

# What is Grammar?

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Here's an old children's rhyme about the eight parts of speech of English grammar. It gives you an idea of what grammar is about. Read and remember it.

Every name is called a **noun**, As **field** and **fountain**, **street** and **town**.

In place of noun the **pronoun** stands, As **he** and **she** can clap their hands.

The **adjective** describes a thing, As **magic** wand or **bridal** ring.

Most **verbs** mean action, something done, To **read** and **write**, to **jump** and **run**.

How things are done the **adverbs** tell, As **quickly**, **slowly**, **badly**, **well**.

The **preposition** shows relation, As **in** the street or **at** the station.

**Conjunctions** join, in many ways, Sentences, words, **or** phrase **and** phrase.

The **interjection** cries out, "**Heed!** An exclamation point must follow me!"

# The Capital Letter

The **capital letter** is also called a **big letter** or **uppercase** letter, or sometimes just a **capital**.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M  
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

When do you use a capital letter?

- Use a capital letter for the first letter in a sentence:  
**T**he dog is barking.  
**C**ome here!
- Always use a capital letter for the word **I**:  
**I** am eight years old.  
Adel and **I** are good friends.
- Use a capital letter for the names of people:  
**A**li, **K**amel, **A**bd **E**rrahmane, **J**ames
- Use a capital letter for the names of places:  
**N**ational **M**useum, **A**lgiers, **E**l-**O**ued, **M**accah
- Use a capital letter for festivals, holidays, days of the week, months of the year:  
**R**amadhan, **N**ew **Y**ear's **D**ay, **E**id **A**l-**F**itr, **M**other's **D**ay,  
**S**unday, **M**onday, **F**riday, **J**anuary, **M**ay, **J**uly, **O**ctober

### Exercise 1

**Circle the letters that should be CAPITALS. Then write the correct letter in the space above them.**

- 1 mohammed and i are good friends.
- 2 we are going to biskra during our summer vacation.
- 3 there is an interesting football game on sunday.
- 4 jemai lives on houari avenue.
- 5 january is the first month of the year.

### Exercise 2

**Look at the signs on the left. Can you find the mistakes? Write the names correctly.**

si moussa hotel  
shabab street  
botanic gardens  
wilaya stadium

al-amir abdelkader school  
tebessa road  
national library

# Nouns

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**Nouns** are divided into **common nouns** and **proper nouns**.

**Common nouns** are words for people, animals, places, or things.

These are words for people. They are common nouns.

Here are more words for people:

<b>actor</b>	<b>lawyer</b>
<b>aunt</b>	<b>judge</b>
<b>baby</b>	<b>man</b>
<b>baker</b>	<b>nurse</b>
<b>cook</b>	<b>police officer</b>
<b>dentist</b>	<b>singer</b>
<b>doctor</b>	<b>soldier</b>
<b>giant</b>	<b>teacher</b>

## Did you know?

Another word for **astronaut** is **spaceman** or **spacewoman**.

Here are more words for animals:

<b>cat</b>	<b>goose</b>
<b>cow</b>	<b>hen</b>
<b>dog</b>	<b>horse</b>
<b>dolphin</b>	<b>mouse</b>
<b>duck</b>	<b>parrot</b>
<b>fish</b>	<b>shark</b>
<b>goat</b>	<b>whale</b>

Here are more words for places:

<b>airport</b>	<b>market</b>
<b>cave</b>	<b>mountain</b>
<b>mosque</b>	<b>playground</b>
<b>farm</b>	<b>restaurant</b>
<b>hill</b>	<b>school</b>
<b>hospital</b>	<b>seashore</b>
<b>hotel</b>	<b>stadium</b>
<b>house</b>	<b>supermarket</b>
<b>mall</b>	<b>zoo</b>

Here are more words for things:

<b>bag</b>	<b>kite</b>
<b>box</b>	<b>ladder</b>
<b>bread</b>	<b>lamp</b>
<b>chair</b>	<b>radio</b>
<b>cup</b>	<b>train</b>
<b>desk</b>	<b>truck</b>
<b>door</b>	<b>watch</b>
<b>egg</b>	<b>window</b>

### Exercise 1

**Underline the common nouns in these sentences.**

- 1 There's a little bird in the garden.
- 2 Who is your teacher?
- 3 Don't eat that rotten apple.
- 4 Kate has a lovely doll.
- 5 I like reading stories.
- 6 My father is a doctor.
- 7 Every child has a dictionary.
- 8 Rudy hates bananas.
- 9 The phone is ringing.
- 10 Here's a book for you.

### Exercise 2

**Here's a mixed bag of words. Put each word under its correct heading.**

Swimmer snail fire engine clown letters flag river  
barber mountain fox hotel parrot granny  
taxi gardener camel

**People**

**Animals**

**Places**

**Things**

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

# Proper Nouns

**Proper nouns** are names for particular people, places or things. They always begin with a capital letter.

Here are some more names of people:

**Ali Baba**  
**Omar**  
**Marouane**  
**Fatima**  
**Harry Potter**  
**Robin Hood**

**Fouad**  
**Mohammad**  
**Hassan**  
**Pinocchio**

## Did you know?

Your own name and the names of your friends are proper nouns too.

The names of countries and their people are also proper nouns.

<b>Country</b>	<b>People</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>People</b>
<b>America</b>	<b>Americans</b>	<b>Korea</b>	<b>Koreans</b>
<b>Egypt</b>	<b>Egyptians</b>	<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>Malaysians</b>
<b>India</b>	<b>Indians</b>	<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>Pakistanis</b>
<b>Italy</b>	<b>Italians</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>the French</b>
<b>Japan</b>	<b>the Japanese</b>	<b>Thailand</b>	<b>Thais</b>

The names of towns, cities, buildings and landmarks are proper nouns.

**Bangkok**      **New Delhi**      **London**      **Denver**  
**the Grand Canyon**      **New York**      **Central Park**  
**the Leaning Tower of Pisa**      **Paris**      **the Eiffel Tower**  
**Brooklyn Bridge**      **Beijing**      **Big Ben**      **Pike's Peak**

The days of the week and months of the year are proper nouns.

## Days

**Sunday**  
**Monday**  
**Tuesday**  
**Wednesday**  
**Thursday**  
**Friday**  
**Saturday**

## Months

**January**  
**February**  
**March**  
**April**  
**May**  
**June**  
**July**  
**August**  
**September**  
**October**  
**November**  
**December**

The names of mountains, seas, rivers and lakes are proper nouns.

**Lake Michigan**      **the Alps**  
**the Himalayas**      **the Dead Sea**  
**the Pacific Ocean**      **Mount Fuji**      **the Yellow River**

**Did you know?**

You often use **the** before names of oceans, rivers, seas and ranges of mountains.

**Mount** means **mountain**.

It is often used in the names of mountains.

For example:      Mount Everest  
                                 Mount St. Helens

The written short form for **Mount** is **Mt.**

For example:      Mt. Everest, Mt. Fuji

The names of festivals, some special events and holidays are proper nouns, too.

Here are more names of festivals and holidays:

**Mother's Day**      **Tree Day**      **Revolution Day**  
**Prophet Muhammad Birthday**      **Independence Day**  
**New Year's Day**

### Exercise 1

**Underline the proper nouns in the following sentences.**

- 1 July is often the hottest month in summer.
- 2 One day Ali Baba saw the forty thieves hiding in a cave.
- 3 Imed and Mourad are going to the beach for a swim.
- 4 Mr. Bedda is reading a book.
- 5 "I am your fairy godmother," said the old woman to Cinderella.
- 6 Uncle Chaouki is a lawyer.
- 7 Next Tuesday is a public holiday.
- 8 Many children enjoyed the movie Lion King.

### Exercise 2

**Look at the words in the box. Which ones are common nouns and which ones are proper nouns? Put each word under its correct heading.**

Lisa	bank	President Hotel	United Bank
January	beach	White Sand Beach	hotel
doctor	month	Dr. Wang	girl

#### Common Nouns

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#### Proper Nouns

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### Exercise 3

**Write C for common or P for proper on the blank before each noun.**

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ the White House
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ the green dress
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ the tall building
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ the Empire State Building
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ the Yellow River
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ the muddy river
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ the governor
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ Governor Parker
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ the Oregon Trail
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ the winding trail



#### Exercise 4

**Underline the nouns that should be capitalized. Circle the nouns that should not be capitalized.**

- 1 Robert louis Stevenson wrote treasure island.
- 2 The Capital of illinois is Springfield.
- 3 My Friends and I prefer Glittergums toothpaste.
- 4 Their Family visited Yellowstone national Park.
- 5 Yahia and issa attend houari Boumediene Middle school.
- 6 We had a Surprise Party for aunt Aisha.
- 7 Spring and Fall are my favorite Seasons.
- 8 The Manager scolded his lazy Employees.

# Singular Nouns

Nouns can be **singular** or **plural**. When you are talking about one person, animal, place, or thing, use a singular noun.

These are also singular nouns:

<b>an airplane</b>	<b>a letter</b>
<b>a bicycle</b>	<b>a map</b>
<b>a boy</b>	<b>a photograph</b>
<b>a bus</b>	<b>a refrigerator</b>
<b>a comb</b>	<b>a slide</b>
<b>a girl</b>	<b>a swing</b>
<b>a key</b>	<b>a van</b>

## Grammar Help

- Use **a** or **an** before singular nouns. Use **an** before words beginning with **vowels** (a, e, i, o, u). For example, say:

<b>an</b> axe	<b>an</b> igloo
<b>an</b> egg	<b>an</b> orange
<b>an</b> envelope	<b>an</b> umbrella
<b>an</b> ice cream	<b>an</b> uncle
- But some words don't follow this rule. For example, use **a** (not **an**) before these words that begin with **u**:

<b>a</b> uniform	<b>a</b> university
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- Use **a** before words beginning with the other letters of the alphabet, called **consonants**. For example, say:

<b>a</b> basket	<b>a</b> rainbow
<b>a</b> bowl	<b>a</b> monster
<b>a</b> car	<b>a</b> pillow
<b>a</b> hill	<b>a</b> watch
<b>a</b> house	<b>a</b> zoo
- But some words don't follow this rule. For example, use **an** (not **a**) before these words that begin with **h**:

<b>an</b> heir
<b>an</b> honor
<b>an</b> hour

# Plural Nouns

When you are talking about two or more people, animals, places, or things, use plural nouns.

Most nouns are made plural by adding **-s** at the end.

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
bird	birds
broom	brooms
camel	camels
desk	desks
doll	dolls
egg	eggs
flower	flowers
fork	forks

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
game	games
lamb	lambs
nest	nests
pen	pens
photo	photos
shirt	shirts
spoon	spoons

Some plural nouns end in **-es**.

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
beach	beaches
branch	branches
box	boxes
bush	bushes
church	churches
dish	dishes
dress	dresses
sandwich	sandwiches
witch	witches

## Grammar Help

When the last letters of singular nouns are **ch**, **sh**, **s**, **ss** or **x**, you usually add **-es** to form the plural.

Some plural nouns end in **-ies**.

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
baby	babies
cherry	cherries
diary	diaries
dictionary	dictionaries
fairy	fairies
family	families
fly	flies
lady	ladies
library	libraries
puppy	puppies
story	stories
strawberry	strawberries

## Grammar Help

Nouns like these are made plural by changing **y** to **i**, and adding **-es**.

What if there is a vowel before the **y**?

In that case, add **-s** to form the plural.

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
chimney	chimneys
cowboy	cowboys
day	days
donkey	donkeys
jersey	jerseys
kidney	kidneys
monkey	monkeys
toy	toys
trolley	trolleys
valley	valleys

If a noun ends in **-f**, you often change **f** to **v**, and add **-es**.

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
calf	calves	loaf	loaves
elf	elves	shelf	shelves
half	halves	thief	thieves
leaf	leaves	wolf	wolves

### Grammar Help

- Often nouns that end in **-f**, just need **-s** to form the plural.

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
chef	chefs	handkerchief	handkerchiefs
chief	chiefs	roof	roofs
cliff	cliffs	sheriff	sheriffs

- For some words that end in **-f**, the plural can be spelled in two different ways.

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
dwarf	dwarfs or dwarves
hoof	hoofs or hooves
scarf	scarfs or scarves

With some words that end in **-fe**, you change **f** to **v**, and add **-s**.

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
knife	knives
life	lives
wife	wives

### Did you know?

But you only add **-s** to **giraffe** to form the plural.

If a noun ends in **-o**, you just add **-s** to form the plural.

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
a hippo	hippos
a video	videos
a zoo	zoos

But with some nouns that end in **-o**, you add **-es** to form the plural.

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
a tomato	tomatoes
a potato	potatoes
a hero	heroes

### **Grammar Help**

With some nouns that end in **-o**, you can add either **-s** or **-es** to form the plural.

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>	<b>Plural</b>
a mango	mangoes	mangos
a mosquito	mosquitoes	mosquitos
a zero	zeroes	zeros
a buffalo	buffaloes	buffalos

Some plural nouns don't follow the **-s** rule. They don't end in **-s**, **-es**, **-ies** or **-ves**. Instead, the word changes form.

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
child	children
man	men
ox	oxen
tooth	teeth
woman	women

#### **Did you know?**

The plural of the **mouse** that you use with your computer is either **mice** or **mouses**.

Some plural nouns are the same as the singular noun.

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
bison	bison
deer	deer

#### **Did you know?**

You can use **fishes** as the plural of **fish** when you are talking about different kinds of fish: all the **fishes** of the Pacific Ocean.

Some nouns are always plural.

pants	scissors
pajamas	sneakers
shorts	slippers
trousers	stockings
sandals	

#### **Did you know?**

Another word for **spectacles** is **glasses**.

### **Grammar Help**

You can make these plural nouns singular by using **a pair of**:

a pair of binoculars	a pair of jeans
a pair of spectacles	a pair of shorts
a pair of goggles	a pair of pliers

### Exercise 1

Look at the words below. Do you know which ones are singular and which are plural? Put a checkmark (✓) in the correct box.

	Singular	Plural
word	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
pencils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
books	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
fan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
hat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
kites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
crab	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
foxes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Exercise 2

Do you add -s or -es to these singular nouns to make them plural? Write your answers on the lines.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1 desk	_____	6 basket	_____
2 class	_____	7 peach	_____
3 comb	_____	8 belt	_____
4 mug	_____	9 taxi	_____
5 bus	_____	10 box	_____

### Exercise 3

Do you change -y to -ies, or just add -s to make these singular nouns plural? Write your answers.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1 key	_____	6 toy	_____
2 city	_____	7 baby	_____
3 butterfly	_____	8 party	_____
4 monkey	_____	9 chimney	_____
5 fly	_____	10 lady	_____

### Exercise 4

All these singular nouns end with -o. Add either -s or -es as you write the plurals on the line.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1 video	_____	6 radio	_____
2 piano	_____	7 hippo	_____
3 mango	_____	8 zoo	_____
4 kangaroo	_____	9 zero	_____
5 rhino	_____	10 photo	_____

# Collective Nouns

**Collective nouns** are words for groups of people, animals or things. These are nouns for groups of people.

Here are some more groups of people:

an audience	a gang
a band	a group
a choir	a team
a class	

## Grammar Help

Many **collective nouns** can be used with a singular or plural verb. For example:

My family **was** happy to see me.

or

My family **were** happy to see me.

But the following collective nouns always take a plural verb:

cattle      people      the police

Here are more collective nouns that are used for groups of people, animals or things.

Here are some more collective nouns:

a <b>bunch</b> of keys	a <b>herd</b> of cattle
a <b>class</b> of pupils	a <b>litter</b> of cubs
a <b>collection</b> of books	a <b>pod</b> of whales
a <b>deck</b> of cards	a <b>pack</b> of wolves
a <b>fleet</b> of ships	a <b>pride</b> of lions
a <b>flock</b> of sheep	a <b>set</b> of stamps
a <b>gaggle</b> of geese	a <b>swarm</b> of bees
a <b>gang</b> of robbers	a <b>troupe</b> of actors

## Exercise

**Farmer John had several different kinds of animals on his farm. Write the correct collective noun for each group of his animals.**

Farmer John had:

a \_\_\_\_\_ of geese  
a \_\_\_\_\_ of sheep  
a \_\_\_\_\_ of cattle  
a \_\_\_\_\_ of horses

One day a \_\_\_\_\_ of coyotes tried to attack his animals. Farmer John yelled and waved a pitchfork to frighten them away.

# Pronouns

A **pronoun** is a word that takes the place of a common noun or a proper noun. There are different kinds of pronouns.

## Personal Pronouns

The words **I, you, he, she, it, we** and **they** are called **personal pronouns**. They take the place of nouns and are used as the **subject** of the verb in a sentence.

My name is **David**. **I** am the youngest in the family.  
This is **my father**. **He** is a teacher.  
This is **my mother**. **She** is a lawyer.  
**I** have **a brother** and **two sisters**.  
**They** are Peter, Shaun and Jenny.  
**I** have **a dog**. **It** is called Lucky.  
**Lucky, you** are a good dog.  
Good morning, **children!** **You** may sit down now.  
**My family and I** live in a big city. **We** have an apartment.

### Grammar Help

The **subject** of a sentence is the person, animal, place or thing that does the action shown by the verb.

The words **me, you, him, her, it, us** and **them** are also personal pronouns. They also take the place of nouns. These pronouns are used as the **object** of the verb in a sentence.

I am standing on my head. Look at **me**.  
**My mother** is kind. Everybody likes **her**.  
**Lisa**, I told **you** to tidy your bed!  
**Sharon and Jenny!** Dad is waiting for **you!**  
**Lucky and I** are playing in the park. Dad is watching **us**.  
**You** must not play with **the knife**. Give **it** to **me**.  
Pick up **your toys** and put **them** away.

### Grammar Help

The **object** of a sentence is the person, animal, place or thing that receives the action shown by the verb.



### Grammar Help

There are three groups of pronouns: **first person**, **second person** and **third person**.

The **person speaking** is called the **first person**. The first-person pronouns are **I** or **me** (in the singular) and **we** or **us** (in the plural).

The **person spoken to** is called the **second person**. The second-person pronoun is **you** (in both singular and plural).

The **person (or animal, or thing) spoken about** is called the **third person**. The third-person pronouns are **he** or **him**, **she** or **her**, and **it** (in the singular), and **they** or **them** (in the plural).

The word **I** is always spelled with a capital letter. The pronoun **he** is used for men and boys, **she** for women and girls, and **it** for things and animals.

Here is a table to help you.

	Subject	Object
<b>First person singular</b>	I	me
<b>Second person singular</b>	you	you
<b>Third person singular</b>	he	him
	she	her
	it	it
<b>First person plural</b>	we	us
<b>Second person plural</b>	you	you
<b>Third person plural</b>	they	them

# Reflexive Pronouns

The words **myself**, **yourself**, **himself**, **herself**, **itself**, **ourselves**, **yourselves** and **themselves** are called **reflexive pronouns**.

They refer to the person or animal that is the subject of the verb.

I made this cake **myself**.

Be careful with the knife. **You**'ll cut **yourself**.

**Kamel** is looking at **himself** in the mirror.

**Susan** has hurt **herself**.

Our **cat** washes **itself** after each meal.

**We** organized the party all by **ourselves**.

Come in, **children**, and find **yourselves** a seat.

**Baby birds** are too young to look after **themselves**.

## Grammar Help

Here is a table to remind you about reflexive pronouns.

	Singular	Plural
<b>First person</b>	(I, me) myself	(we, us) ourselves
<b>Second person</b>	(you) yourself	(you) yourselves
<b>Third person</b>	(he, him) himself	(they, them) themselves
	(she, her) herself	(they, them) themselves
	(it) itself	(they, them) themselves

# Interrogative Pronouns

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The words **who**, **whom**, **whose**, **what** and **which** are called interrogative pronouns.

These pronouns are used to ask questions.

**Who** is he talking to?

**Who** are those people?

