

Nouns - articles, countable & uncountable

What is a noun?

A noun is a *thing*.

Things either:

- do actions (subject)
- or
- receive actions (object)

Articles

Type	Information	Example
zero	general plurals uncountable	I like monkeys. I don't like needles. I don't like coffee
a – consonant sounds an – vowel sounds	general singular countable	I have a broken arm I have an opportunity to study law at Oxford. I had an operation last week.
the	countable / uncountable plural / singular Things which are unique: Things which have already been mentioned:	The moon was bright last night. The patient was rude this morning. The operation was very quick. (Mentioned earlier)

Common Nouns in OET

Treatments / Procedures	Conditions	Injuries	Equipment	Symptoms	Medicine
physiotherapy	diabetes	a fracture	a wheelchair	a headache	an antibiotic
chemotherapy	hypertension	bruising	a commode	a cough	eye drops
a colonoscopy	cancer	a bruise	forceps	(a) fever	ibuprofen
(a) massage	COPD	a sprain	a crutch	(a) pain	paracetamol
(a) wound dressing	hepatitis A/B	a strain	a walking stick	a nosebleed	tylenol
a scan	OCD	a graze	a cane	SOB	ibuprofen
an ECG	a psychiatric disorder	a burn	a monitor	DOB	an anti-depressant
a healthy diet	Down's syndrome	a bite	a wheelie walker	a tumour	clopidogrel
surgery	hypotension	a broken leg	a trolley	backache	aspirin
an operation	IBS	a wound	an x-ray machine	toothache	
an exercise – specific repeated action	anaemia	a laceration	a bandage	ear ache	
a cold compress	TB	a cut	a toilet tray	severe bleeding	
treatment	asthma	an abrasion	an echocardiogram	a rash	
	epilepsy	a scratch	an IV drip	(a) swelling	
	gout	a graze	a machine	a cough	
	a pollen allergy	a contusion	(a) dressing	stiffness	
	a cold	a fissure		a sore throat	
	(the) flu	(a) concussion		itchiness	
	influenza	trauma		a sneeze	
				a scab	
				an ache	
				a pain	
				a mood swing	
				a heart murmur	
				dizziness	
				vomiting	
				nausea	
				(a) stomach ache	

Exercise 1

Are there any errors?

1. He has 2 tumour in his brain.
2. She has cold, so we've asked her to rest.
3. Mr Smith has a bruising on his lower leg.
4. OK, I believe you have the rash on your back?
5. Did the paracetamols you were prescribed help?
6. I am pleased to say a operation was a success.
7. I feel sick. I wonder if I have a flu?
8. A hypotension can cause fainting in extreme cases.
9. Can you change a dressing, please?
10. Where are walking sticks you were given?

Exercise 2

See if you can put the below words into the appropriate categories:

Countable v Uncountable		
heart attack pain kilogram earache headache assistance IV tube finger infection care walking frame blood hormone toothache medication dressing backache assessment blood pressure investigation weight equipment angina thyroid hair		
countable	commonly used as both	uncountable

Other words/phrases before nouns include possessive adjectives:

Subject pronoun	Object Pronoun	Possessive adjective	Possessive pronoun
I	me	my	mine
You	you	your	yours
She	her	her	hers
He	him	his	his
We	us	our	ours
They	them	their	theirs
It	it	its	-----

And possessives: **Mr Smith's** operation is scheduled for next week. /His operation is scheduled for next week.

Exercise 3

Can you make a sentence using the below prompts – making sure you present the nouns appropriately? (You will need to choose a verb)

1. Requires: assistance w / ADLS
2. crutches / Mr Smith / reception
3. little finger / broken / right hand / Mr Darwin
4. unavailable / physio centre / now
5. vegetables / recommended / dietitian / diet / fresh
6. Mr Frederickson / operation / 4th June

Answers

Exercise 1

Are there any errors?

1. He has 2 **tumours** in his brain.
2. She has **a** cold, so we've asked her to rest.
3. Mr Smith has ~~a~~bruising / **a bruise** on his lower leg.
4. OK, I believe you have ~~the~~ **a** rash on your back?
5. Did the paracetamol**s** you were prescribed help?
6. I am pleased to say ~~a~~ **the** operation was a success.
7. **I** feel sick. I wonder if I have ~~a~~ **(the)** flu?
8. **A** Hypotension can cause fainting in extreme cases.
9. Can you change ~~a~~**the** dressing, please?
10. Where are **the** walking sticks you were given?

Exercise 2

countable	commonly used as both	uncountable
heart attack	investigation	equipment
IV tube	assessment	backache
finger	hair	toothache
dressing	weight	earache
headache	blood (tests)	assistance
walking frame	infection	blood pressure
thyroid	medication	angina
kilogram	pain	care
hormone		

Exercise 3

Can you make a sentence using the below prompts – making sure you present the nouns appropriately? (You will need to choose a verb)

1. Requires: assistance w / ADLS
 - Mr Gardener requires assistance with **his** ADLS
2. crutches / Mr Smith / reception
 - Mr Smith has left his crutches in reception.
 - Mr Smith's crutches are near the reception
 - Crutches will be provided for Mr Smith in reception

3. little finger / broken / right hand / Mr Darwin

- Mr Darwin has broken the little finger of his right hand.
- Mr Darwin's little finger of his right hand has been broken.
- Mr Darwin has broken the little finger of his right hand.

4. unavailable / physio centre / now

- The physio centre is unavailable now
- The physio centre is not available at the moment.
- The physiotherapy centre is unavailable at this time.

5. vegetables / recommended / dietitian / diet / fresh

- The diet which was recommended by the dietitian includes fresh vegetables.
- The dietitian recommended a diet including fresh vegetables.

6. Mr Frederickson / operation / 4th June

- Mr Frederickson will undergo an operation on 4th June.
- Mr Frederickson's operation will take place on 4th June.