



The Noun

Let's Do

Given below is a passage about some insects that are not harmful! Read it.

Hi! I am Sanghita Basak. I'd like to talk to you about helpful insects in your garden. Most people are either indifferent to, or scared of, insects and pests. But do you know all insects are not harmful and therefore should not be called pests? In fact, some of the pests that I'm going to talk about here are very helpful; they offer you a lot of help with gardening. If you love your garden, you should wait for these insects to invade it. My friend Diya does a lot of gardening in Pitampur in Bihar. She and her sister Riya have a big garden. They supply flowers, vegetables and fruits to Arani Supermarket. The last time we met she told me certain things about helpful insects which I'm going to share with you.

The beautiful spotted ladybugs eat plant lice, a seriously harmful pest for your plants in your garden. The lacewings feed on caterpillars, moth eggs, mites and thrips. Though hoverflies look exactly like wasps and bees, they are very different from them. They too feed on insects and insect eggs and help one obtain bigger and juicier raspberries and strawberries.



Because Diya and Riya have made gardening their profession, they have to be careful.

They don't like to use a lot of chemical pest repellent because that is harmful for harvest. They



therefore depend on the harmless friendly insects. The long-legged biggish ground beetles and garden spiders really like to feed on insects that seriously harm vegetables.

How many proper nouns and common nouns are there in the passage on page 9? Write them in appropriate columns in the table given below.

common nouns	proper nouns

Let's Learn

A **noun** is a naming word. It is a word we use to name persons and other living beings, objects, places, ideas and feelings.

Nouns can be countable or uncountable.

- **Countable nouns** are the nouns that can be counted. These nouns can be used to answer the question *how many?*

Examples: 1. How many *books* have you read?
I have read three *books*.
2. How many *boys* are there?
There are eight *boys*.

In the examples, *books* and *boys* are countable nouns.

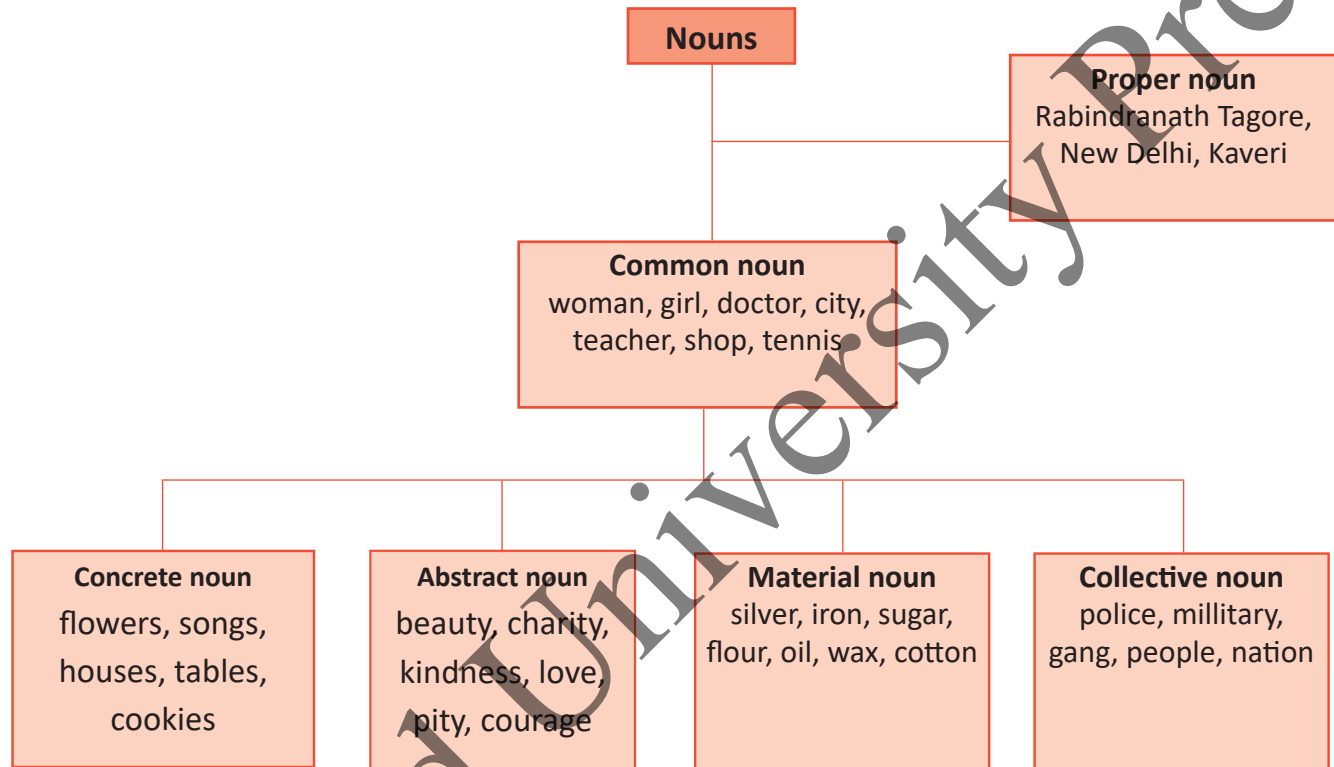
- **Uncountable nouns** are the nouns that cannot be counted. These nouns can be used to answer the question *how much?*

Examples: 1. How much *sugar* do you want?
I want one teaspoonful *sugar*.
2. How much *water* is in the bucket?
There is a *lot of* water in the bucket.

In the above examples, *sugar* and *water* are uncountable nouns.

There are different types of nouns—**proper**, **common**, **material**, **collective**, **concrete** and **abstract**.

Types of nouns



Now let us learn what each type of noun means.

- **Proper noun:** It is the name of a particular person, place or object. A proper noun always begins with a capital letter. For example, Pranab Mukherjee, Bombay, Friday
- **Common noun:** It is the general name of persons, animals, things or objects. Common, from the Latin *communis*, means general, that is, belonging to all. For example, *ant*, *grasshopper*

Remember

- Though most **common nouns** are countable (they can be counted), **material nouns** are uncountable.

- **Material noun:** It is the name of substances or materials. For example, *water, iron, steel, sugar, wood*
- **Collective noun:** It is the name given to a group or a class. For example, *mob, nation, people*.
- **Concrete noun:** It is the name of things that could be experienced through the five senses, such as sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch, that we have. For example, *sunrise, fragrance, sweet, rain, water, etc.*
- **Abstract noun:** It is the name of qualities, ideas, emotions, actions, feelings and conditions. These nouns are the names of things that cannot be seen, touched, heard, smelled or tasted. For example, *day, time, pride, love and ability*.

Let's Practise

1. Read the following passage and identify the nouns as proper, material and collective nouns and complete the table appropriately.

The students of class VI of St Teresa's High School of Chennai started a project three months ago. Their class teacher asked each of them to take care of two plants at home. They planted tiny saplings in small steel pots which they filled with dry mud. Since plants need water to make their food using the sunlight, each of the little gardeners also bought small tin cans to water their plants. They put the plants outside during day so that the plants got enough sunlight. After coming back from school, they took the plants back into the shade to save the saplings from rain and excessive sunlight. Riaz from Section A and Ranj from Section B led the project. Both kept a diary about the progress. Most students preferred flowers to vegetables or fruits. Many students planted marigolds, some planted poppies and lilies, though only one student planted roses. Bunches of buds began to appear in some plants. There were only a group of five students in the entire class who decided to grow vegetables and fruits. Two students planted strawberries and are now expecting a small bushel from the two plants. One grew chilli peppers. Two students planted eggplants and now a pair of tiny eggplants has appeared. Everyone was very excited about this gardening project, especially now that their plants are giving fruit.

proper	material	collective

2. a. Read the following passage and underline the abstract nouns and circle the concrete nouns.



Once upon a time, there was a king who loved all the animals. He particularly liked elephants. For elephants, he built huge stables and kept a caretaker for them. The elephants were given special diet every day so that they remain healthy. One day a hungry stray dog was looking for food. While looking for food he entered one of the stables and saw leftover food inside. Feeling overjoyed he ate it all. The elephant allowed the dog to eat the food. Soon they became friends. The caretaker also didn't mind the dog being around. One day, a farmer saw

the dog and bought the dog from the caretaker for a good price. After the dog was gone, the elephant felt very sad as he missed his friend. Soon he stopped eating and slowly became very weak. The news reached the king soon and he came to meet his favourite elephant in the stable. Though the caretaker knew why the elephant was sad, he didn't tell the king fearing his anger and punishment for what he did. The royal doctor came and understood that the elephant was sad for some reason. While looking for the source of its sadness, the king came to know about the love between the dog and the elephant. The king announced a very good reward for the person who could find the dog. Hearing the royal announcement, the farmer came to the king and said that the caretaker sold him the dog. The caretaker was called. He was asked to return the farmer's money. The elephant became very happy to get its friend back.

- b. Now write down ten more abstract nouns here.

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Let's Learn

Formation of abstract nouns

Abstract nouns can also be made from other words, such as adjectives, common nouns and verbs. You can make new abstract nouns by adding suffixes to adjectives, common nouns and verbs.

Note

If a word ends with -y – the -y will become -i after you add the suffix

free (adjective) + -dom = freedom (abstract noun)

honest (adjective) + -y = honesty (abstract noun)

Making abstract nouns from adjectives

It is possible to make new abstract nouns by adding the suffixes **-ness**, **-dom**, **-y**, etc. to an adjective. Given below are some abstract nouns that are made from adjectives:

happy (adjective) + -ness (suffix) = happiness (abstract noun)

Some adjectives change differently to form abstract nouns:

long – length

humble – humility

Abstract nouns can be formed from verbs and other nouns as well:

friend (noun) – friendship

act (verb) – action

Let's Practise

Provide abstract nouns for the following adjectives.

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| 1. wise | ..... | 6. proud | ..... |
| 2. courageous | ..... | 7. intelligent | ..... |
| 3. brave | ..... | 8. difficult | ..... |
| 4. strong | ..... | 9. wide | ..... |
| 5. sad | ..... | 10. glorious | ..... |

Let's Learn

Making abstract nouns from common nouns

It is possible to make new abstract nouns by adding the suffixes **-ship, -hood, -dom** etc. to a common noun. Given below are some abstract nouns that are made from common nouns:

friend (common noun) + **-ship** (suffix) = friendship (abstract noun)

child (common noun) + **-hood** (suffix) = childhood (abstract noun)

Let's Practise

Add **-ship, -hood** or **-dom** to the given common nouns to make abstract nouns.

A	B
leader	
knight	
king	
scholar	
parent	
member	
sister	
partner	

Let's Learn

Making abstract nouns from verbs

New abstract nouns can also be made from verbs by adding suffixes such as **-ion, -ance, -iour, -ment, -ation, -al** etc.

Examples: act (verb) + *-ion* (suffix) = action (abstract noun)
 accept (verb) + *-ance* (suffix) = acceptance (abstract noun)
 behave (verb) + *-iour* (suffix) = behaviour (abstract noun)
 judge (verb) + *-ment* (suffix) = judgment (abstract noun)
 invite (verb) + *-ation* (suffix) = invitation (abstract noun)
 remove (verb) + *-al* (suffix) = removal (abstract noun)

Note

Some verbs have a different form of abstract nouns. You don't need to add any suffix to change them into an abstract noun. Some such words are *die—death, lose—loss, sell—sale, speak—speech* etc.

Let's Practise

1. Some action words are given below. Change them into abstract nouns.

- | | | | |
|------------|-------|------------|-------|
| a. see | ..... | g. prevent | ..... |
| b. attract | ..... | h. injure | ..... |
| c. discuss | ..... | i. console | ..... |
| d. argue | ..... | j. assist | ..... |
| e. agree | ..... | k. attach | ..... |
| f. locate | ..... | l. approve | ..... |

2. Change the following words into abstract nouns.

- | | | | | |
|----------|----------------|--------------|---------|-------------|
| a. wise | c. courageous | e. famous | g. know | i. glorious |
| b. proud | d. intelligent | f. neighbour | h. king | |

- | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| a. | d. | g. |
| b. | e. | h. |
| c. | f. | i. |

3. Read the passage given below. Fill in the blanks with the abstract nouns you have made from the words given in the previous exercise. One has been done for you.



Once upon a time there lived four friends—a grasshopper, an ant, a cricket and a rain bug, in a faraway **kingdom** One day, after a long talk they decided to go to war to achieve instant They did not have any experience of being on a battlefield, still they wanted to go to war. They thought that if they won a war it would bring them immediately. They would become the of their All the friends had but no or Though they did not have any about war they decided to go for it. Finally, all of them had to come back badly wounded even before they reached any battlefield!

Activity

Do you like Spiderman? Following is a passage about him. Pick a partner and draw a web. Write *Spiderman* in the middle and in each concentric circle write the different types of nouns. Underline the nouns in the passage and then place them correctly in their correct circles in your web.

Spiderman is the name of the hero of a comic book series published from the United States of America in 1962. Stan Lee and Steve Ditko are the writer-editor and writer-artist who created this character. The actual name of the Spiderman is Peter Parker. He's an orphan. He is brought up by Aunt May and Uncle Ben. Both his uncle and aunt love him a lot. The Spiderman has the most amazing super powers. He can cling to any surface and spin webs from a device of his own invention. In real life he is a boy who faces rejection and loneliness because he is shy and different.