals which do not end in –s. examples are: cattle and plural. Some words ending in –s do not change in the plural. Examples are: *news, billiards, draughts, measles* etc.

- Measles is highly contagious.
Most words ending in – ics are also usually singular uncountable and have no plurals.
Examples are: mathematics, physics, athletics, politics.
- Politics is a dirty game.
- Mathematics isn't the easiest of all subjects.

Other nouns which do not change in the plural are craft, sheep, fish and deer

HOW ARE ABSTRACT NOUNS FORMED?

1. From adjective:

Examples:

- a. Atrocious (wicked).....atrocious
- b. Attractive (pleasing).....attraction
- c. Belligerent (engaged in fighting)belligerence
- d. Chaste (pure).....chastity
- e. Degenerate(having lost the desirable quality)degeneration
- f. Exempt (free from an obligation or liability)exemption
- g. Fragrant (sweet smelling)fragrance

2. From verb:

Examples:

- a. Imitate (be like)imitation
- b. Judge (to decide)judgment
- c. KnowKnowledgeable
- d. Laughlaughter

Practice Exercise 2

- **IDENTIFY AND UNDERLINE THE COMMON NOUNS IN THE SENTENCES GIVEN BELOW:**

1. Mr. Sen and his family arrived early but at the wrong station.
2. We could count only six different colours in the rainbow.
3. The man was trying to steal a horse with a cart full of apples and oranges.
4. They have gone to the zoo to see the black cobra and the white lion.
5. She put her head on her arms and cried loudly.
6. My mother sings religious songs in the kitchen while cooking.
7. He threw some salted nuts to the monkeys.
8. The children are kicking a ball around in the field.
9. That temple was built before my grandfather was born.
10. He bought balloons and chocolates for his children and their friends on the occasion of Christmas.

Answers 2.

- 1: Family, station,
- 2: Colours, rainbow,
- 3: Man, horse, cart, apples, oranges,
- 4: Zoo, cobra, lion,
- 5: Head, arms,
- 6: Mother, song, kitchen,
- 7: Nuts, monkeys,
- 8: Children, ball, field,
- 9: Temple, grandfather,
- 10: Balloons, chocolates, children, friends

Practice Exercise 3

▪ CORRECT THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES:

1. I heard these news in the morning.
2. One of my friends wants to go to Ladakh to enjoy the wonderful sceneries.
3. I went to the store to buy some stationeries.
4. Measles are an infectious disease common in childhood.
5. He didn't want to listen to the advices I gave based on my experiences.
6. The police is collecting evidences to strengthen the case.
7. Please excuse me for the troubles I have caused.
8. He was wearing a new dress and looking dapper.
9. He is my cousin brother from America.
10. Those females are elegantly dressed for the show.
11. I am learning a new poetry for the recitation.
12. Although most office equipment's is five years old they are still in a good state.
13. If every writer avoided this in their paper all writings would become objective.
14. Students will use the summer vacations for project work.
15. The police has arrested the suspect so there is hope.
16. The gentry of the town was invited to the function.
17. A five days' week is ideal for a work life balance and mental health.
18. A dictatorship does not believe in public consent.
19. Give me three cartons of juices.
20. Give me two breads and eggs on a plate.
21. The cattle's were being herded into the field.
22. The cooking is becoming a popular hobby.
23. The leafs fell all around the devotees.
24. My brother in laws were the runners-up in the contest.
25. We are pretty low on the human development indexes.
26. The accident broke his vertebras rendering him immobile.
27. The team who are playing this weekend are likely to win.
28. Freedom is something to which all people aspire.
29. The state-of-the art plane crossed the sound barriers.

30. Corruption at the grassroots level needs to be checked to bring about a change.

Answer and Explanation:

1. *I heard this news in the morning.* News is singular. Nouns plural in form but used in singular. For example: News, Innings, Wages, Measles, Mumps, Gallows, Mathematics, Physics, Economics, Politics, gymnastics etc.
2. *One of my friends wants to go to Ladakh.*
3. I went to the store to buy some stationery. (Stationery does not have a plural form).
4. Measles is infectious. (The names of most illnesses, including those ending in -s, are singular in English.)
5. You can say a piece of advice or a lot of advice, but not advices.
6. The plural of evidence can be a lot of evidence but not evidences. The singular is a piece of advice.
7. Trouble is used in its singular form. You can say much trouble but not troubles in such a sentence. Of course you can say my troubles multiplied.
8. Women wear dresses not men. Hence suits would be more appropriate
9. Cousin not cousin brother.
10. Women not females, which is extremely rude and inappropriate.
11. A poem not poetry. Poetry refers to a genre.
12. Equipment.
13. His paper rather than their paper. The pronoun which refers to the subject writer must be singular.
14. If we are specific about vacation we use singularity. If we talk about the vacations of the year, we use plurality. E.g. he works really very hard during the vacations of the year.
15. The police have. The Noun that are singular in form but used in plural are Police, People, Gentry and Peasantry.
16. The gentry were. Rule same as 15.
17. The expression is five-day week not five-days week. It depicts one unit hence we follow singularity.
18. It is dictatorship not a dictatorship. The word refers to a form of government and does not single out a dictatorship.
19. It is three cartons not three carton. Carton is a countable noun.
20. Two pieces of bread. Here the countable version of bread will be used.
21. The cattle not cattle's. People/police/cattle these collective nouns always take a plural verb. There is no singular form of these nouns.
22. Cooking not the cooking. The is a definite article which will be used in a sentence like the cooking of a communal meal in a Gurudwara is a timeless tradition.
23. The plural of leaf is leaves.
24. The plural of brother-in-law is brother-in-laws. Likewise it is mother-in-law & sisters-in-law.
25. It is human development indices not indexes.
26. The plural of vertebra is vertebrae not vertebrae.

27. Family/team/committee/firm are Collective nouns that can be used in both the singular or plural. Our choice of singular or plural verb form often depends on whether we are thinking of the group as an impersonal unit (in which case we use the singular verb – and relative pronoun which) or as a collection of individuals (in which case we use the plural verb form – and relative pronoun who).
28. No error. Freedom can be used in both singular and plural forms. Eg: The freedoms we enjoy are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
29. The sound barrier can only be used in singular.
30. Grass roots can only be used in its plural form.