**THE NOUN**

**1.THE NOUN**

**NOUN** – part of speech that refers to a person, animal, place, thing, activity, event or idea and can be replaced by a pronoun.

**A.CLASSIFICATION**

**1. According to their word-formation, nouns are:**

 a. **simple**: *pencil, dog, mountain*;

 b. **derived**: *driver, booklet, marriage, kindness*;

 c. **compound**: *postcard, dining room, examination-in-chief*;

**2. According to their countability, nouns are:**

 a. **countable**, which can have a plural form and can be used with the indefinite article “a / an” or with “many”, “few”, “several”: *apple; lesson; orange*(there are few apples…);

 b. which **uncountable**, cannot be used in the plural or with the indefinite article, but can be used with “much”, “little”: *noise; health; pride* (There was much noise in the hall)

**B. THE NUMBER OF NOUNS**

**Formation of the plural**

**1. Countable nouns can take a plural form:**

 *I need one more orange for the cake.*

 *I like oranges very much*

1. **-s** is added to the singular form:

*Book – Books; Cat – Cats; Toy – Toys;*

1. **-es** is added to the singular form of nouns ending in –**s**, **-z**, **-x**, **-ch**, **-sh**, -**ss:**

*bus – buses; buzz – buzzes; box – boxes; watch – watches;*

*bush – bushes; business – businesses;*

**NOTE**: The noun *quiz* has the plural *quizzes*, so the last consonant is doubled

1. **-es** is added to nouns ending in consonant: -**y** becomes -**i**;

*fly – flies; city – cities; lady – ladies;*

 d. -**es** is added to nouns ending in -**o**;

 *hero - heroes; potato - potatoes; tomato - tomatoes;*

**BUT:** *photo - photos, kilo - kilos; kangaroo - kangaroos; radio - radios*

e. -**(e)s** is added to nouns ending in -**f(e)** (**f** changes into -**v**);

 *knife - knives; leaf - leaves; life - lives;*

**BUT:** *roof - roofs; belief - beliefs; chief - chiefs;*

 f. irregular plurals

 *man - men; woman - women; foot - feet;*

 *tooth - teeth; goose - geese; louse - lice;*

 *mouse - mice; child - children; ox - oxen;*

they may be used with the quantifiers “much” or “little”:

**2.Types of uncountable nouns:**

a. **material nouns:** *milk; cotton; air; sand;*

 *Cotton is heavily used in textile industry.*

b. **abstract nouns:** *peace; beauty; freedom;*

 *They want to live in peace.*

**NOTE:** Some of these nouns can be either countable or uncountable, according to their meaning:

*They have a great deal of experience.* (uncountable: *knowledge, skill*)

*They had pleasant experiences in that region.* (countable: *events*)

 c. **names of sports:** *tennis; skating; football;*

*Skating is practiced in winter.*

d. **names of plants,** when referring to the species: *garlic; potato; maize;*

 *Potato was discovered in America.*

e. **names of towns, countries, months:** *Paris; England; February;*

 *February is the second month of the year.*

**NOTE:** There are some words which are uncountable in English and countable in other languages: *advice; luggage (baggage); homework; news; progress; money; machinery; knowledge; information; furniture;*

 *There is little money in my account.*

 *The information was correct.*

 *Remarkable progress is being made in this field.*

Still, uncountable nouns can be used in the plural with the help of some words called **partitives**, such as

*piece, bit, item, bar, lump, slice, fit, inch, mile, meter, yard, pound, etc.: a piece of paper, some pieces of*

*advice, a grain of rice, some bits of chalk, an item of furniture, several itmes of news, a bar of chocolate,*

*two bar of soap, a lump of sugar, a slice of bread, some slices of sausages, a fit of coughing;*

**C.THE GENDER OF NOUNS**

**Gender**

1. **The masculine gender** is represented by nouns (*man, son, king*).that can be replaced by the pronoun “*He”*.

2. **The feminine gender** is represented by nouns denoting female beings (*woman, grandma, queen*). They can be replaced by the pronoun “*She”.*

3. **The neuter gender** is represented by nouns denoting animals, objects, substances, abstractions, plants, phenomena (*table, house, snow*). They can be replaced by the pronoun “*It”.*

**Animate nouns**

a. **by composition** (with the help of words denoting sex):

 *male - female; boy - girl; man - woman; gentleman / lord - lady; he - she; bull - cow; cock - hen; male-cousin - female-cousin; school-boy - school-girl; landlord - landlady; he-bear - she-bear;*

b. **by suffixation** (with several suffixes);

 1. to form the feminine

 -**ess:** *lion - lioness; tiger - tigress; actor - actress; waiter - waitress; god - goddess; host - hostess; murder - murderess; poet - poetess;*

 2. to form the masculine:

 -**er:** *widow - widower; murder - murderer;*

 *-***groom:** *bride - bridegroom*

**KEY POINTS**

* the noun is basic part of speech;
* the most common category of nouns differentiates between countable and uncountable nouns;
* some countable nouns in English can be countable in Romanian;
* there are several plural endings, but most often nouns are **-s** or **-es** to form the plural;
* according to number agreement, nouns can be divided in four categories:

nouns that take either a singular or plural verb, nouns that take both singular and plural verbs, nouns that take only a singular verb and nouns that take only a plural verb;

* although grammatical gender does not exist in English, nouns are generally classified as masculine, feminine and neuter
* there are four cases in English: Nominative, Accusative, Genitive and Dative