

**Nouns** are words that name things. Nouns can be classified in many different ways.

### Concrete and abstract nouns

**Concrete nouns** refer to physical things you can touch:

*house, book, door, pig, tree*

**Abstract nouns** refer to things you cannot touch, such as qualities or actions:

*anger, sunshine, thought, kick, leap*

### Count and noncount/mass nouns

**Count nouns** name things that can be counted one by one, for example:

*one book, two bells, three flowers, five hundred apples*

**Noncount nouns** (also called **mass nouns**) name things that cannot be counted, for example:

*help, excitement, luck, oxygen, milk, furniture*

Some nouns can be count or noncount depending on what they mean.

*Your kindness* is much appreciated.

I appreciate all your little *kindnesses*.



**Is *dream* a count or noncount noun?**

**What about the word *life*?**

### Singular and plural nouns

Count nouns can be either singular or plural. A **singular noun** refers to one thing or person and takes a singular verb, for example:

The *boy runs*.

The *biceps is* an important muscle.



A **plural noun** refers to more than one thing or person and takes a plural verb, for example:

The *boys run*.

These *scissors are sharp*.

Some nouns can be treated as both singular and plural:

*The family is* on holiday.

*The family are* on holiday.



**Is *trousers* a singular or a plural noun?**

**What about the word *bacteria*?**

### Proper and common nouns

**Proper nouns** name particular people, groups, places, events and occasions, and they usually begin with a capital letter, for example:

*Mr Green, Manchester United, The Louvre, Atlantic Ocean,  
Lake Geneva, Tuesday, April*

**Common nouns** refer to any of a class of things, but do not specifically name them, for example:

*my teacher, the team, a museum, an ocean, this month*



**Is *brother* a proper or a common noun?**

### Collective nouns

**Collective nouns** refer to a group of similar people or things that make up a larger whole, for example:

*a flock (of sheep), a team (of players), a pile (of coins, papers),  
a bunch (of flowers)*