



## Nouns: The Basics

What Are

The \_\_\_\_\_ in parentheses in the frame sentence because the noun may or may not follow an article.

The noun also may or may not be plural. Therefore, depending on its plurality, *seem* or *seems* may follow the noun.

If a word makes sense in this frame sentence, it is almost always a noun.

There are, of course, some exceptions to the frame-sentence rule. Some nouns fit into the frame sentence but share no other noun characteristics.

Example: ***Editing*** seems all right.

(A word like ***editing*** is considered a gerund – a verb that is functioning as a noun. Note that ***editing*** is the subject of this sample sentence.)

Some nouns are created by modifying an adjective like fluent (which can become the noun ***fluency***) or a verb like write (which can become the noun ***writer***).

Example: Her ***fluency*** makes her a good ***writer***.

Most nouns can become plural or possessive.

Example: There are twenty-seven ***tigers*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***tiger's*** cage.

Some nouns, like *water* or *sand*, cannot be made plural. Generally, these are nouns that cannot be counted.

Example: \_\_\_\_\_ -

(***Sand*** is a non-count noun, and it cannot be made plural.)

To transform a non-count noun into a count noun, it has to be modified.

Example: I am looking to sell eighteen ***pieces*** of ***furniture***.

(***Furniture*** is a non-count noun; however, the noun ***pieces*** is countable.)

Identify whether the italicized word is functioning as a verb or as a gerund.

9. I am *sweating* like a pig.
10. His *pedaling* is very impressive.
11. *Running* is just too much fun to turn down.
12. I am *giving* up cheese to lose weight.

- 1) truancy, detainment
- 2) students, class
- 3) game show, pieces, luggage
- 4) dark