

Nouns

Where are the nouns in this sentence?

When I have **time**, I love **eating sandwiches** in **the morning** with **my best friend, Susan**, because **she** is good **company**.

Subject: a noun which does an action

Object: a noun which receives an action

Types of noun

| Type of noun | Characteristics | Example |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| abstract/concrete | <p>abstract noun:</p> <p>concrete noun: sense-able nouns</p> <p>both:</p> | <p>love / hatred / time / jealousy / information</p> <p>apple / desk / table / smell of bread / tree</p> <p>Lionel Messi plays football. - abstract Lionel Messi kicks footballs. - concrete</p> |
| countable/uncountable | <p>Countable - there can be plural quantities:</p> <p>Uncountable - cannot be separated into one or multiple items</p> <p>Treated as a singular in sentences</p> | <p>apples / trees / times / people / children loves / glasses / pints / cups / spoonfuls / medications</p> <p>coffee / time / love / blood / medicine</p> <p>Coffee is a fantastic drink. Time is a wonderful healer.</p> <p>Uncountable nouns are often measured with countable units:</p> <p>Two sugars = Two spoonfuls of sugar. Three beers = Three pints of beer.</p> |

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|------------------------|---|--|---------------------------|
| | <p>Some nouns are both countable and uncountable in different contexts:</p> | <p>loves / times / spaces</p> <p>space</p> <p>There are no spaces, we'll have to park outside.</p> <p>There is no space in my bag for your umbrella.</p> <p>exercise</p> <p>Exercise is an important aspect of health.</p> <p>These exercises are really tiring!</p> | |
| pronouns | <p>they replace nouns that have already been mentioned - to avoid repetition</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • this those these that • he / she • which when where | |
| Subject pronoun | Object pronoun | Possessive adjective | Possessive pronoun |
| I | me | my | mine |
| You | you | your | yours |
| he | him | his | his |
| she | her | her | hers |
| it | it | its | - |
| we | us | our | ours |
| they | them | their | theirs |
| gerund | noun form of a verb (+ ing) | <p>I love modern music.</p> <p>I dislike modern music.</p> <p>I <u>love</u> cycling.</p> <p>I <u>prefer</u> sandwiches.</p> <p>I <u>like</u> listening to music.</p> | |

| | | |
|---------------|---|--|
| | Can be both a subject or an object | <p>Listening to music helps me get through the day.</p> <p>Cycling is my greatest passion.</p> |
| compound noun | made up of more than one noun / word that go together to form one noun | <p>sunglasses tin opener armchair</p> <p>I feel great. I've just had a two-week break in France.</p> <p>I have a one-month-old baby. I have a two-month-old baby.</p> |
| noun phrases | <p>a section of a sentence that performs the role of a noun in a sentence - often after a verb, conjunction or preposition</p> <p>Like any noun, can be subject or object</p> | <p>Listening to music helps me get through the day.</p> <p>Studies (which were) carried out in early 2020 in the laboratories of Europe discovered a new strain of Covid.</p> <p>The cat that lives next door that has three legs and no fur was singing again last night.</p> |

Exercise

Where are the noun phrases in the following examples? (see below for answers)

1. Yesterday I went to the place where we met.
2. I know about your desire to travel to Europe.
3. Next door's cat really annoys me.
4. I am hoping to visit that resort we discussed when you were last here.
5. The most important aspect of learning is feeling involved.
6. Knowing yourself and all of your dreams and ambitions is a key part of achieving happiness.

Answers

1. Yesterday I went to the place where we met.
2. I know about your desire to travel to Europe.
3. Next door's cat really annoys me.
4. I am hoping to visit that resort we discussed when you were last here.
5. The most important aspect of learning is feeling involved.
6. Knowing yourself and all of your dreams and ambitions is a key part of achieving happiness.