

Chapter

9

Noun

What is a Noun?

A Noun is used as the name of a person, thing, place, idea and quality of a person, a thing and a place.

I) Kinds of Noun—

- (a) **Common Noun**—It is the name given common to every person or a thing of the same kind. It is not a name of any particular person or thing or place. *e.g.*, boy, girl, teacher etc.
- (b) **Proper Noun**—It is the name given to some particular person, thing or place. *e.g.*, Delhi, Sania, India, Jupiter.
- (c) **Collective Noun**—It is the name of a collection of persons and things treated and spoken together as a whole. *e.g.*, fleet, audience, class, committee, crowd, mob etc.
- (d) **Abstract Noun**—It is the name of a quality, idea, concept or state. *e.g.*, beauty, youth, honesty, death etc.
- (e) **Material Noun**—Such as gold, coal, wheat, tea.

II) Number of a Noun — Singular - Plural

III) Gender of a Noun — Masculine - Feminine - Neuter

IV) Case of a Noun

For example—

(i) Mohan is my friend.

(ii) Who brought this book?

(iii) She is Mohan's wife.

(iv) Help me, Mohan

Subjective/Nominative case

Objective/Accusative case

Possessive/Genetive case

Vocative case

Case in Apposition—

Mohan, the Captain of our team, has been rewarded.

Apposition means a placing near just 'as captain' is placed after 'Mohan'. It is a kind of descriptive expression not joined by any conjunction.

Rules of Noun

Rule I

- (A) (a) Uncountable Nouns are used in the singular forms only.
 (b) Indefinite article is not used before them.
 (c) They are not used with plural verbs.
 (d) 'Much' or 'Some' are used in place of 'Many' for denoting plurality.

Some of the important Nouns of this kind are :

'Advice, information, hair, luggage, business, work, word (in the sense of promise, message, discussion) **mischief, bread, scenery, abuse, vacation, evidence, employment, alphabet, poetry, food, furniture, baggage, fuel, paper, equipment, machinery, material etc'**. e.g.,

- (i) He gave me an information. (Omit 'an')
 (ii) You should be true to your words. (Use 'word' in place of 'words')
 (iii) He was punished for committing many mischiefs. (Use 'much mischief' in place of 'many mischiefs')
 (iv) Young persons dislike the advices of the elderly people. (Use 'advice' in place of 'advices')

- (B) These nouns may be used to denote singularity as follows—

- (i) a piece/a word of advice.
 (ii) a word of abuse
 (iii) an act of mischief.
 (iv) a piece of work.
 (v) a piece/loaf of bread.
 (vi) an article of luggage.

- (C) These nouns may be used to denote plurality as follows—

- (i) much/some advice.
 (ii) a lot of/many words/many pieces of advice.
 (iii) two pieces/loaves of bread.
 (iv) words of abuse.

Rule II

There are some of the collective nouns which are used with plural verbs. e.g.,

- (a) **'cattle, gentry, peasantry, poultry, clergy, people, majority, folk.'**
 (b) The nouns **'committee, jury, House, ministry, family, mob, crowd, audience, police, team, number, board, staff, public'** are used with singular verbs when they are used as a body or group and not as members.
 (c) When these nouns denote members or individuals, the verb is used in Plural form.
 (i) Cattles **are** grazing in the field. (Use 'cattle' in place of 'cattles')
 (ii) Majority **is** in favour of this proposal. (Use 'are' in place of 'is')
 (iii) The committee **is** unanimous on this issue. (Correct)
 (iv) The committee **are** divided and there is bitterness among the members. (Correct)

- (v) The peoples of all the countries should work for peace. (Correct)
- (vi) The average Hindu family in India **consists** of four members. (Correct)
- (vii) His family **are** not agreed on this point. (Correct)
- (viii) The audience **was** spell bound. (Correct)
- (ix) The audience **were** forbidden to occupy chairs. (Correct)
- (x) The Police **has** become insensitive. (Correct)
- (xi) The Police **were** posted all over the route. (Correct)
- (xii) The team **are** full of high spirits. (Correct)
- (xiii) The team is **at** the top in this competition. (Correct)

Note : 'Peoples' is used when we talk of the people of different countries.

Rule III

'Offspring, deer, fish, sheep'—are expressed as singular or plural only by the use of verb. Both in singular and the plural they have the same form.

- (i) Sheeps are economically useful. (Use 'Sheep' in place of 'Sheeps')
- (ii) A sheep is grazing in the field. (Correct)

Note : 'Fishes' may be used in the sense of different number and kind.

Rule IV

Some of the nouns (ending in 's' or 'es') are used with singular verb.

- (A) Branches of learning. e.g.,
Mathematics, Physics, Mechanics, Politics, Statistics, Statics, Economics.

Note : Statistics as subject is used with singular verb. Statistics when taken as a collection of data is used with plural verb.

- (B) Diseases. e.g.,
Mumps, Measles, Rickets etc.
- (C) Games and sports. e.g.,
Billiards, Aquatics, Gymnastics, Athletics etc.
- (D) Titles of books. e.g.,
Three Musketeers, Gulliver's Travels, Arabian Nights, War and Peace, Tales from Shakespeare.
- (E) Descriptive names of countries. e.g.,
United States, United Arab Emirates etc.
- (F) Some other nouns are—
Innings, Series, News, Summons, e.g.,
 - (i) The measles have broken out in the town. (Use 'has' in place of 'have')
 - (ii) Politics are a dirty game. (Use 'is' in place of 'are')
 - (iii) These news are disappointing. (Say 'this news is')
 - (iv) A/The summons has been served on him. (Correct)
 - (v) A series of matches are being played. (Use 'is' in place of 'are')
 - (vi) Two series of matches was played last year. (Use 'were' in place of 'was')

Rule V

Study the uses of Nouns as singular and plural in forms.

Noun	Used as	Noun	Used as
Wood	Material	Woods	Forest
Water	Material	Waters	Sea
Asset	Quality	Assets	Property
Sand	Material	Sands	Land
Iron	Material	Irons	Chains
Cloth	Material	Clothes	Dress
Abuse	Indecent words	Abuses	Misuses
Work	Labour	Works	Literary writings
Air	Element	Airs	Behaviour
Advice	Suggestion	Advices	Bills
Custom	Habit	Customs	Tax
Effect	Result	Effects	Goods
Colour	Material	Colours	Flag
Fruit	Edible thing	Fruits	Results
Wit	Ability to talk	Wits	Intelligence
Arm	Organ	Arms	Weapons
Good	Advantage/use	Goods	Articles

Rule VI

Some of the nouns are generally used in the plural form with plural verb.

(a) Articles of dress.

'Trousers, breeches, Jeans'

(b) Names of instruments.

'Scissors, spectacles, shears, scales'

(c) Other nouns such as

'Alms, thanks, proceeds, riches, contents, credentials, orders, refreshments, requirements, customs, rations, archives, annals, ashes, arrears, assets, stairs, spirits, statistics (data), quarters, earnings, manners, outskirts, savings, auspices (support), surroundings. e.g.,

(i) My scissors is not sharp.

(Use 'are' in place of 'is')

(ii) My spectacles is very costly.

(Use 'are' in place of 'is')

(iii) A pair of spectacles has been bought by me.

(Correct)

(iv) Order for his transfer has been issued.

(Incorrect)

(v) Orders for his transfer have been issued.

(Correct)

Rule VII

A compound noun (numerical + noun) is not used in plural if a noun does the work of an adjective. e.g.,

(i) Ten-day tour

(ii) A ten-mile race

(iii) A ten-year old boy

(iv) He is ten years old. (Correct)

(v) A five-rupee note

(vi) Five-foot long room

Rule VIII

Nouns expressing number are used in singular with numerical adjectives.

Two hundred, two thousand, five dozen, two score, two million, three lakh.' e.g.,

- (i) I gave him two hundreds rupees. (Omit 's' in 'hundreds')
- (ii) I gave him five dozens pencils. (Omit 's' in 'dozens')
- (iii) There are hundreds of partially built houses. (Correct)

Rule IX

Use of Apostrophe with 's'—

(A) The use of apostrophe with 's' is not correct in the case of non-living things. It is restricted only to living things, time, weight, distance, amount or personified nouns.

- (i) The table's wood. (Incorrect)
- (ii) Boy's hand.
- (iii) Time's march.
- (iv) A one-kilometre's journey.
- (v) A rupee's worth.
- (vi) A night's journey.
- (vii) A metre's length.
- (viii) Nature's laws.
- (ix) A week's holiday.

(B) Two nouns in the possessive case denote plural form. When apostrophe with 's' is used with one noun, it expresses singular form. e.g.,

- (i) Sheela and Rohit's father. (the father of both Sheela and Rohit)
- (ii) Sheela's and Rohit's fathers are meeting today. (fathers of Sheela and Rohit)

(C) With compound nouns apostrophe with 's' should be added only with the last word.

- (i) Mother-in-law's behaviour
- (ii) Maid-servant's absence.

(D) Pronouns are written by omitting apostrophe but 's' is added. e.g.,

- (i) Yours truly.
- (ii) Its colour
- (iii) Hers
- (iv) It's (It is)

(E) Possessive case is indicated by apostrophe without 's' after Plural nouns or words ending with 's'.

- (i) John Keats' poems.
- (ii) Girls' Hostel.
- (iii) Dickens' novels.
- (iv) Jesus' sake.
- (v) Kalidas' works.

(F) (a) 'Else' combined with indefinite pronouns (somebody, any body, nobody etc.) is expressed in possessive case as somebody else's in place of somebody's else.

(b) The correct expression 'whose else' should be used in place of the wrong expression 'who else's'. However 'who else' is correct.

- (i) This is not my book. This is somebody's else (Say somebody else's)
- (ii) Who else is coming? (Correct)
- (iii) Who else's book is this? (Use 'whose else' in place of 'who else's')

Note : 'Who' should be converted into possessive 'whose'. So 'whose else' is correct.

Rule X

Two adjectives denoting different meanings and qualifying the same noun are considered plural and are used with plural verbs. *e.g.*,

- (i) Cultural and social life in India are changing.
 (ii) Summer and winter vacation are compulsory in our schools.

(Look up Rule V on Articles)

Rule XI

Noun after preposition is repeated in singular form. *e.g.*,

- (i) Word for word. (ii) Hour after hour. (iii) Door to door.

Rule XII

The use of fractions.

- (i) One and a half years are wasted. (ii) One and a half hours are wasted.
 (iii) A year and a half is wasted. (iv) An hour and a half is wasted.

Rule XIII

A student is required to study the plural forms of certain nouns carefully.
 Such nouns alongwith their plural forms are given below :

Singular Form	Plural Form
Commander-in-chief	Commanders-in-chief
Major General	Major Generals
Attorney General	Attorneys General
Maid servant	Maid servants
Looker-on	Lookers-on
Passer by	Passers by
Mother-in-law	Mothers-in-law
Man servant	Men servants
Woman servant	Women servants
M.A.	M.A.'s
Mouse	Mice
Ox	Oxen
Datum	Data
Medium	Media
Forum	Forums, Fora
Stadium	Stadia
Criterion	Criteria
Phenomenon	Phenomena
Formula	Formulae
Oasis	Oases
Lacuna	Lacunae
Erratum	Errata
Memorandum	Memoranda
Alumnus	Alumni
Syllabus	Syllabi
Addendum	Addenda

Work Book Exercise (A)

Directions : Spot the error, if any, in the following sentences—

1. Cattles are not allowed to enter this ground.
2. The enemy has received many informations regarding the activities of the army of our neighbouring country.
3. Order has been issued for his transfer to another district but he has not received them so far.
4. The hills of the Uttar Pradesh abound in beautiful sceneries and visitors are attracted to it every year.
5. Although she has studied English for almost a year, she has yet to learn the alphabets.
6. There are two scores of books which are lying unused in the library.
7. Children are prone to making mischiefs if they have nothing to do.
8. Sheeps are economically useful and so they are reared in the hills.
9. I have not gone through the letter and so I am not aware of its content.
10. Twenty cattles were found wandering on the road.
11. I shall not attend the meeting since I have many works to complete within allotted time.
12. It is difficult to find man servants in big cities because they are engaged in other profitable professions.
13. All his sister-in-laws are married and settled in U.K.
14. You should always be true to your words if you are to succeed in life.
15. It is a pity that even five years old boys are engaged in hazardous factories.
16. I gave him two five hundred-rupees notes for depositing in my saving account.
17. It is never my business to give an advice to those who are not sensible enough to deal with their own problems.
18. The committee is divided over the issue of his appointment and this has resulted in much rancour among its members.
19. I don't think it is your house. It is somebody's else.
20. There is a lack of girl's schools in the town and many parents don't like to send their children to co-educational institutions.
21. He was late and entered the female compartment in a hurry.
22. When we reached picture hall we found there was no place.
23. She misplaced her spectacle and is now feeling great difficulty in reading.
24. Arabian Nights are a collection of very interesting episodes of adventure.
25. I hope to visit my uncle only next year during summer vacations.
26. He was offered lecturership by the committee.

Work Book Exercise (B)

Directions : Spot the error, if any, in the following sentences—

1. Ration has run out and the District Magistrate has been informed.
2. The table's wood is infested with mite and I am likely to dispose it of.
3. The morale of the army was high because the news coming from the front were very encouraging.

4. The majority likes reading sensational stories and watching western movies.
5. A variety of books is available in the market to help the students qualify the competitive examinations.
6. Variety are the spice of life otherwise life may become dull and drab.
7. Lots of friends come to meet him whenever he visits his home town.
8. He never believes in using a fair means because they are not acceptable in this materialistic age.
9. A plenty of informations about his activities was passed on to his boss.
10. I can't come to you now because a lot of works remains to be done.
11. All the evidences against him were rejected by the High Court.
12. Commander's un-chief orders arrived late and the forces had to retreat.
13. Have you deposited the passport in the Bank or not?
14. You can buy the scissors that is sharp.
15. He goes fishing everyday and brings a lot of fishes that his wife cooks for him.
16. The house is made of bricks and stones, not of marbles.
17. A pair of sports shoes have been found in the library.
18. This data are very useful to arrive at correct conclusion.
19. What is the criteria of selection in the examination?
20. A farmer was breeding oxes in his field for ploughing early in the morning.
21. Please put your sign here.
22. The court turned down his witness.
23. There was no place to stand in the fair.
24. He has brought four breads for lunch today.
25. Alumnus of the college are invited to college functions every year.
26. Meddlesome voice is her accords.
27. The five members delegation will call on the president.
28. He turned page after page.
29. He has not secured even passing marks.
30. My cousin brother is expected today.
31. It is a news that he has deserted his wife.
32. I have sent him a word to come soon.
33. She is getting full friendship as she is the daughter of a martyr.
34. A foolish person does not know wrong from right.
35. We should not find fault with our children.
36. This has been our custom from immemorial times.
37. I go to sleep at 11 pm.
38. They will arrive tomorrow by 10.30 O'clock train.