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You probably remember that nouns are words that name people, animals, places, things, and ideas. Nouns in English can be *abstract* and *concrete*.

## What is a concrete noun?

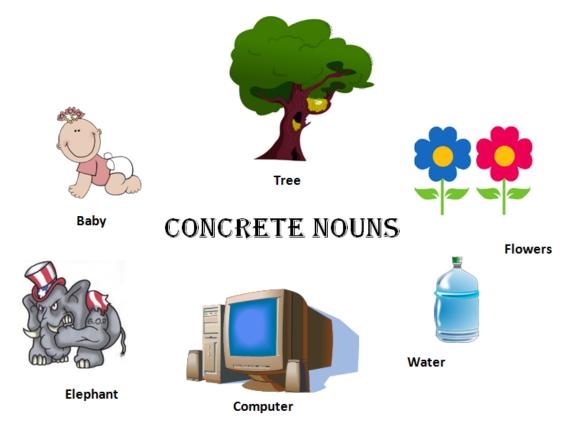
Concrete nouns denote things that have some physical form and that you can experience through your 5 senses — *sight*, *smell*, *hearing*, *taste*, and *touch*.



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Examples of concrete nouns are:





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Concrete nouns can be:

- People and animals: mother, teacher, cat, Emily, tiger, baby
- Places: London, island, France, Alaska, Walmart, garden
- Objects: pen, bottle, rice, computer, letter, table, milk

You can touch them, see them, hear them, and maybe even smell them or taste them.

# What is an abstract noun?

Abstract nouns denote things that don't have any physical form, like *events*, *ideas*, *qualities*, *concepts*, *emotions*, *states*. You can't experience through your 5 senses. Something that is abstract exists only in our mind.

Examples of abstract nouns are:

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• love, hate, sympathy, honesty, freedom, truth, knowledge, progress, friendship, etc.

#### Abstract nouns can be:

- Feelings: anxiety, happiness, confusion, sympathy
- States: freedom, peace, misery, chaos
- Emotions: anger, happiness, love, sorrow
- Qualities: beauty, honesty, courage, patience
- Concepts: culture, faith, energy, motivation
- Ideas: democracy, knowledge, thought, wisdom
- Events: adventure, birthday, holiday, marriage

### How to use abstract and concrete nouns

- 1. Most concrete nouns may be used both with an <u>indefinite</u> and <u>definite</u> and may be <u>singular</u> and <u>plural</u>.
  - an ocean the ocean oceans
  - an avenue the avenue avenues
- 2. Unlike concrete nouns, most abstract nouns are used with <u>no (zero) article</u> and in singular.
  - Love is a powerful emotion.

NOTE: If an abstract noun is qualified by a *defining relative* or by the preposition of + noun phrase, it can be used with a definite article 'the'.

- The education <u>that I received in my college</u> is internationally recognized.
- 3. Many abstract nouns can be both <u>countable</u> and <u>uncountable</u> based on the context, and usually these forms differ a bit in their meaning. If they are countable, they may be used in plural.

Compare:

#### **Countable** Uncountable

Peter acquired several useful skills on a hike.

Just have a look at those beauties on the beach!



What qualities do you need for this job?

to young artists.

Mary has visited Italy many times.

*Were there any troubles on your route?* 

Just have a look at those beauties on the People do their best to preserve the beauty of

beach!

This restaurant is known for it's superb quality.

The Ministry of Culture provides support The Institute develops targeted programmes for

different cultures and languages.

Hurry up, you don't have much time left.

Please be careful not to get in trouble.

their city.

Watch this video from Learning Upgrade App to see abstract and concrete nouns in use:

See also:

Countable Nouns and Uncountable Nouns

Plural Nouns and Singular Nouns

**Common Nouns and Proper Nouns**