Nouns – Types

Definition of a Noun

A noun is a word that names a person, place, animal, thing, idea, or feeling.

Examples: boy, girl, river, city, town, childhood.

Key Characteristics of Nouns

- Anything that has a name is a noun.
- Nouns are also known as naming words.
- Even ideas, thoughts, and feelings are considered nouns.

Types of Nouns

Common Nouns

These are names of general items or beings of the same kind or class. They do not refer to anything specific.

Examples: boy, school, cat, mat, fruit, seeds

Key Points:

- Common nouns are names given to groups of people, places, animals, or things.
- Always written in lowercase (unless at the start of a sentence).

Proper Nouns

These refer to specific names of people, places, animals, or things.

Examples: Victoria Memorial – a famous Indian monument

❖ New Delhi: capital of India

❖ Mahatma Gandhi: Father of the Nation

Key Points:

Proper nouns are always capitalized.

Examples include:

o Cities: Kashipur, Subhash Nagar

Countries: India

o Days/Months: Tuesday, April

o Mountains/Rivers: Himalayas, Ganga

Newspapers: Times of India

o Books: Gita, Quran

o Authors: Ruskin Bond

Collective Nouns

These refer to groups of people, animals, or things spoken of as a whole.

Examples:

a bunch of grapes

a school of fish

a herd of cattle

Grammar Tip:

- Usually treated as singular: A herd of cattle was grazing.
- Sometimes treated as plural if referring to individuals: The committee have decided...

Practice Examples:

- A fleet of ships
- An army of soldiers
- A band of musicians

Abstract Nouns

These represent ideas, feelings, qualities, or states, which cannot be seen or touched.

Examples: beauty (beautiful), intelligence (intelligent), wisdom (wise)

Examples from Sentences:

- Mahatma Gandhi believed in truth and non-violence.
- Indian soldiers showed bravery and courage.
- o Birbal was known for his wisdom

Common Abstract Nouns:

• childhood, honesty, friendship, wisdom, knowledge, poverty

Material Nouns (mentioned in list but not detailed in text)

These refer to substances or materials from which things are made.

Examples: gold, silver, wood, cotton.

Points to Remember

• Nouns: Names of person, place, animal, thing, idea

• Common Nouns: General names

• **Proper Nouns:** Specific names (capitalized)

• Collective Nouns: Groups

• Abstract Nouns: Qualities, feelings, ideas