

The correct use of **Noun** is not a difficult task. We have already explained some of the rules of Noun in the Second Chapter on Syntax. The main difficulty in the use of Noun arises in the correct use of Gender, Number and Possessive case. Therefore, before taking up the Rules of Noun, it is essential to understand the rules regarding the formation of Gender, Number and Possessive case. The following are their Rules—

Formation of Gender

The following are the three Rules of formation of **Feminine Gender** from the Masculine Gender—

1. By adding **-ess, -ine, -trix, -a** to the word in the Masculine Gender. The addition of **-ess** is most popular. As—

(a)

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Author	Authoress	Mayor	Mayoress
Baron	Baroness	Patron	Patroness
Count	Countess	Peer	Peeress
Giant	Giantess	Poet	Poetess
Heir	Heiress	Priest	Priestess
Host	Hostess	Prophet	Prophetess
Jew	Jewess	Shepherd	Shepherdess
Lion	Lioness	Steward	Stewardess
Manager	Manageress	Viscount	Viscountess

(b) By removing the last Vowel in the Masculine word before adding **-ess** in the following words—

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Actor	Actress	Preceptor	Preceptress
Benefactor	Benefactress	Prince	Princess
Conductor	Conductress	Songster	Songstress
Enchanter	Enchantress	Temptor	Temptress
Founder	Foundress	Seamaster	Seamistress

Hunter	Huntress	Tiger	Tigress
Instructor	Instructress	Traitor	Traitress
Negro	Negress	Waitor	Waitress
Abbot	Abbess	Master	Mistress
Duke	Duchess	Murderer	Murdress
Emperor	Empress	Sorcerer	Sorceress
Marquis	Marchioness		

(c) By adding **-ine, -trix, -a**—

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Hero	Heroine	Czar	Czarina
Administrator	Administratrix	Sultan	Sultana
Executor	Executrix	Signor	Signora
Testator	Testatrix	Fox	Vixen

2. By adding an entirely new word before or after the Masculine word. As—

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Bull-calf	Cow-calf	Grandfather	Grandmother
Cock-sparrow	Hen-sparrow	Great-uncle	Great-aunt
He-goat	She-goat	Landlord	Landlady
He-bear	She-bear	Milkman	Milkmaid
Jack-ass	Jenny-ass	Peacock	Peahen
Man-servant	Maid-servant	Washerman	Washerwoman

3. The Feminines of the following Masculines are quite different from their originals. As—

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Bachelor	Maid/spinster	Hart	Roe
Boy	Girl	Horse	Mare
Brother	Sister	Husband	Wife
Buck	Doe	King	Queen
Bull/ox	Cow	Lord	Lady
Bullock	Heifer	Man	Woman
Cock	Hen	Monk/Friar	Nun

Colt	Filly	Nephew	Niece
Dog	Bitch	Papa	Mamma
Drake	Duck	Sir	Madam
Drone	Bee	Ram	Ewe
Earl	Countess	Stay	Hind
Father	Mother	Son	Daughter
Gander	Goose	Uncle	Aunt
Gentleman	Lady	Wizard	Witch

Conversion of Number

The following are the Rules of formation of Plural Number—

(1) In most cases by adding **-s** to the Singular Number. As—

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Boy	Boys	Question	Questions
Girl	Girls	Problem	Problems
Pen	Pens	Book	Books
Table	Tables	House	Houses

2. By adding **-es** to the Singular Number in words ending in **-s, -sh, -ch, or -x**. As—

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Class	Classes	Match	Matches
Kiss	Kisses	Watch	Watches
Lass	Lasses	Branch	Branches
Dish	Dishes	Tax	Taxes
Brush	Brushes	Box	Boxes

3. In words ending in **-o** generally **-es** is added. As—

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Buffalo	Buffaloes	Mango	Mangoes
Potato	Potatoes	Cargo	Cargoes
Negro	Negroes	Volcano	Volcanoes
Hero	Heroes	Motto	Mottoes
Echo	Echoes	Mosquito	Mosquitoes
Zero	Zeroes		

Exceptions :

Singular	Plural
Canto	Cantos
Piano	Pianos
Dynamo	Dynamos
Solo	Solos
Memento	Mementos
Photo	Photos
Ratio	Ratios
Quarto	Quartos

4. But in words ending in **-oo, -io, -eo** or **-yo** only **-s** is added. As—

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Bamboo	Bamboos	Portfolio	Portfolios
Cuckoo	Cuckoos	Embryo	Embryos
Curio	Curios	Ratio	Ratios
Cameo	Cameos	Stereo	Stereos

5. When a word ends in **-y**, and before **-y** there is a consonant, **-y** is replaced by **-ies**. As—

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Baby	Babies	City	Cities
Army	Armies	Pony	Ponies
Lady	Ladies	Duty	Duties
Story	Stories	Fly	Flies

But if there is a Vowel before **-y**, (as **-ay, -ey, -oy**) only **-s** is added. As—

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Day	Days	Boy	Boys
Play	Plays	Toy	Toys
Key	Keys	Monkey	Monkeys

6. In words ending in **-f** or **-fe** in the Singular Number, **-f** or **-fe** are replaced by **-ves**. As—

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Knife	Knives	Leaf	Leaves
Life	Lives	Myself	Ourselves
Wife	Wives	Sheaf	Sheaves
Calf	Calves	Shelf	Shelves
Elf	Elves	Thief	Thieves
Half	Halves	Wolf	Wolves
Loaf	Loaves		

Exceptions—

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Belief	Beliefs	Proof	Proofs
Chief	Chiefs	Roof	Roofs
Cliff	Cliffs	Safe	Safes
Dwarf	Dwarfs	Scarf	Scarfs
Grief	Griefs	Strife	Strifes
Gulf	Gulfs	Turf	Turfs
Hoof	Hoofs	Wharf	Wharfs
Brief	Briefs	Serf	Serfs

7. In the following **eight** Nouns changes are made in the Vowels used within them. They are—

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Man	Men	Mouse	Mice
Woman	Women	Louse	Lice
Foot	Feet	Goose	Geese
Tooth	Teeth	Dormouse	Dormices

8. In the following **four** Nouns **-en** or **-ne** are added. They are—

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Child	Children	Cow	Kine (but also cows)
Ox	Oxen	Brother	Brethren (but also brothers)

9. Some **Nouns** remain the same both in the Singular and Plural forms. As—

Public, police, innings, gross, yoke, brace, sheep, deer, fish, swine, hair, dozen, score, hundred, thousand, pound, kilogram, series, species, means.

10. The Plurals of Compound Nouns are formed by adding **-s** to the **Principal word** in the compound form. As—

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Commander-in-chief	Commanders-in-chief	Maid-servant	Maid-servants
Son-in-law	Sons-in-law	Passer-by	Passers-by
Daughter-in-law	Daughters-in-law	Looker-on	Lookers-on
Brother-in-law	Brothers-in-law	Man-of-war	Men-of-war
Father-in-law	Fathers-in-law	Step-son	Step-sons

11. For forming the Plurals of **Letters / Alphabet, Figures, Abbreviations and Symbols**, Apostrophe **-’s** is added. As—

a’s, b’s, r’s, 5’s, 3’s,

5 M. A.’s, 3 M. L.A.’s, 2 B. A.’s; Dot your i’s and cut your t’s.

Your b’s are not clear. His R’s are peculiar. Your 5’s look like 3’s

Note—The Plural of **p** (page) is **pp** and of **l** (line) is **ll**.

12. Sometimes Surnames can be used in the Plural Number, as—

Miss Smith—the Miss Smiths or the Misses Smith.

Mr. Ray—the Rays.

13. We give below the Plurals of some popular foreign words (Greek, Latin, etc.)

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Agendum	Agenda	Medium	Media
Alumnus	Alumni	Memorandum	Memoranda
Appendix	Appendices	Radius	Radii
Axis	Axes	Analysis	Analyses
Datum	Data	Basis	Bases
Dictum	Dicta	Crisis	Crises
Erratum	Errata	Criterion	Criteria
Formula	Formulae (also formulas)	Oasis	Oases
		Phenomenon	Phenomena
Fungus	Fungi	Thesis	Theses
Genius	Genii	Cherub	Cherubim
Index	Indices	Seraph	Seraphim

Note—In English **Agenda** is used as a Singular Number only.

Formation of Possessive (or Genitive) Case

Rules of Formation of Possessive (or Genitive) Case—

(1) **By adding Apostrophe ’s**

(a) By adding **’s** to the Singular Nouns standing for **Persons**. As—

Ram’s book, the teacher’s desk, the doctor’s clinic, the lawyer’s office.

(b) Apostrophe **’s** is also used with bigger animals and those very familiar. As—

Elephant’s trunk, horse’s colour, lion’s share, tiger’s den, bull’s horns, dog’s tail.

Note—Apostrophe **’s** is not used with small animals and insects.

(c) Apostrophe **’s** is also used with personified objects. As—

Nature’s laws, Fortune’s favour, Death’s sting.

(d) Apostrophe **’s** is also used with Neuter Gender Nouns showing **time, place, distance, weight or value**.

One day's leave, at week's end, at a stone's throw, by month's end, at a pound's cost, a minute's rest, at a yard's distance.

(e) With some special phrases. As—

at arm's length, at fingers'tips, for heaven's sake, for goodness' sake

(f) Double Apostrophe 's should not be used. As—

This is Ram's father's house.

The above sentence has double Apostrophe -'s which is wrong. It should be written thus—

This is the house of Ram's father.

Here one Possessive has been formed by using -'s and the other by the use of connective **of**. This is the correct way.

The father of Ram's friend has come. (Not Ram's friend's father...)

(g) Some words are there which are left out after Apostrophe 's, because their sense is implied in the sentence itself. **As—church, cathedral, school, shop, house, etc.**

1. I bought this book from Mac Millan's. (shop is understood)
2. I am a student of St. John's. (School or College is understood)
3. I have my dinner today at my friend's. (house is understood)

Exercise

1. Correct the Possessive Case in the following sentences :

1. Ram's friend's father is a Professor.
2. Mohan's father's contacts are very wide.
3. He got share of lion in the distribution of the property.
4. I am on a day leave.
5. Let us have a few minutes rest.
6. I have the points at the tips of my fingers.

2. If there are several hissing sounds (sound of **s** or **sh**) at the end of a word, only the mark of Apostrophe (') is used without **s** after it. As—

For conscience' sake; for justice' sake; Moses' laws.

Note— Keats's poetry or Keats' poetry, or Collins's poetry or Collins' poetry are both correct.

3. If a **Plural Noun** has **s** at the end, only the mark of Apostrophe' is used without **s** after it. As—

Girls' hostel; boys' school, horses'tails.

4. If the Noun is in Plural Number but without **s** at its end, full Apostrophe ('s) is used. As—

Men's club; Children's books.

5. If a Noun or a title is made of several words, Apostrophe 's is used only with the last word. As—

The Rana of Mewar's palace,

The Government of India's orders.

6. If two or more Nouns are inseparably joined together, Apostrophe 's is used only with the last word. As—

Legouis and Cazamian's History of English Literature.

Rowe and Webb's Book of Grammar.

7. If two or more Nouns have their own separate possessives, Apostrophe 's is used each time. As—

Marlowe's and Shakespeare's Plays,

Ram's and Mohan's houses.

8. Possessive case by 'of'

(a) Possessives of inanimate things are made by using **of**, not by Apostrophe 's. As—

Leg **of the table** (not, table's leg)

Lock **of the door** (not, door's lock)

Pages **of the book** (not, book's pages)

Nib **of the pen** (not, pen's nib)

(b) For small animals and insects also **of** is used (not 's) for their possessives. As—

wings **of a butterfly**, sting **of a scorpion**, legs **of a stag**, etc.

(c) If a Possessive Noun is qualified by a phrase or a clause, Possessive is made by the use of **of**. As—

These are **the toys of the children who are sleeping**.

The **milk of the cow which is black**.

9. Double Genitives—Sometimes **Double Genitives** are also used. In such cases Apostrophe 's is used with the noun coming after **of**, or Possessive Pronoun (**mine, yours, theirs, hers**) is used without any further possessive mark or word. As—

1. This is a book **of mine**.

2. Ram is a friend of Mohan's.

3. **Tempest** is a play of Shakespeare's.

Note—With such structures it is important to note that they give the suggestion of **one of the**

many. Thus, the sentence : **This is a book of mine** means **this is one of my many books**. Therefore, this structure should not be used where the reference is to **one thing** or **one person** only. As such, the following sentence is wrong—

He is a father of mine.

She is a mother of mine.

These sentences would mean that 'he is one of my many fathers' or 'she is one of my many mothers.' This would be just absurd. These sentences should be written thus—

He is my father.

She is my mother.

Rules of Nouns

The following are the Rules of Nouns—

Rule 1—Nouns always Plural

The under noted Nouns are always used in the Plural Number. They always take Plural verbs. They cannot be used as Singular Nouns by removing s. They are—

Alms, thanks, riches, caves, species, scissors, trousers, pants, clippers, tongs, bellows, gallows, fangs, measles, eyeglasses, goggles, amends, annals, archives, ashes, arrears, athletics, auspices, belongings, breeches, bowels, braces, binoculars, billiards, customs, congratulations, dregs, earnings, entrails, embers, fetters, fireworks, lodgings, lees, mumps, odds, outskirts, particulars, proceeds, proceedings, regards, remains, savings, shambles, shears, spectacles, surroundings, tidings, troops, tactics, vegetables, valuables, wages, works, innings.

These Nouns are always used as Plural Nouns with Plural verbs. As—

1. He gave him alms.
(‘He gave him an alm’ is wrong)
2. His trousers are dirty.
(‘His trouser is dirty’ is wrong)
3. He lives on the outskirts of the town.
4. What are your monthly earnings ?

Rule 2—Nouns always Singular

Some Nouns are always used in the Singular Number. They are—Poetry, scenery, machinery, stationery, crockery, luggage, baggage,

postage, knowledge, breakage, jewellery, information, furniture, money, wastage. As—

1. Kashmir is famous for its colourful scenery. (**not sceneries**)
2. It is an anthology of poetry. (**not poetries**)
3. He has imported all his machinery from Germany. (**not machineries**)
4. I have no information from him. (**not informations**)

Note—If it is necessary to indicate the **Singular** or the **Plural** number of these nouns, the method is this : (a) for Singular Number, we say **a piece of, an item of, an article of**, and (b) for Plural Number we use **pieces of, items of, articles of, kinds of**, etc. These phrases are placed before these Nouns, but the Noun is retained in the Singular number. As—

- (a) (i) I have a piece of information for you.
- (ii) This item of your furniture is really beautiful.
- (iii) I don't like this article of jewellery.
- (b) (i) All kinds of furniture are available here.
- (ii) I want only a few articles of stationery.
- (iii) All pieces of information given by him are wrong.

Rule 3—Nouns Plural in Form but Singular in Use

There are some Nouns which are Plural in form but Singular in usage. They always take a Singular verb. They are—News, Innings, Physics, Politics, Mathematics, Mechanics, Ethics, Economics, etc. As—

1. Mathematics **is** a difficult subject.
2. Ethics **makes** the basis of good life.
3. Politics **has** lost its moral character.
4. Economics **is** an optional subject.
5. The **news is** good.

Exercise

Correct the following sentences :

1. We should not be miserly in giving alm to the beggars.
2. I send herewith my hearty thank for your timely help.

3. I have sent my trouser to the laundry.
4. He has built a house on the outskirts of the city.
5. The cottage was thrown into shamble by the earthquake.
6. He immersed the remain of his father into the Ganges.
7. He has lost all his valuable.
8. Please accept my congratulation for your success.
9. He sucked the liquor to the last dreg.
10. The prisoner was kept in fetter.
11. I have no liking for pastoral poetries.
12. I have to purchase all kinds of stationeries for the school.
13. She is very fond of sparkling jewelleries.
14. I don't travel with heavy luggages.
15. I receive all necessary informations from him.
16. Please show me all items of crockeries.
17. The letter is short of postages.
18. Can you not reduce your wastages ?
19. No news are good news.
20. The mechanics of this instrument are very complicated.
21. Their performance in the first inning was very poor.
22. He is very weak in Physic.
23. Politics are the game of fortune hunters.
24. What are the latest newses ?
25. He is a man of low ethic.

Hints—(1) alms; (2) thanks; (3) trousers; (4) outskirts; (5) shambles; (6) remains; (7) valuables; (8) congratulations; (9) dregs; (10) fetters; (11) poetry; (12) stationery; (13) jewellery; (14) luggage; (15) information; (16) crockery; (17) postage; (18) wastage; (19) is; (20) is; (21) innings; (22) Physics; (23) is; (24) is, news; (25) ethics.

Rule 4—Nouns Singular in Form but Plural in Use

There are some Nouns which are Singular in form but Plural in meaning. They always take a Plural verb. They are—Cattle, gentry, clergy, cavalry, infantry, nobility, poultry, peasantry, children, admiralty, yeomantry, etc. Family is used both in the Singular and Plural numbers according to sense. As—

1. The **cattle are** grazing in the field.
2. The **peasantry are** very happy.
3. Our **cavalry are** very strong.

Note—(1) Since these Nouns are used only in Plural Number (though singular in form), they should not be made Plural by adding **-s** or **-es**. For example, the following sentences are wrong—

The gentries have come.

Our poultries are healthy.

(2) The following Nouns remain the same in both Singular and Plural numbers and they can be used both as Singular and Plural in the same form. They should not be made Plural by adding **-s** or **-es**. They are—**Swine, vermin, mankind, police, public**, etc. As—

1. The **police has** been informed.

or

The **police have** taken action.

2. The **swine are** dirty animals.

or

You are **a dirty swine**.

(3) 'People' in the sense of group of persons is always used in the **Plural** number. But when the word 'People' is used in the sense of a Nation, it can be used both as Singular (**a people**) and Plural as—'**The Peoples** of India and China are on friendly terms.'

Rule 5—Noun with Numeral Adjective

Some Nouns coming after Definite Numeral Adjectives are always used in the Singular Number. They are—Pair, dozen, score, gross, stone, hundred, thousand, million, billion, etc. As—

Two **pair** of shoes (**not two pairs** of shoes); four dozen pencils; **three score** and ten; **five thousand** rupees, **ten million** people, etc.

But if the Numeral Adjective is Indefinite, all the Nouns given above will be used in the Plural Number. As—

Dozens of people; thousands of workers; millions of pounds; scores of houses; many pairs of shoes; in millions, etc.

Rule 6—Numeral Adjective + Hyphen + Noun

If a compound word is formed by joining a Definite Numeral Adjective and a Noun (by a hyphen), the Noun so used will always be in the Singular Number. As—

1. Here is a **five-rupee** note.

Here you will see that a Definite Numeral Adjective (**five**) is joined with a Noun (**rupee**) by a hyphen, and the Noun (rupee) is in Singular Number. It will be wrong to say **five-rupees note**.

Similarly the following sentences are correct—

1. Please lend me a **ten-rupee** note.
2. He gave me a **hundred-rupee** note.
3. This is included in our **five-year** plan.
4. He fell down from a **ten-foot** high wall.
5. A **three-man** enquiry committee has been set up.
6. There was a **twenty-foot** deep ditch.
7. A **five-judge** bench will hear this case.

Exercise

Choose the correct alternative from those given within the brackets in the following sentences :

1. The Indian (peasantry/peasantries) are still backward.
2. Our cavalry (is/are) highly trained.
3. The (gentry / gentries) have already arrived.
4. There is a large herd of (swine/swines).
5. All the (people/peoples) were happy.
6. I have several (pair/pairs) of shoes.
7. There are three (thousand / thousands) workers in this factory.
8. (Thousand / thousands) of workers are working in this factory.
9. I have four (pair/pairs) of shoes.
10. He is now three (scores/score) and ten.
11. (Scores / score) of houses have been gutted in fire.
12. He is rolling in (million/millions).
13. A (five-man/five-men) commission has been set up.
14. He jumped into a (forty-foot/forty-feet) deep well.
15. This is our eighth (five-year/five-years) plan.

Hints—(1) peasantry; (2) are; (3) gentry; (4) swine; (5) people. (6) pairs; (7) thousand; (8) thousands; (9) pair; (10) score; (11) scores; (12) millions; (13) five-man; (14) forty-foot; (15) five-year.

Rule 7—Noun + Preposition + the same Noun repeated

If the same Noun is repeated before and after a Preposition, the Noun is used in the Singular Number each time. In such cases the verb is also used in the Singular Number. As—

Ship after ship arrived at the port. Here **ships after ships** will be wrong. Similarly the following sentences are correct—

1. **Mistake after mistake** was committed.
2. **Chance after chance** was lost.
3. He begged from **door to door**.
4. **Wave upon wave** rose in the sea.
5. We can read **meaning within meaning** in this poem.

Rule 8—Article + several Adjectives + Noun

If two or more than two **Adjectives** are connected with **and** and the **Article** has been used only before the first Adjective, the **Noun** used after them will be in the Plural Number. But if the Article is used before each Adjective, the Noun will be in the Singular Number. As—

1. Shakespeare was very popular in the **sixteenth and seventeenth centuries**.
2. Shakespeare was very popular in the **sixteenth and the seventeenth century**.
3. Very heavy wigs were worn in the **Elizabethan and Jacobean Ages**.
4. Very heavy wigs were worn in the **Elizabethan and the Jacobean Age**.

Exercise

Correct the following sentences :

1. He made attempt after attempts but failed.
2. There is no difference from men to men.
3. He knocked from doors to doors for help.
4. There are circles within circles in this painting.
5. I can read meanings within meaning in what you say.
6. There is no absentee in the Fifth and the Sixth classes.
7. There is no post-office in the first and second lane.

8. Many great scientists were born in the eighteenth and nineteenth century.
9. There is no mistake in the fourth and the fifth pages.
10. No berth is available in the first and last coach.

Hints—(1) attempt after attempt; (2) man to man; (3) door to door; (4) circle within circle; (5) meaning within meaning; (6) class; (7) lanes; (8) centuries; (9) page; (10) coaches.

Rule 9—Numeral Adjective + Noun + Fraction

If a Numeral Adjective and a fraction (**a half, a quarter, three quarters**, etc.) are to be used with a Noun, the structure of the sentence will be as follows—

1. The train is late by **one hour and a half**.
2. The train is late by **two hours and a half**.

The following structure will be wrong—

1. The train is late by **one and a half hour**.
2. The train is late by **two and a half hours**.

Under this Rule the correct structure is this—Noun is used after the Numeral Adjective, and the Number of the Noun is Singular or Plural according to the Numeral Adjective (*i. e.* the Noun is Singular with **a / an / one**, and Plural with **two, three**, etc.) And after the Noun the **Fractions (and a half, and a quarter, and three quarters**, etc.) should be used. The following are some more examples—

1. I have **one rupee and a half**.
2. I have read **five chapters and a half**.
3. I have been waiting for **five hours and a quarter**.
4. The distance is **four kilometres and three quarters**.
5. Its weight is **a kilo and a half**.

Expressions such as **One and a half rupee; five and a half chapters; five and a quarter hours; four and three quarters kilometres; one and a half kilo** are wrong.

Note—If a Numeral Adjective and a fraction are joined by **and** and they are used in the sense of multiplication, the Noun is placed after them, and the Noun is always used in the Plural Number. As—

1. The amount will grow **one and a half times**.

2. The amount will grow **two and a half times**.

In such cases **One time and a half** or **two times and a half** are wrong.

Rule 10—Adjectives used as Plural Nouns

Some Adjectives preceded by **the** are used as Plural Nouns. As—**The poor; the rich; the sick; the down-trodden; the meak**, etc. As—

1. We should help **the poor**.
2. **The rich** should not be proud.
3. **The meak** are blessed.
4. **The sick** should be carefully looked after.

It is wrong to try to make these Adjectives Plural by adding **-s** or **-es** to them. They are already Plural in their sense. As—**the poors, the riches, the meaks, or the sick**. All these are wrong expressions.

Rule 11—Nouns/Pronouns of Common Gender (Dual Gender)

(a) The following Nouns are of Common Gender, *i. e.*, they can be used both as Masculine or Feminine Genders. Thus, they are of Dual Gender. They are—

Child, baby, friend, student, teacher, lecturer, professor, pupil, artist, author, reader, servant, worker, poet, speaker, writer, typist, engineer, lawyer, advocate, client, clerk, conductor, musician, politician, minister, leader, dealer, secretary, enemy, parent, relation, cousin, orphan, neighbour, person, president, monarch, statesman, publicman, chairman, sportsman, spokesman, spokesperson, chairperson.

As—

1. She is my friend.
2. He is my friend.
3. My teacher is Miss Bose.
4. My teacher is Mr. Bose.
5. He is our Finance Minister.
6. She is our Finance Minister.

Note—(1) Some Grammarians hold that Nouns of Common Gender which have **-man** joined with them should not be used with Feminine Gender Nouns. Such a use would appear odd. As—

She is a sportsman / chairman / spokesman / publicman / statesman.

In such cases **–person** has come to be used in place of **–man**. As—

chairperson, spokesperson, sportsperson, publicperson, statesperson, mediaperson, etc.

(2) Sometimes **Poetess** and **Authoress** are also used for Feminine Gender.

(3) A typical difficulty arises when a Pronoun is to be used with a Common Gender Noun in the Singular Number. For example, which of the following pronouns (**his** or **her**) is correct.

1. Every teacher should do **his** duty.

or

Every teacher should do **her** duty.

In all such cases Third Person, Masculine Gender (**his**) should be used.

1. Every teacher should do **his** duty.
2. No student should waste **his** time.

Some scholars hold that both genders connected with **or** (**his** or **her**) should be used.

Every teacher should do **his** or **her** duty.

But this can be desirable in legal language only. In the normal routine case only Third Person Masculine (**He, His, Him**) should be used.

Exercise

Correct the following sentences :

1. Apples sell at ten and a half rupees a kilo.
2. He reached late by one and a quarter hours.
3. I have two and a quarter hours at my disposal.
4. He covered twenty and a half kilometers in one and a half hours.
5. At this rate of interest your money will grow two times and a half.
6. My income has risen one and a half time.
7. My income has risen one time and a half.
8. The poors deserve all our sympathy.
9. The wounded was admitted in hospital.
10. The riches are not always merciless.
11. Every teacher should know her students.
12. She is a good lady teacher.

13. He is my man-servant.

14. She is a lady doctor.

15. She is a renowned poetess.

16. Go to the Ladies common-room.

17. This is Ladies Training College.

18. No one should neglect its duty.

19. Neither of them has done her work.

20. She is a fearless spokeswoman.

21. Mrs. Gandhi was the chairwoman.

22. Elizabeth was a great monarchess.

23. She is my cousin sister.

24. My mother is my guardianess.

Hints—(1) ten rupees and a half; (2) one hour and a quarter; (3) two hours and a quarter; (4) twenty kilometres and a half... one hour and a half; (5) two and a half times; (6) one and a half times; (7) one and a half times; (8) the poor; (9) were; (10) the rich; (11) his; (12) teacher, not lady teacher; (13) servant; (14) doctor, not lady doctor; (15) poet; (16) Women's; (17) Women's Training College; (18) his; (19) his; (20) spokesman or spokesperson; (21) chairman or chairperson; (22) monarch; (23) cousin, not cousin sister, (24) guardian.

Rule 12—Nouns with one meaning in Singular and another in Plural.

Some Nouns have one meaning in the Singular Number and another and quite different meaning in the Plural Number. They are—

Singular (Normal Meaning)	Plural (Typical Meaning)
Abuse (misuse)	Abuses (Bad habits and customs)
Advice (counsel, opinion)	Advices (items of information)
Air	Airs (arrogant show)
Alphabet	Alphabets (languages)
Compass (limit)	Compasses (a geometrical instrument)
Colour	Colours (flag)
Custom	Customs (levies on goods imported)
Effect (as noun)	Effects (household luggage)
Force	Forces (armies)

Good	Goods (luggage)
Iron	Irons (chains, fetters)
Manner	Manners (behaviour)
Number	Numbers (feet or rhythm in poetry)
Pain	Pains (efforts)
Premise (supposition, Introduction)	Premises (site, situation)
Physic (medicine)	Physics (a branch of science)
Quarter (fourth part)	Quarters (small houses)
Return	Returns (accounting)
Sand	Sands (desert)
Water	Waters (oceans)
Wood	Woods (jungle)
Letter	Letters (Literature, scholarship)
Ground	Grounds (reasons)

Exercise

Choose the correct alternative from those given within brackets in each sentence :

1. I love to walk in the fresh morning (air/airs).
2. I shall spare no (pain/pains) to give entire satisfaction to you.
3. Please submit your income-tax (return/returns) immediately.
4. This stool is made of (iron/irons).
5. I shall shift all my household (effect/effects) from here.
6. I have booked my (good/goods) by passenger train.
7. He struck the ball with great (force/forces).
8. You have to pay your (custom/customs) duty.
9. He has gone to the (wood/woods) in search of his lost cattle.
10. He has built a small temple in the (premises/premise) of his new house.

Hints—(1) air; (2) pains; (3) returns; (4) iron; (5) effects; (6) goods; (7) force; (8) customs; (9) woods; (10) premises.

Miscellaneous Revision Exercises

Revision Exercise 1

Choose the correct forms of the nouns from those given in brackets in the following sentences :

1. He gave me two ten (-rupee/-rupees) notes.
2. Most men live to the age of three (score/scores) and ten.
3. I like the (scenery/sceneries) of this place.
4. My car costs me fifty (thousand/ thousands) rupees.
5. Our score in the first (inning/innings) was very encouraging.
6. Pray and give (thank/thanks) to God that you have been saved.
7. There was a herd of (deer/deers) in the wood.
8. Their (offspring/offsprings) are all sickly.
9. Whose (cattle/cattles) are these ?
10. The child is suffering from (measel/measels).
11. Five (hundred/hundreds) years have passed since then.
12. (Tiding/Tidings) came very late.
13. The (Jury/Juries) found him guilty.
14. (Dozen/Dozens) of men were injured.
15. I bought two (dozen/dozens) pencils.
16. He gave (alm/alms) to every beggar.

Hints—(1) rupee; (2) score; (3) scenery; (4) thousand; (5) innings; (6) thanks; (7) deer; (8) offspring; (9) cattle; (10) measels; (11) hundred; (12) tidings; (13) Jury; (14) dozens; (15) dozen; (16) alms.

Revision Exercise 2

Choose the correct forms of the verbs from those given within brackets, keeping in view the sense of the nouns which should be in agreement with the verbs :

1. Where (is/are) the scissors ?
2. The police (has/have) made no arrests.
3. Economics (is/are) taught by Dr. Jain.
4. The clergy (is/are) opposed to closing the church today.
5. A huge crowd (has/have) assembled.
6. No news (has/have) come from my brother.

7. Sheep blindly (follow/follows) the leader.
8. The jury (has/have) not come to a unanimous verdict.
9. Measels (is/are) a bad disease.
10. No cattle (is/are) allowed to graze here.
11. My family (is/are) early risers.
12. Three dozen pencils (has/have) been distributed.
13. The government (is/are) determined to implement the plan.
14. The majority of workers (has/have) come on duty.
15. The rich (is/are) not always happy.

Hints—(1) are; (2) have; (3) is; (4) are; (5) has; (6) has; (7) follow; (8) have; (9) are; (10) are; (11) are; (12) have; (13) are; (14) have; (15) are.

Revision Exercise 3

Correct the following sentences :

1. I have bought a new spectacle.
2. Have you installed new machineries ?
3. Please pay my regard to your father.
4. These paultry is mine.
5. You can select from these three pairs of shoes.
6. So many pair of shoes are here before you.
7. I have all these points at the ends of my fingers.
8. He gets a monthly allowance of two thousands rupees.
9. His hairs have turned grey.
10. You must follow my advices.
11. I have not yet brought my furnitures.
12. The news are not authentic.
13. He attended King George's the Fifth coronation ceremony.
14. The wages of sin are death.
15. His weekly earning is very poor.
16. This is my uncle's, the engineer, office.
17. My pen's colour is black.
18. This is a Ladies' College.
19. No man can enter the Women's Hostel.
20. A three-men enquiry committee will look into the matter.
21. No more informations are available.

22. My father's friend's son is coming today.
23. He is a father of mine.
24. A kite's wings are large.
25. I have sent him my congratulation for his success.
26. The mechanics of this instrument are not difficult to understand.
27. There was a fifty-feet deep valley.
28. Trucks after trucks crossed the prohibited line.
29. There is no light in the fifth and sixth house.
30. The police has already taken search of the fourth and the fifth rooms.
31. His score was one and a half centuries.
32. Houses after houses were looted by the dacoits.
33. I can run for two mile and a half.
34. His profits have grown one and a half time.
35. Mrs. Jacob is my lady-teacher.
36. This student has spoilt her paper.
37. Indian force is strong enough to face the challenge.
38. Gandhi has left his foot-marks on the sand of time.
39. Both his daughter-in-laws are beautiful.
40. There are 5 M. A. among the applicants.

Hints—(1) pair of spectacles; (2) machinery; (3) regards; (4) are; (5) pair; (6) pairs; (7) at my finger-ends; (8) thousand; (9) hair has turned; (10) advice; (11) furniture; (12) is; (13) King George the Fifth's; (14) is; (15) earnings are; (16) my uncle, the engineer's, (17) the colour of my pen; (18) Women's College; (19) Women's Hostel; (20) three-men; (21) information is; (22) the son of my father's friend; (23) my father; (24) the wings of a kite; (25) congratulations; (26) is; (27) fifty-foot deep; (28) truck after truck; (29) houses; (30) room; (31) one century and a half; (32) house after house; (33) two miles and a half; (34) one and a half times; (35) teacher; (36) his; (37) forces are; (38) sands; (39) daughters-in-law; (40) 5 M. A.'s.