

FUMC ESL Low Intermediate Lesson **All About Nouns**

---What are nouns?

Persons, places and things that you see around you. EX: chair, table, clock, floor. Nouns can also be ideas or emotions. EX: honesty, religion, democracy, truth, anger. Nouns before the verb are usually the subject. Nouns after the verb are frequently the object.

EX: The cat bit the dog. Cat is the subject and dog is the object. The dog is what the cat bit. Blankets provide warmth. Blankets is the subject. Warmth is the object. Warmth is what blankets provide.

Underline the subject noun and object noun in these sentences.

Boys like girls.	The children ate carrots.	Babies need love.
Accidents cause pain.	Gossip hurts people.	Jan kissed Don.

---Nouns can be singular (1) or plural (more than 1). EX: cat - cats, person - people, calf - calves, box - boxes

---We use different determiners with singular and plural nouns. We say "**a** cat", but "**the** cats". We say **this** box or **that** box, but **these** boxes or **those** boxes. (Use this or these if the noun is close to you. Use that or those if it is not close to you.)

---There are count nouns and noncount nouns. Count nouns have a plural form. EX: leaf (leaves), dog (dogs), giraffe (giraffes).

---Non-count nouns don't have a plural form. Gold is noncount. You can't have two golds. Luggage is noncount. You don't fly with two luggages. Homework is noncount. You don't have two homeworks. Garbage is noncount. You don't say, "Put out the garbages." Coffee is noncount even though you hear people say, "I'll have two coffees." What they mean is I'll have two cups of coffee. Coffees is not a real word. It is slang.

Tell which of these words are noncount nouns.

suitcase	truck	art	lightning	information	rice
bread	milk	research	cow	ship	anger

---Count nouns and noncount nouns use different **determiners**. For example, We say, **many** suitcases, but **much** luggage. We say **many** drinks, but **much** milk. Do you have **much** luggage? **NOT** Do you have **many** luggage?

Put "many" or "much" in the blanks.

1. There isn't _____ water in the lake.
2. She made _____ cookies.
3. There are _____ beds in her room.
4. I have so _____ homework!
5. Does she have _____ jewelry?

6. How _____ furniture do you need?
7. They have _____ dogs.
8. How _____ spaghetti can you eat?
9. We played _____ games.
10. How _____ money does the salesman make?

---Some nouns can be **possessive**. To possess something is to have it. Make a noun possessive by adding apostrophe s. EX: boy's cars, girl's boats, animal's skin. If you make a plural noun possessive, the apostrophe goes after the s. EX: boys' cars, girls' boats.

---**Gerunds** are nouns that look like verbs. EX: Running is fun. Even though running looks like a verb, it is a noun, and the subject of the sentence. Francis loves swimming. Swimming is a noun, and the object of the sentence.

Underline the gerunds in these sentences. Tell whether they are subjects or objects.

Maria loves cooking.	I enjoy reading.	Daniel quit smoking.
Traveling is my hobby.	Working is difficult.	Studying helps you.

---In English, a similar word can be a noun or a verb. EX: ADVICE is a noun, but ADVISE is a verb. The meaning is very close.

EX: The **advice** the teacher gave was good. Please **advise** me what courses to take.
The plane **departs** at ten. The **departure** of the plane is at ten.

Tell if the underlined words are nouns or verbs.

The bus <u>arrives</u> early on Saturdays.	Their <u>arrival</u> was delayed.
The <u>failure</u> of the landing gear caused the crash.	The landing gear <u>fails</u> sometimes.
Sara <u>decides</u> to go to college.	Her <u>decision</u> was already made.
Tom <u>married</u> Sue.	Their <u>marriage</u> was in June.
The teacher <u>confused</u> me.	I understand your <u>confusion</u> .
The teacher's <u>approval</u> is needed to change classes.	She <u>approved</u> my request.
We <u>agreed</u> to sell the house.	We signed an <u>agreement</u> to sell the house.

Choose one of these word pairs (verb-noun) and make a sentence with the verb and the noun form. Write your sentences on the board and discuss with the teacher.

act - action	accept - acceptance	attend - attendance	believe - belief
bleed - blood	breathe - breath	bury - burial	choose - choice
create - creation	decorate - decoration	destroy - destruction	explain - explanation

