**Nouns**

I- **Definition**

A **noun** is a word used to name a person: Mr. Vasilis, an animal: dog, a place: Notting Hill, a thing: bag, or an abstract idea: freedom.

II- **Compound nouns**

1- **Definition**

A **compound noun** is a noun made up of two or more words.

2- **How to form it**

Compound nouns are usually formed by nouns modified by another noun, adjective, verb or preposition.

- Noun + noun: toothpaste
- Adjective + noun: blackboard
- Verb + noun: swimming pool
- Preposition + noun: underground

Compound nouns can also be formed by:

- Adjective + verb: dry-cleaning
- Preposition + verb: output

3- **How to write it**

The two parts of a compound noun can be written in several ways:

- They can be joined together: toothpaste
- They can be joined with a hyphen: check-in
- They can appear as two separate words: full moon

III- **Plural of nouns**

1- **Add “s” to form the plural of most nouns:** noun ➔ nouns, book ➔ Books
2- Add “es” when the singular noun ends in s, ch, sh, x or z: church ➔ churches
3- Switch the “y” to “i” and add “es” when the noun ends in y and has a consonant before it: baby ➔ babies.
4- Change the “f” into “v” in some of the nouns ending in “f” or “fe”, and add “s” or “es”: thief ➔ thieves.
5- Some nouns do not change at all in the plural: sheep ➔ sheep
6- Some nouns change completely: child ➔ children

IV-Proper and common nouns

1- Proper nouns

A proper noun has two distinctive features:

- It names a specific item, usually one-of-kind
- It begins with a Capital letter no matter where it comes in a sentence.
  Example: We met Jack in the market.

2- Common nouns

A common noun names general items. Common nouns are general names. They are not capitalized unless they begin a sentence.

Example of a common and a proper noun: Charlie had wanted an easy teacher (common noun) for his composition class, but he got Mrs. Hacket (proper noun), whose short temper and unreasonable demands made the semester a torture.

Chart of common versus proper nouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common</th>
<th>Proper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>waterfall</td>
<td>Niagara Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>man</td>
<td>Tony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>month</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cereal</td>
<td>Kellok’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>holiday</td>
<td>Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>doctor</td>
<td>Doctor Farah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>city</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>restaurant</td>
<td>Healthy Dinner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
V- **Possessive form of nouns**

- The possessive form of a noun is used to show ownership. A noun is possessive when a sentence can be changed to say that an item or an idea belongs to someone or something: Example: The new car belongs to Joe ➔ The new car is Joe’s.
- The possessive noun always comes before what it owns or has. Example: My dog’s tail is brown.
- The possessive of singular noun is formed by adding an *apostrophe* + an “s”
  Example: the house of Joe ➔ Joe’s house
- The possessive of a singular noun ending in “s” is formed by adding *apostrophe* + “s” if it is easy to be pronounced, example: boss’s, or an *apostrophe* without “s” if it is not easy to pronounce, example: Archimedes’.
- The possessive of most plural nouns is formed by adding an *apostrophe*. Example: books ➔ books’.
- The possessive of irregular plural names not ending in “s” is formed by adding an *apostrophe* and an “s”. Example: women ➔ women’s

**Sources**

[www.usingenglish.com](http://www.usingenglish.com); [www.englishonthego.com](http://www.englishonthego.com); [www.educationworld.com](http://www.educationworld.com);