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Nouns

The mixed-up delivery





Grammar at a glance

When you want to...	Form to use	Worked example
Name people, places or things	person / place / thing	Asha reads a book at school.
Give a particular name	common noun / proper noun	My cousin lives in Pune.
Count more than one	one brush / two brushes	Two children carry three boxes.
Name an idea	abstract noun	Their courage surprised me.

SELECT A ROW TO OPEN ITS LESSON

NOUNS

Name people, places and things



Lily and Sam are packing for school. Their helper cannot see the supplies. Let's write a clear note.

A noun names a person, a place, a thing or an idea. In "the red bag", bag tells you what to bring.

USE	EXAMPLE	WHAT TO NOTICE
Something is missing	Bring the red.	Red tells a colour. Which thing should the helper bring?
Name the thing	Bring the red bag.	Bag names the thing to bring.
Another example	Asha reads a book at school.	Name people, places or things. Pattern: person / place / thing.

HOW THE PATTERN WORKS

Names a thing	Describes that thing	Names a person
bag	red	Lily

Is every word I can picture a noun?

No. In the red bag, red tells the colour and bag names the thing. Naming and describing are different jobs.

YOUR TURN

In "The small basket is ready", what names the thing?

ready / small / basket

> **Answer • basket**
> Basket names the object.

NOUNS

Common nouns and proper names



The bag is for Lily, the helper in yellow. Sam is a helper too. Their school is called Maple School.

A common noun names a kind of person, place or thing. A proper noun gives a particular name, such as Sam or Green Park.

USE	EXAMPLE	WHAT TO NOTICE
Any helper	Give the bag to a helper.	Helper could mean Lily or Sam.
One named person	Give the bag to Lily.	Lily names the helper who should get the bag.
Another example	My cousin lives in Pune.	Give a particular name. Pattern: common noun / proper noun.

HOW THE PATTERN WORKS

General kind	Particular person	General place	Particular place
helper	Lily	school	Maple School

Does every capitalised noun become a proper noun?

No. A common noun at the start of a sentence takes a capital too. Decide whether it is a general kind or a particular name before classifying it.

YOUR TURN

Fix only the name: “Wait for sam.”

> Answer • Wait for Sam.
> Sam is a proper name.

NOUNS

Singular and plural nouns



Lily and Sam share one box. Count the children and the boxes separately.

A singular noun names one. A plural names more than one. Look for changes such as bag to bags, box to boxes and child to children.

USE	EXAMPLE	WHAT TO NOTICE
Count the people	Two children carry the delivery.	Child becomes children when there is more than one.
Count the parcel	The children carry one box.	There are two children but just one shared box.
Another example	Two children carry three boxes.	Count more than one. Pattern: one brush / two brushes.

HOW THE PATTERN WORKS

Person count	Parcel count	Another possible delivery
two children	one box	two boxes

Does every plural just add s?

No. Many do, but box takes -es and child changes to children. Learn useful patterns and common irregular forms; do not put an apostrophe in an ordinary plural.

YOUR TURN

Choose the ordinary plural: one dish, two ___.

dish’s / dishs / dishes

> Answer • dishes
> Dish takes -es.

NOUNS

Ideas and words with different jobs



The parcels arrive. Lily thanks Sam for his kindness. Kindness names a quality, even though we cannot touch it.

A noun can name something you cannot touch, such as courage. A word like plant can name a thing or describe an action. Read its sentence.

USE	EXAMPLE	WHAT TO NOTICE
Name an idea	Sam showed kindness.	Kindness names a quality. A noun need not be something we can touch.
Use pack as a noun	The pack is heavy.	Pack names a thing here.
Use pack for an action	We pack the books.	Pack tells what we do here. The sentence gives the word its job.

HOW THE PATTERN WORKS

Names a quality	Names a thing	Tells an action
kindness	the pack	we pack

Must every noun be something I can touch?

No. Kindness names a quality; happiness names a feeling.

YOUR TURN

Which names an idea in “Happiness matters”?
Happiness / matters

> **Answer • Happiness**
> Happiness is an abstract noun here.

ONE LAST CHALLENGE

What belongs on the label?

A parcel is going to Noor at Hill School. It contains two brushes. Write one label that names the person, place and things.



A POSSIBLE ANSWER

Two brushes for Noor at Hill School.

Noor and Hill School are names. Brushes is the plural of brush.

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