

Writing Center

Tidewater Community College

Phone: 757-822-7170

Fax: 757-427-0327

<http://www.tcc.edu/writing>

Parts of Speech: NOUNS

A **NOUN** names something, such as a thing, person, place, quality or idea.

FUNCTION: In sentences **NOUNS** function as **SUBJECTS** and **OBJECTS**.

RECOGNITION:

1. Most **NOUNS** have both a **singular** and **plural** form, e.g. friend/friends, table/tables, man/men, child/children.
2. The words *a, an, & the* are called **noun markers or determiners**. They signal that a **NOUN** is coming: a church, an annulment, the committee.

TYPES OF NOUNS:

1. **Common** – ordinary nouns which name things, groups, places, activities: singer, city, auditorium, swimming, computer.
2. **Concrete** – nouns which name things which can be perceived through the senses: pizza, thunder, rain, cold, perfume, catalog.
3. **Abstract** – nouns which name things comprised of individuals: family, team, faculty, which are considered grammatically singular, as in: “The family is devastated.”
4. **Mass** – nouns which name “uncountable” things: water, food, earth, air.
5. **Proper** - nouns which name specific people, places or things (always capitalized): John Lennon, Paris, Cadillac, Radisson, the New Yorker.

NOTE: See a standard handbook for a list of nouns which end in “s” but are considered singular and take a singular verb, e.g. physics, economics, news, scissors, triceps.