

Libris **BO**
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Respect pentru oameni și cărți

Booklet's English
Grammar

SINTEZE

 **Booklet**

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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.