

LEARNING ABOUT NOUNS

1

What are nouns?

Everything has a name. A noun (from the Latin word for 'name') tells us what something is called.

Pictures of

Billy Sparks (The noun appears after the picture.)

Guitar (The noun appears after the picture.)

Bike (The noun appears after the picture.)

Girl (The noun appears after the picture.)

2

In the following sentences, the noun (the name of the thing or person) is picked out.

The little **girl** rode her **bike**.

Billy likes to play the **guitar**.

3

What sorts of nouns are there?

Most nouns, as found in dictionaries, are the common names for things.

Images of boy, girl, bike, guitar

4

These are called

COMMON NOUNS

Take 'girl'. The common or usual word for a young female person is 'girl'.

Pic with the label 'girl' darting around pointing at the girl

HINT: An easy test is to put 'a' or 'the' before the word. If it makes sense, the word is a noun. Eg A girl ... The girl... A bike ... The bike.

RULE: Do **not** use a capital letter for a common noun, unless it happens to be the first word of a sentence.

5

Then there are the names of people, or places, or organisations.

Images of Billy and Australia

These are called

PROPER NOUNS

6

Take 'Billy'. This is Billy's individual name. To show its importance (because it is uniquely his and no one else's), we put a capital letter on it.

Pic of Billy and the guitar, without capital letter, then with the capital added

7

Some 'proper nouns' are the names of places.

Show pic of Australia. Add 'Tourists' like to see kangaroos when they visit australia', then cross this out and substitute a capital letter.

Proper nouns also include the names of cities (Sydney), towns (Cairns), organisations (CSIRO, Parliament), companies (Westpac), ships (The Endeavour) and other officially named places (Royal Melbourne Zoo).

RULE: All proper nouns **must** start with a capital letter, regardless of where they are in the sentence.

8

What about plurals?

Because common nouns can refer to one thing, or many, we have to mention plurals.

Pic of one guitar Billy has a guitar.

The most usual way in English for us to indicate **more than one** (a plural) is to put 's' on the end of the noun.

Two guitars, then three, then four Billy has two guitar**S**. (etc)

9

Here it is again.

Pic of one bike The girl has a bike.

*Pic of two bikes, then three, then four The girl has two bike**S**.*

While most nouns behave like this, there are unfortunately lots of exceptions.

10

Words ending in s, sh, ch or x

Add 'es'

*There is one bus. Now there are two bus**eS**.*

*bus add 'es' bus**eS***

*brush add 'es' brush**eS***

*match add 'es' match**eS***

*fox add 'es' fox**eS***

11

Words ending in o

Add 'es'

Pic of hero (or equivalent)

*He is a hero. They are both hero**eS**.*

*tomato add 'es' tomato**eS***

*hero add 'es' hero**eS***

*echo add 'es' echo**eS***

EXCEPTIONS: photos, pianos, sopranos

12

Words ending in y

Remove the 'y' and add 'ies'

Pic of baby

Here is one baby. Now there are two *babies*.

baby* add 'es' *babies

lady* add 'es' *ladies

enemy* add 'es' *enemies

EXCEPTIONS: holidays, monkeys, boys, guys

13

And some really old words that are even stranger...

man* *men

woman* *women

child* *children

tooth* *teeth

foot* *feet

mouse* *mice

deer* *deer

sheep* *sheep