

Basic English Review

Unit 2

Nouns

Objectives

- To recognize common, proper, and collective nouns
- To learn how to form noun plurals and noun possessives
- To write clear sentences that use nouns appropriately

Section 4 Major Classes of Nouns

Common Nouns

- A **common noun** does not refer to a *particular* person, place, thing, concept, quality, or activity.
 - Running in the park is good exercise.
 - Running—name of an activity—noun
 - park—name of a place—noun
 - exercise—name of a thing—noun
- Name some common nouns.

Section 4 Major Classes of Nouns

Proper Nouns

- **Proper nouns** name particular people, places, things, or activities. They should always be capitalized.
 - Dyanna has planned a trip to the East Coast in November.
 - Dyanna—name of a particular person—proper noun
 - East Coast—name of a particular place—proper noun
 - November—name of a particular thing—proper noun
- Name some proper nouns.

Section 4 Major Classes of Nouns

Collective Nouns

- **Collective nouns** are names of groups or collections, such as *mob*, *crowd*, *committee*, or *herd*.
- They may be common or proper.
 - The faculty raised money for the flood victims.
 - faculty—name of a group of persons—collective noun
 - Lynwood Community College offers many online classes.
 - Lynwood Community College—name of a group of persons—collective noun

Section 5 Nouns and the Plural Form

Simple Plurals

● Rule 1

Most nouns become plural by adding the letter *s* to the singular noun.

college colleges

yard yards

● Rule 2

For nouns ending in *s*, *x*, *z*, *sh*, or *ch*, you must add *es* to form the plural.

virus viruses

wish wishes

Simple Plurals

● Rule 3 (Y-Ending Plurals)

If a noun ends with a *y* preceded by a consonant, change the *y* to *i* and add *es*.

industry industries

study studies

If the final *y* is preceded by a vowel (*a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u*), add *s*.

delay delays

holiday holidays

Section 5 Nouns and the Plural Form

Simple Plurals

● Rule 4 (*O*-Ending Plurals)

For nouns ending with an *o* preceded by a consonant, the plural is formed in different ways.

- For some, add *s*; for others, add *es*.
- For a few, either *s* or *es* is acceptable.

logo logos

veto vetoes

zero zeros or zeroes

Consult a dictionary if you are not sure.

Section 5 Nouns and the Plural Form

Simple Plurals

● Rule 4 (O-Ending Plurals)

If a noun ends with an *o* preceded by a vowel (*a, e, i, o, u*), add *s* to form the plural.

portfolio portfolios

cameo cameos



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Simple Plurals

● Rule 5 (*F-* or *Fe*-Ending Plurals)

To form the plural of most nouns ending in *f* or *fe*, change the *f* or *fe* to *v* and add *es*.

loaf loaves

wife wives

- There are quite a few exceptions to this rule.
- For some nouns, either *s* or *es* is acceptable.

Consult a dictionary if you are not sure.

Section 5 Nouns and the Plural Form

Simple Plurals

Make these nouns plural:

safe

relay

ratio

dish

banjo

company

watch

moss

driver

horse

knife

shelf

Section 5 Nouns and the Plural Form

Irregular Plurals, Always in Plural Form

- Some nouns have no set rules for forming the plural.

child children

mouse mice

woman women

- Some are always written in the plural form.

clothes pants

earnings statistics

Section 5 Nouns and the Plural Form

Compound Nouns

- **Compound nouns** consist of two or more words.
- If a compound noun is written as one word without a hyphen, the last element is made plural.

businesswoman
businesswomen

website
websites

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Section 5 Nouns and the Plural Form

Compound Nouns

- If a compound noun consists of separate or hyphenated words and includes a noun, make the main or base part plural.

attorney-at-law attorneys-at-law

leave of absence leaves of absence

personnel manager personnel managers

- If no part of a hyphenated compound noun is a noun, the last element is made plural.

trade-in trade-ins

Section 5 Nouns and the Plural Form

Other Rules

- Figures and alphabetic letters are made plural by adding *s*.
- Isolated words are made plural by adding *s* or *es*.
- For some words, both forms are acceptable.
- Isolated lowercase letters and the capital letters *A*, *I*, *M*, and *U* require *'s* for clarity.
- Abbreviations are usually made plural by adding *s* to the singular form.

Section 6

Nouns and the Possessive Form

- Nouns used in the possessive form show ownership or possession.
- The apostrophe (') is used to show the possessive form.



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Section 6 Nouns and the Possessive Form

Singular Possessive

- To show the possessive form of most singular nouns, place the apostrophe (') after the last letter of the word and add *s*.
 - The store's midyear sale starts tomorrow.
 - store's—singular noun. The apostrophe after *store* and before *s* tells whose sale it is (sale of the store).
- For nouns ending in an *s*, *x*, or *z* sound, if adding an apostrophe plus *s* makes the word hard to pronounce, add just an apostrophe.

Section 6 Nouns and the Possessive Form

Plural Possessive

- To show the possessive form of a plural noun ending in *s*, place the apostrophe (') after the *s*.
 - The girls' dresses were at the cleaners.
 - girls'—plural noun. The apostrophe is placed after the *s* to indicate plural possession (dresses of the girls).
- To show the possessive form of a plural noun not ending in *s*, add the apostrophe (') and the *s*.
 - The children's pool was newly tiled.
 - children's—plural noun. The apostrophe is placed before the *s* because the plural noun does not end in *s* (pool of the children).

Section 6 Nouns and the Possessive Form

Plural Possessive

● Make these nouns possessive:

boy

Gina

cars

investors

Jones

attorney

team

Louis

rivers

partners

men

student