

# Idon't want to listen to your .... (advice / advise)

• This is a quick, basic grammar review for nouns, verbs, and the sometimes confusing usage of lay versus lie, and rise versus raise. This reference can be used for term papers, grammar class reviews, or simply for anyone confused or curious about the basics of English grammar.

## Nouns

1. Noun identification
2. Count, Mass, and Collective Nouns
3. Plural and Possessive Nouns

## Noun Identification

What is a noun A noun is a person, place, thing, quality, animal, idea or activity.

## For example:

- Person - Maria
- Place - Detroit
- Thing - Desk
- Quality - Width
- Animal- Dog
- Idea - Independence
- Activity - Navigation

• Spot the nouns in a sentence: Maria went into the city to purchase detergent.

**Nouns:** Person - Maria  
Place - City  
Thing - Detergent  
The functions of nouns

• Nouns sometimes function differently in sentences.

## For example:

**Subject:** Maria likes ice cream  
**Object of Preposition:** He gave the ice cream to Maria  
**Subject complement:** The best

customer is Maria  
**Grammar vocabulary:** Nominal means any word, or group of words, used as a noun. The nominal word used in the original noun example is Maria.

## Types of Nouns

- The names of specific things, places, and people, like Maria or Detroit, are Proper nouns. General, colloquial names, like table or house are Common nouns. Common nouns can either be concrete or abstract.
- When an object is concrete i.e. you can see it and touch it, like a phone or a chair, it is a Concrete noun.
- When it is a quality or idea, like freedom or justice, it is an Abstract noun.

**Count Nouns:** Count nouns are any thing that can be counted. They are singular or plural. Plurals usually end with "s."  
Singular - Car Plural - Cars  
Singular - Chair Plural - Chairs  
Singular - Dog Plural - Dogs

## Irregular Examples:

- Singular - Mouse Plural - Mice
- Singular - Child Plural - Children
- Most nouns ending in s, sh, o, or ch need an -es suffix to be plural  
Singular - Bus Plural - Buses  
Singular - Dish Plural - Dishes  
Singular - Potato



- Plural - Potatoes
- Singular - Church Plural - Churches
- Nouns ending in a consonant followed by y become plural by changing they to i and adding - es  
Singular - Mystery Plural - Mysteries
- Mass Nouns are nouns that cannot be counted and they usually do not have a plural form

**Examples:** Freedom, sand, money  
Collective nouns refer to groups of people and/or things. Unlike mass nouns, they can usually be counted, so they usually have plural forms.

## Examples:

- Singular - Staff Plural - Staffs
- Singular - Herd Plural - Herds
- Plural nouns are the nouns that have been changed into their plural states by adding -s or -es. Remember your irregular nouns,

such as mice and children! They too are plural nouns.  
**Possessive Nouns**  
• Nouns can be possessive and express ownership, usually following the use of "of." Example: The life of Maria Most singular possessives are formed by adding an apostrophe and "s." If the noun is plural, the possessive form becomes "s" and apostrophe.

## Singular Common:

Dog Singular  
Possessive: Dog's  
Plural Common: Dogs  
Plural Possessive: Dogs'

**Exception:** if the plural noun does not end with an "s," the possessive is formed by adding an apostrophe and "s."

## Example:

**Singular Common:** Woman  
**Singular Possessive:** Woman's  
Plural Common: Women



## Plural Possessive: Women's Pronouns

- A pronoun takes the place of an unknown noun. The unknown noun is called the "antecedent."
- Example:** Maria wondered if she was late for work.
- Maria is the antecedent of "she." Instead of saying: Maria wondered if Maria was late for work, "she" appears to take the place of "Maria." The Nine forms of Pronouns:
- Personal, possessive, indefinite, reflexive, reciprocal, intensive, interrogative, relative, and demonstrative.
- The pronoun must always agree with the antecedent, so if the antecedent is male, the pronoun must be male, if the antecedent is plural, the pronoun must be plural, etc.

## Example:

**Correct:** When Maria bought the detergent, she used her credit card.  
**Incorrect:** When Maria bought the detergent, they used his credit card.

## Verbs/ Common Errors

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1. Please do ..... is necessary. (what / that)
2. The ..... of London does not suit me. (climate / weather)
3. The boy was standing in the ..... of the street. (center / middle)
4. I visit my grandparents once ..... (a week / in a week)
5. I don't want to listen to your ..... (advice / advise)
6. She ..... me to work harder. (advised / adviced)
7. I enjoy reading ..... (poems / poetry)
8. The cattle ..... grazing. (is / are)
9. Two ..... are standing outside. (women / female)
10. He took ..... at my remarks. (insult / offense)

## Answers

1. Please do what is necessary.
2. The climate of London does not suit me.
3. The boy was standing in the middle of the street.
4. I visit my grandparents once a week. (The preposition is dropped in this expression.)

5. I don't want to listen to your advice.
6. She advised me to work harder.
7. I enjoy reading poems.
8. The cattle are grazing.
9. Two women are standing outside.
10. He took offense at my remarks.

## Fill in the blanks with an appropriate tense form.

Renowned archeologist Denis Price, who ..... (shoots / shot / has shot) to fame last year with his amazing discovery of Stonehenge's lost altar stone now ..... (is claiming / claims / cliam) to have found the famed 'Lost city of Apollo' around the Neolithic structure. Many experts ..... (are believing / believe / believed) the lost city is a myth, but Price ..... (convinces / is convinced / has convinced) that the city exists and that it is situated right on the outskirts of Salisbury where the Stone henge ..... (situates/is situated / is situating).

## Answers

Renowned archeologist Denis Price,

who shot to fame last year with his amazing discovery of Stonehenge's lost altar stone now claims to have found the famed 'Lost city of Apollo' around the Neolithic structure. Many experts believe the lost city is a myth, but Price is convinced that the city exists and that it is situated right on the outskirts of Salisbury where the Stonehenge is situated.

## Passage 2

Twin terror strikes in Hyderabad ..... (claim / claimed / claims) more than 42 lives on Sunday, August 26. It is not clear who ..... (plots / plotted / has plotted) and executed the blasts. India ..... (lost / had lost / was lost) more than 3,600 lives to terrorist attacks in the last three years. Only war-torn Iraq ..... (loses / is losing) more people to terror than India.

## Answers

Twin terror strikes in Hyderabad claimed more than 42 lives on Sunday, August 26. It is not clear who plotted and executed the

blasts. India lost more than 3,600 lives to terrorist attacks in the last three years. Only war-torn Iraq loses more people to terror than India.

## Degrees of Comparison Exercise

**Fill in the blanks with an adjective of the appropriate degree of comparison.**

1. Do you believe that Shakespeare is the ..... playwright of all times? (great / greater / greatest)
2. She sings ..... than I do. (good / better / best)
3. We winter arrives, the nights become ..... and ... (cold / colder / coldest)
4. She is the ..... of the two sisters. (nice / nicer / nicest)
5. She is ..... than her siblings. (famous / more famous / most famous)
6. Of the two evils choose the ..... (little / lesser / least)
7. Health is ..... to wealth. (preferable / more preferable / most preferable)
8. She speaks ..... English

9. No other metal is as ..... as iron. (useful / more useful / most useful)
10. My house is not as ..... as yours. (big / bigger / biggest)

## Answers

1. Do you believe that Shakespeare is the greatest playwright of all times?
2. She sings better than I do.
3. We winter arrives, the nights become colder and colder.
4. She is the nicer of the two sisters.
5. She is more famous than her siblings.
6. Of the two evils choose the lesser.
7. Health is preferable to wealth.
8. She speaks better English than I do.
9. No other metal is as useful as iron.
10. My house is not as big as yours.

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