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Respect pentru oameni și cărți

Booklet's English Grammar

SINTEZE



Booklet

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CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. THE NOUN | 6 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of nouns, formation of the plural, the plural of compound nouns, number agreement, number and meaning• The gender of nouns, means of expressing the gender of inanimate nouns• The case of nouns | |
| 2. THE ARTICLE | 21 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The definite article• The indefinite article• The zero article | |
| 3. THE ADJECTIVE | 29 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classification of adjectives• Position of adjectives• Comparison of adjectives (compound adjectives, special constructions with the comparative and the superlative) | |
| 4. THE PRONOUN | 37 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The personal pronoun• The possessive pronoun• The reflexive ("self") pronoun• The reciprocal pronoun• The demonstrative pronoun• The indefinite pronoun• The interrogative pronoun• The relative pronoun | |

| | |
|--|-----|
| 5. THE NUMERAL | 58 |
| • The cardinal numeral | |
| • The ordinal numeral | |
| • The fractional numeral | |
| • The multiplicative numeral | |
| • The distributive numeral | |
| 6. THE VERB | 67 |
| • Classification | |
| • Modal verbs | |
| • Grammatical categories of the verb | |
| • Tenses of the indicative mood (present tenses, past tenses, future tenses, ways of expressing future time) | |
| • The Subjunctive mood | |
| • The Imperative mood | |
| • Non-finite forms of the verb (the Infinitive, the Gerund, the Participle) | |
| 7. CONDITIONALS | 117 |
| • IF clause Type 1 | |
| • IF clause Type 2 | |
| • IF clause Type 3 | |
| • Mixed Conditionals | |
| 8. THE SEQUENCE OF TENSES | 121 |
| • Overview | |
| 9. REPORTED SPEECH | 125 |
| • Direct – Indirect Speech changes | |
| 10. THE PASSIVE VOICE | 134 |
| • Uses of the Passive Voice | |
| • Other passive constructions | |
| 11. THE ADVERB | 137 |
| • Form and types of adverbs | |
| • Regular and irregular comparison of adverbs | |
| • The position of adverbs, inversions | |

| | |
|--|-----|
| 12. THE PREPOSITION | 148 |
| • Overview and classification | |
| • Place of prepositions in the sentence | |
| • The ellipsis of the preposition | |
| 13. THE CONJUNCTION | 152 |
| • Overview and classification | |
| 14. THE INTERJECTION | 155 |
| • Overview and classification | |
| 15. QUESTION TAGS AND SHORT ANSWERS | 157 |
| • Overview | |
| 16. IRREGULAR VERBS | 160 |
| • Overview and classification | |
| 17. FALSE FRIENDS | 169 |
| • Overview | |
| 18. WH-QUESTIONS | 171 |
| • Overview | |
| 19. WORD ORDER | 173 |
| • Overview | |
| 20. ENGLISH UNITS OF MEASUREMENT | 175 |
| • Overview | |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | 176 |

Noun → a part of speech that refers to a person, place, thing, event or idea which can be replaced by a pronoun.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF NOUNS

1. According to the way they are formed, nouns are:

- a. **simple**: pencil, dog, chair;
- b. **derived**: driver, booklet, discontentment, kindness, misunderstanding;

- c. **compound**: postcard, dining-room, brother-in-law;

2. According to their **countability**, nouns are:

- a. **countable**: have a plural form and can be used with the indefinite article "a / an" or with "many", "few", "several":

a joke → few jokes, an apple → many apples;

one lesson → several lessons;

- b. **uncountable**: cannot be used in the plural or with the indefinite article, but can be used with "much" and "little": *noise; health; pride*:

noise → little noise; pride → much pride;

- c. **collective**: refer to a group of people or things: *family, team, crew*:

The crew abandoned the ship just before it sank.

3. According to their **meaning**, nouns are:

- a. **common**: denote members of a certain class: *child; bird; garden*;

- b. **proper**: refer to a particular person, place or thing and are written in capital letters: *Mary; France; the Danube*;

- c. **concrete:** denote material objects that can be perceived by our senses: *wall; team; pencil;*
- d. **abstract:** denote things that are only perceived by our mind (qualities and states): *health; youth; pride.*

B. NUMBER OF NOUNS

Formation of the plural

- 1. **Countable nouns** can take a plural form:

I need one more orange for the cake.

I like oranges very much.

- a. **-s** is added to the singular form of most of the nouns:
book – books; cat – cats; toy – toys;
- b. **-es** is added to the singular form of nouns ending in **-s, -z, -x, -ch, -sh, -ss**:
bus – buses; buzz – buzzes; box – boxes; watch – watches; brush – brushes; business – businesses;
- c. **-es** is added to nouns ending in **-y** (-y changes into -i):
fly – flies; city – cities; lady – ladies;

BUT:

toy – toys; boy – boys; cowboy – cowboys;

- d. **-es** is added to nouns ending in **-o**:

hero – heroes; potato – potatoes; tomato – tomatoes;

BUT:

photo – photos; kilo – kilos; kangaroo – kangaroos; radio – radios; scenario – scenarios; piano – pianos; tobacco – tobaccos; tango – tangos; soprano – sopranos;

The Noun

- e. **-(e)s** is added to nouns ending in **-f(e)** ("f" changes into -v):
knife – knives; leaf – leaves; life – lives;

BUT:

roof – roofs; belief – beliefs; chief – chiefs;

- f. nouns ending in **-is** form their plurals in **-es**:

analysis – analyses; antithesis – antitheses; crisis – crises;

- g. nouns ending in **-on** form their plurals in **-a**:

criterion – criteria; phenomenon – phenomena;

- h. Latin nouns ending in **-um** have their plurals in **-a**:

bacterium – bacteria; erratum – errata; stratum – strata;

- i. irregular Plurals:

man – men; woman – women; foot – feet;

tooth – teeth; goose – geese; louse – lice;

mouse – mice; child – children; ox – oxen;

The plural of compound nouns:

- a. **-s** is added to the final element:

washing-machine – washing-machines;

knock-out – knock-outs; forget-me-not – forget-me-nots;

- b. **-s** is added to the first element:

- b1. when the first element is a noun and the second element is a preposition or an adverb:

passer-by – passers-by;

going-out – goings-out;

- b2. when the compound word is formed of two nouns linked by a preposition:

editor-in-chief – editors-in-chief;

son-in-law – sons-in-law;

doctor of philosophy – doctors of philosophy.

NOTE:

- 1) Compound nouns formed with “and” change both elements into plural forms:
up and down – ups and downs;
pro and con – pros and cons;
- 2) Compound words formed with the nouns “man” and “woman” take the plural in both elements: *manservant – menservants; woman driver – women drivers.*

2. Uncountable nouns cannot have a plural form and cannot take the indefinite article “a” / “an”, but they may be used with “much” or “little”:

- a. *There was too much noise and I could not focus on what I was doing.*
- b. *When I was a teenager I had little freedom.*
- c. *Too much pride is not good in a relationship.*

Types of uncountable nouns:

- a. **material nouns:** *milk; cotton; air; sand;*
Cotton is heavily used in the textile industry.
- b. **abstract nouns:** *peace; beauty; freedom;*
They want to live in peace.
- c. **names of sports:** *tennis, skating, football;*
Skating is practised in winter.
- d. **names of plants** (when referring to the species): *garlic, potato, maize;*
Potato was discovered in America.
- e. **names of towns, countries, months:** *Paris, England, February;*
February is the second month of the year.