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with Dr Jonathan



Nouns, Pronouns, & Adjectives

(Level: Intermediate)

Nouns (1 of 2)



Common nouns: *general, unnamed* people, places, or things

- **Examples:** man, woman, mountain, ocean, car, truck

Proper nouns: *specific, named* people, places, or things

- President Obama, New York City, the Golden Gate Bridge

Properties of nouns:

- Lowercase, unless begins a sentence or is a proper noun
- Can have gender (female, male, or neutral), number (singular or plural), and case (nominative, accusative, etc.; see my “Noun Cases” presentation for more on cases).

Nouns (2 of 2)



Abstract vs. concrete nouns: whether it is sensible (can be seen, heard, smelled, tasted, or touched)

- **Abstract** (not sensible): fairness, justice, truth
- **Concrete** (sensible): house, light, wind

Collective nouns: describe groups of people

- agency, company, community, organization
- Can be singular or plural, depending on context.

Countable vs. uncountable nouns:

- **Countable:** three cars, two people, four vegetables
- **Uncountable** (usually substances): liquid, salt, steel

Pronouns (1 of 3)

Replace a noun in a sentence



- **Demonstrative** (represent something[s]): that, these, this, those
 - That is a beautiful hotel. May I have one of those bananas, please?
- **Indefinite** (represent something imprecisely): all, any, anybody, anyone, anything, both, each, either, everybody, everyone, everything, few, many, most, neither, nobody, no one, none, nothing, one, several, some, somebody, someone, something
 - Does anyone speak English here? Somebody should do something about this problem.
- **Interrogative** (question words): what, which, who, whom, whose
 - Whose computer is this? Which flavor of ice cream do you want?

Pronouns (2 of 3)



- **Object** (used for the objects of sentences): her, him, it, me, them, us, you
 - You should tell her. Please help me.
- **Personal** (replace common and proper nouns): he, her, him, I, me, she, them, they, us, we, you
 - Dr Jonathan often edits this website. He works hard on it.
- **Possessive** (indicates possession): her, hers, his, its, mine, my, our, ours, their, theirs, your, yours
 - No, you can't have it – it's mine. Is that your bicycle?

Pronouns (3 of 3)



- **Reflexive** (refer to a person or people): herself, himself, itself, myself, ourselves, themselves, yourself, yourselves
 - I don't want a soda [for] myself, but I'm happy to buy you one.
- **Relative** (relate subordinate/dependent clauses to other clauses): that, which[ever], who[ever], whom[ever], whose
 - The President, who is a very nice guy, is meeting with me later today.
- **Subject** (used for the subjects of sentences): he, I, she, they, we, you
 - They enjoyed the movie. We should talk tomorrow.
- Pronouns are lowercase, unless they are "I" or begin a sentence.

Adjectives

Describe nouns



Attributive adjectives:

- Simple adjectives that usually come before the noun: the blue car; busy New York; a silly, sweet person
- Can come after the noun, if used with/as an adverb: I met two people [who were] happy to meet me.

Nominal adjectives:

- Act like a noun when the noun is left out: I prefer the blue car, but she prefers the red [car].

Predicative adjectives:

- Usually come after the noun, and are somehow linked to the noun: Those people are clever. That song made me happy.

Thanks for watching!

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