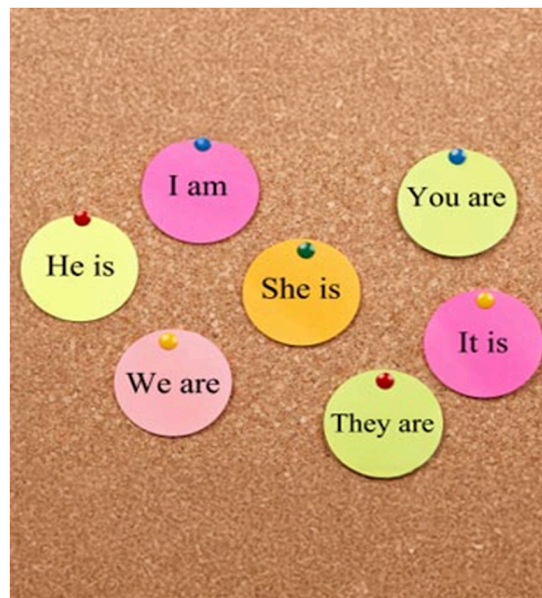


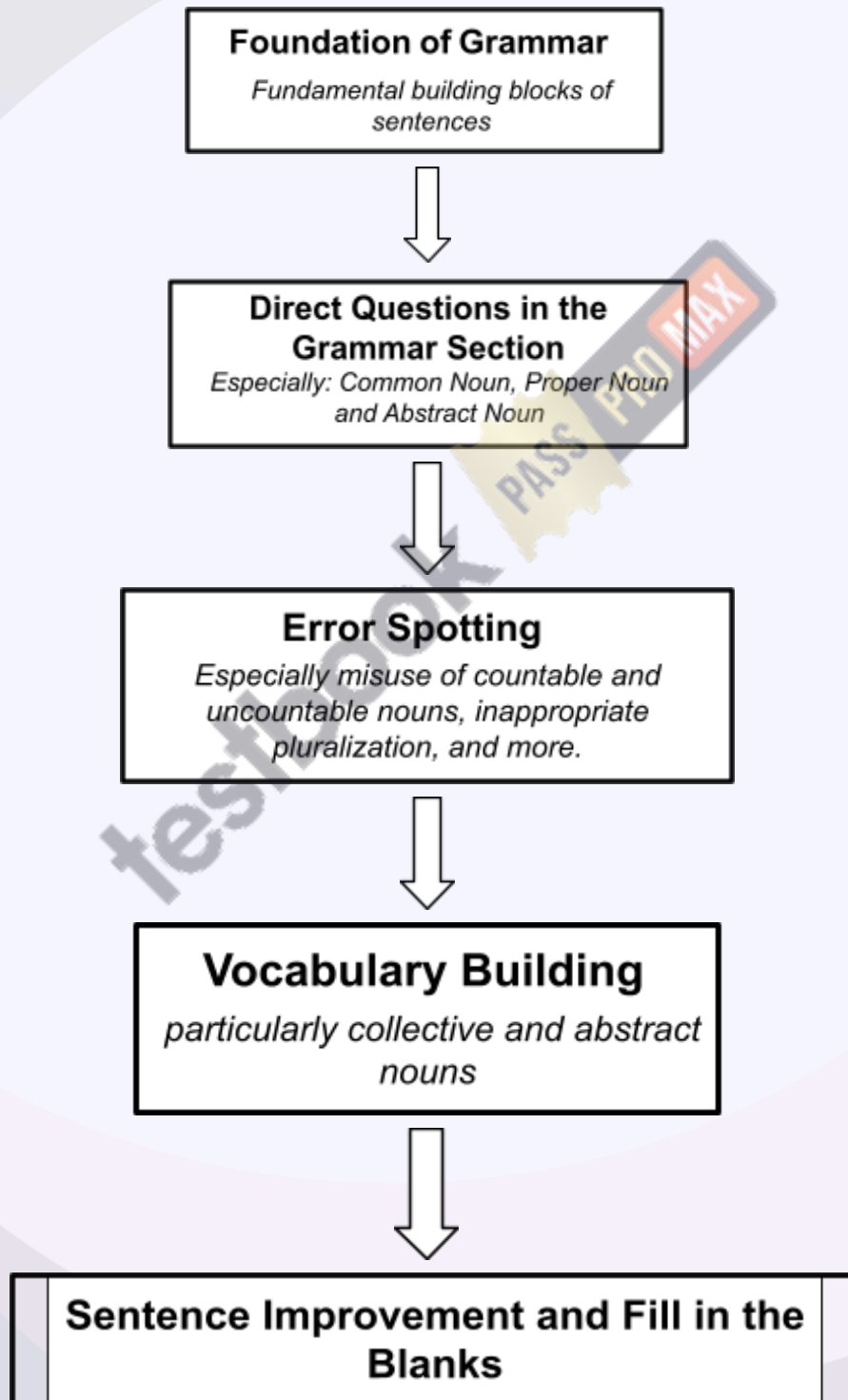
# English Grammar

## STUDY NOTES

### Noun (I)



**Nouns** are essential in exams, especially in grammar sections, where correct usage, identification, and functions are frequently tested. This document will cover all **Noun rules** step by step, including types, pluralisation, gender, and cases, ensuring a clear and practical understanding for exams.



**Nouns:** Definition

Any word used to identify or name a person, place, thing, idea, or concept is called a **noun**. **Nouns**, one of the basic components of language, enable us to name anything we come across, from concrete objects to abstract ideas, and therefore enable us to speak about the world around us. **Nouns** perform a number of crucial tasks in sentences. They frequently take on the roles of the object (the person receiving a verb's action) or the subject (the one doing the action).

Types of **Nouns**

- **Common Noun**
- **Proper Noun**
- **Collective Noun**
- **Material Noun**
- **Abstract Noun**
- **Countable Noun**
- **Uncountable Noun**

**1. Common Noun:** It is the name given in common to every person or a thing of the same kind. It is not the name of any particular person, thing, or place. For example **boy, girl, teacher**, etc.

**Examples:**

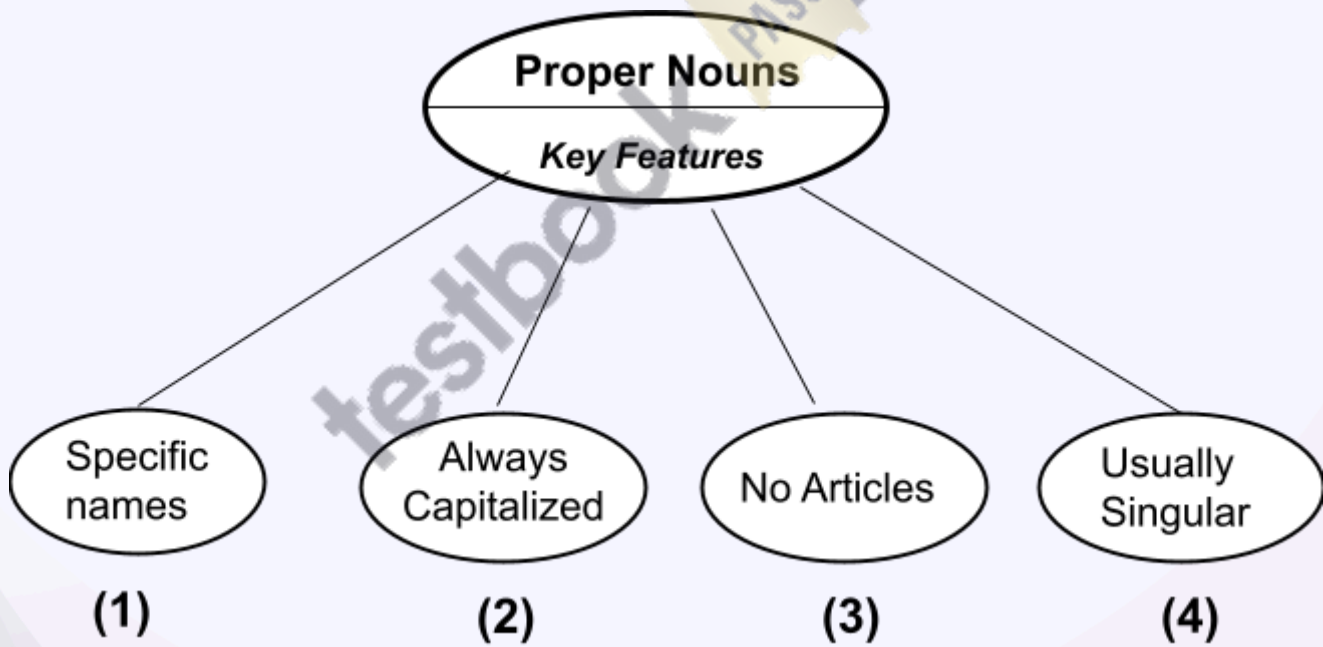
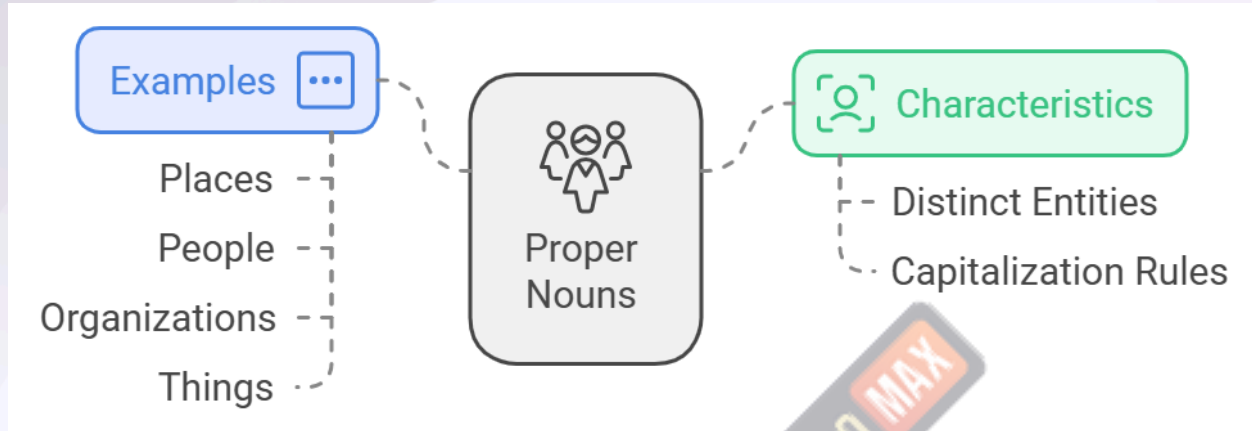
- Person:** Pupil, instructor, or physician
- Location:** City, park, or school
- Thing:** Book, automobile, computer
- Concept:** Joy, independence, and love

**Use in sentences:**

- She kept the **book** on the table.
- The old gentleman visits the **park** in the morning.
- The **teacher** gave us lots of homework to complete during the vacations.

**2. Proper Noun:** A proper noun is a name for a distinct person, location, organisation, or thing. It differentiates one entity from a larger category (common noun) and is always capitalized.

**For example:** *Delhi, Sania* (name of any person), *India, Jupiter*.



**(1) Specific names**

Proper nouns name specific entities, such as individual people, places, days, months, organizations, or works of art. They do not refer to a class or group of items, but to something unique.

**(2) Always Capitalized**

Proper **nouns** are always capitalized, no matter where they appear in the phrase.

For example, "He visited **Paris** last summer."

**(3) No Articles**

Proper **nouns** typically do not require articles ("the," "a," or "an"). However, in other circumstances, "the" comes before the names of organizations, landmarks, or geographical features.

Examples include: "He works at *Google*," whereas "She visited **the Eiffel Tower**."

**(4) Usually Singular**

Since proper nouns relate to a single, distinct thing, they are usually singular. Nonetheless, some proper nouns—particularly those found in family names—can be plural.

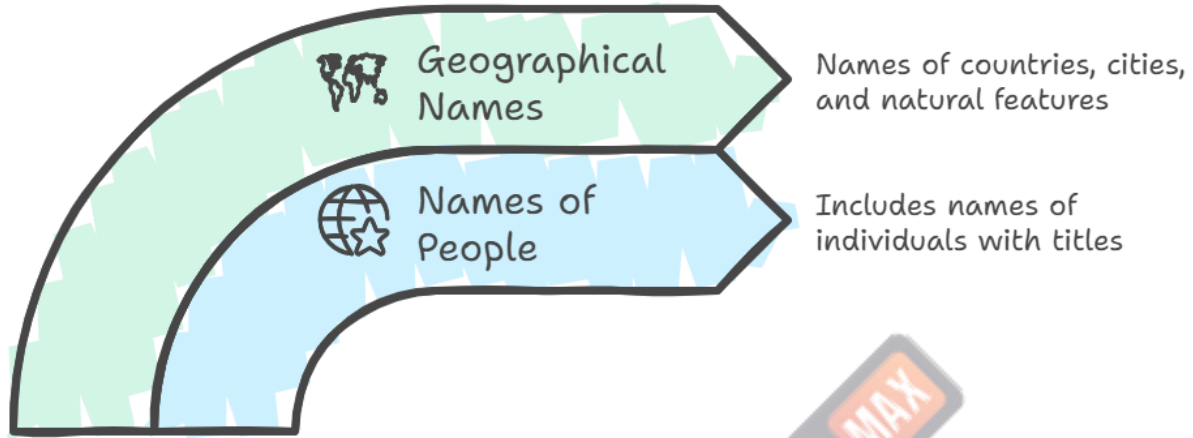
"The **Smiths** are coming to supper," as an example. (Name of family in plural)

**Uses of Proper Nouns:**

**1. Names of People:** These include the names of the people, so we capitalise the first letter of names, including their titles.

**Examples:** Mahatma **G**andhi, Adolf **H**itler, **Q**ueen **E**lizabeth.

## Understanding Proper Nouns

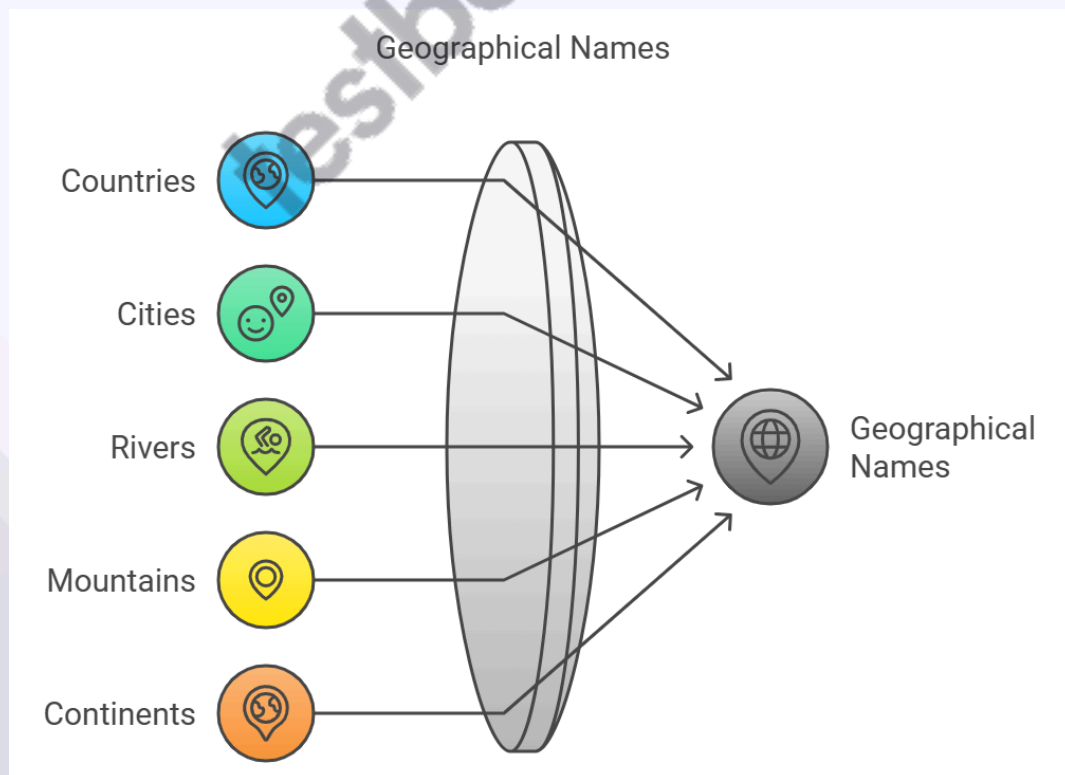


**2. Geographical Names:** We use uppercase for the first letter of names of countries, cities, rivers, mountains, and continents.

**Example:** India, Nile River, Amazon, Mount Everest, Europe, Alps.

**Exception:** Generic words such as "river," "mountain," or "street" are not capitalized.

**Example:** "I crossed the river" vs. "I crossed the Amazon River."



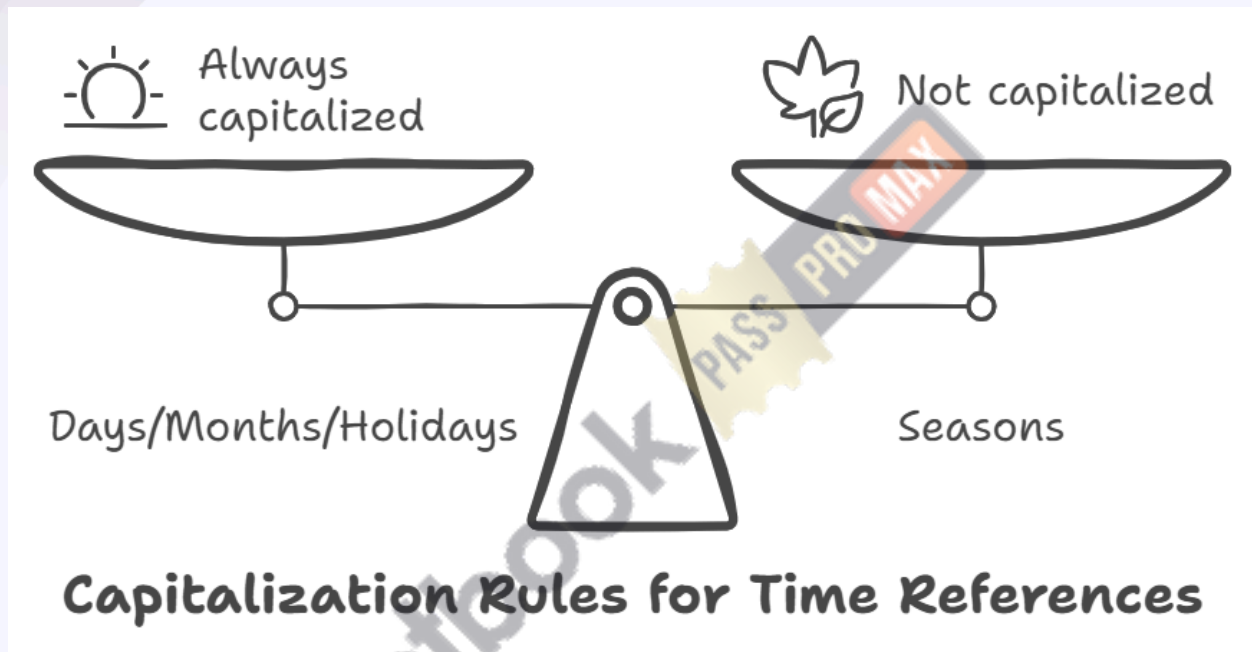
**3. Days, Months, and Holidays:** We must capitalize the names of the weekdays, months of the year, and public holidays

**Example:** Tuesday, April, Christmas.

**Exception:** Season names can't be capitalised unless they are part of a proper noun or title.

**Example:** autumn, spring, winter, summer.

I love winter vs. She enrolled in the Summer School Program.



**4. Names of Organisations, Institutions, and Companies:** The first letter of the names of the businesses, organisations, and institutions must be capitalised.

**Examples:** Microsoft, World Bank, Google, Harvard University, Princeton University.

**Exception:** Articles such as "The" before these names are capitalised only when they are part of the official name.

**Example:** She works at **The New York Times**. (newspaper)

## Capitalization Rules for Proper Nouns

### Organizational Names

Capitalize the first letter of each word in names of organizations and institutions.



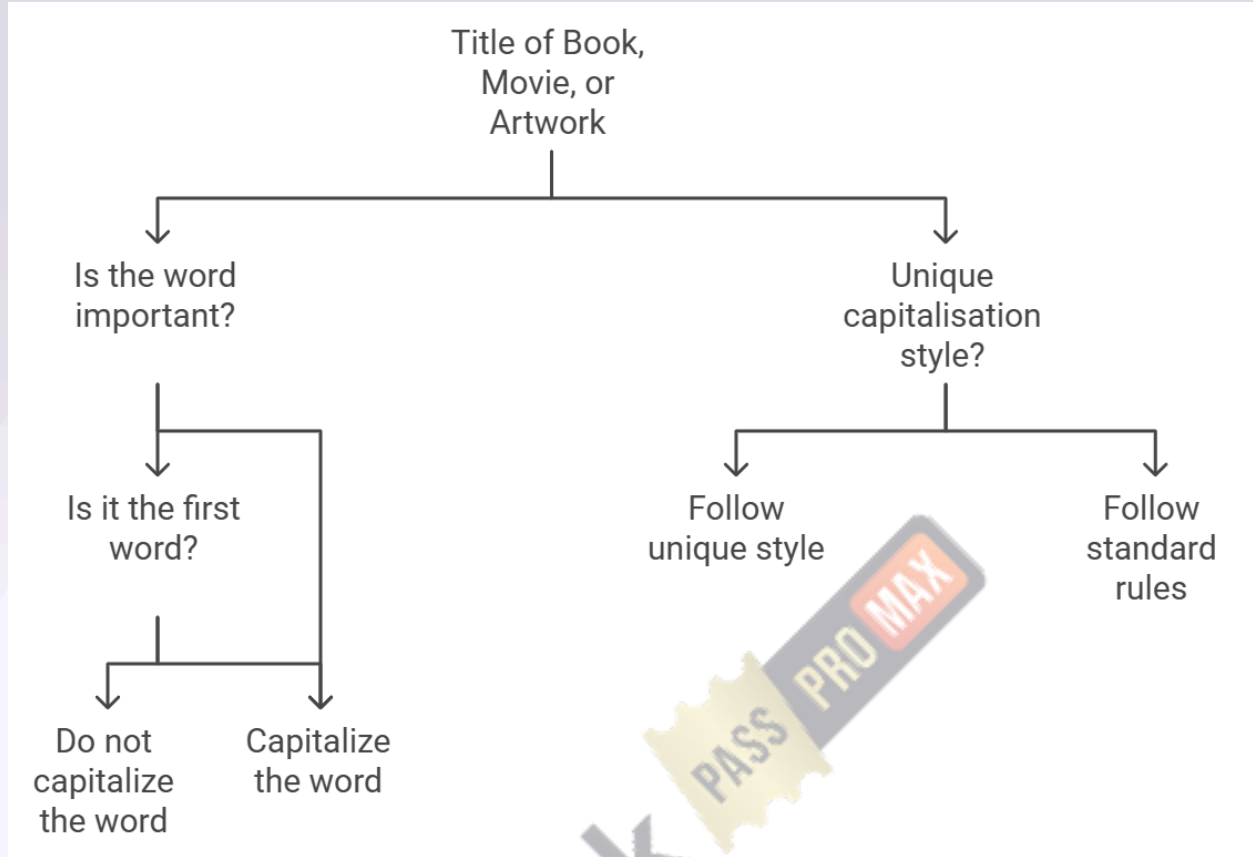
### Exceptions

Articles like "The" are capitalized only when part of the official name.

**5. Names of Books, Movies, and Works of Art:** These include the titles of books, artworks, poems, movies, and songs. Always capitalise the important words in titles, such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Articles (a, an, the), conjunctions, and short prepositions (in, on, of) should not be capitalised until that is not the first word in the title.

**Examples:** Harry Potter, The Lord of the Rings, The Merchant of Venice, Star Wars, The Game of Thrones, and Mona Lisa.

**Exception:** Some titles or brand names may have distinctive capitalisation styles (e.g., iPhone), but in professional writing, adhere to typical capitalisation guidelines.



**6. Brand Names:** These include the names of specific companies and products. Such names must be capitalised, even if they are used generically.

- **Examples:** Coca-Cola, Nike, Apple, Adidas, Puma, TATA
- **Exception:** When a brand name becomes a generic phrase for a product (for example, "xerox" for photocopying), some authors may opt not to capitalise it; however, this is less formal and discouraged in tests.

## Brand Names

### Generic Use Exception

Describes the rare cases where brand names are not capitalized.



### Capitalization Rule

The rule that mandates capitalizing brand names regardless of context.



### Specificity

Refers to the unique identity of companies and products.

**7. Historical Events, Eras, and Documents:** These are references to specific historical periods, events, or significant publications. The first letter of these must always be capitalised.

**Examples:** World War II, the Renaissance, the Great Depression, and the Declaration of Independence.

### Historical References

#### The Renaissance

A cultural revival that sparked artistic and scientific advancements.

#### The Great Depression

A severe economic downturn impacting millions worldwide.

#### World War II

A global conflict that reshaped nations and borders.

#### The Declaration of Independence

A pivotal document declaring freedom and self-governance.



### Important Rules for Proper Nouns:

- 1. Capitalise Full Names:** Proper nouns in full names, such as people’s names, geographic locations, organisations, and works of art, should always be capitalised.

**Examples:** ‘Albert Einstein’, ‘Amazon River’, ‘Great Wall of China’

### Proper Nouns

People's Names



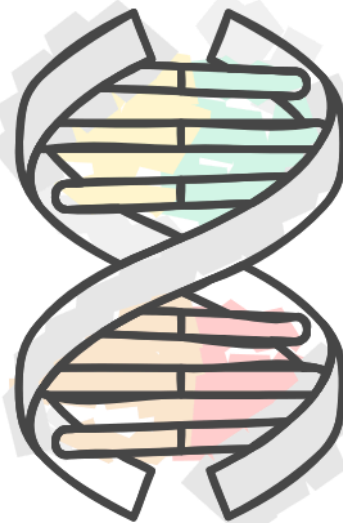
Geographic Locations



Organizations



Works of Art



2. **No Capitalisation for Generic Terms:** Common nouns must not be capitalised unless they are part of a proper noun.

**Examples:**

The **city** of **Venice**,  
He visited the **museum**.

Should generic terms be capitalized in writing?



**Capitalization**

Ensures proper noun distinction



**No Capitalization**

Maintains generic term neutrality

3. **Capitalisation of Titles Before Names:** When a title or honorific comes before a proper noun, it should be capitalised.

**Examples:** 'President **Washington**', 'Dr. **Adams**'.

4. **No Articles Before Names:** In general, avoid using articles (a, an, the) before proper nouns unless they are part of the official name.

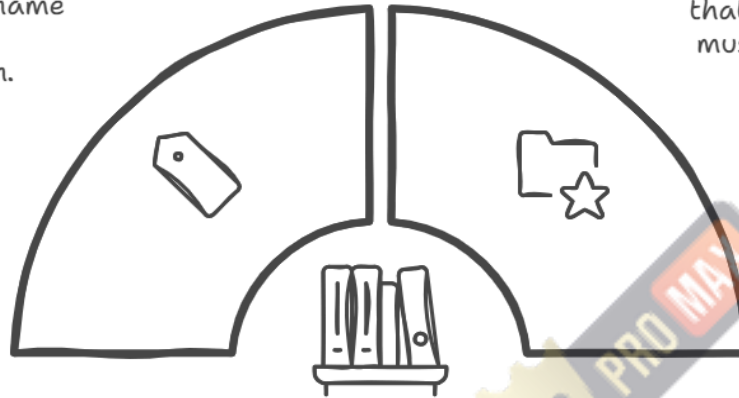
**Examples:**

He lives in **America**.  
I met **Ram** today.

## Capitalisation of Titles


### Title Placement



The position of the title before the name dictates capitalisation.



### Proper Noun

The specific name that follows the title must be capitalised.

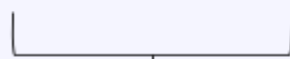
 Should I use an article before a proper noun?

-  **Use Article**  
Only use if it's part of the official name
-  **Do Not Use**  
Avoid using articles otherwise

### Exceptions

(i)

(A/An + Proper **Noun**) — Acts like a —> Common **Noun**



→ That the reader or listener is not aware of.

**Example:** I met a **Ram** today.

**Explanation:** The speaker met a person named Ram whom the listener doesn't know.

(ii)

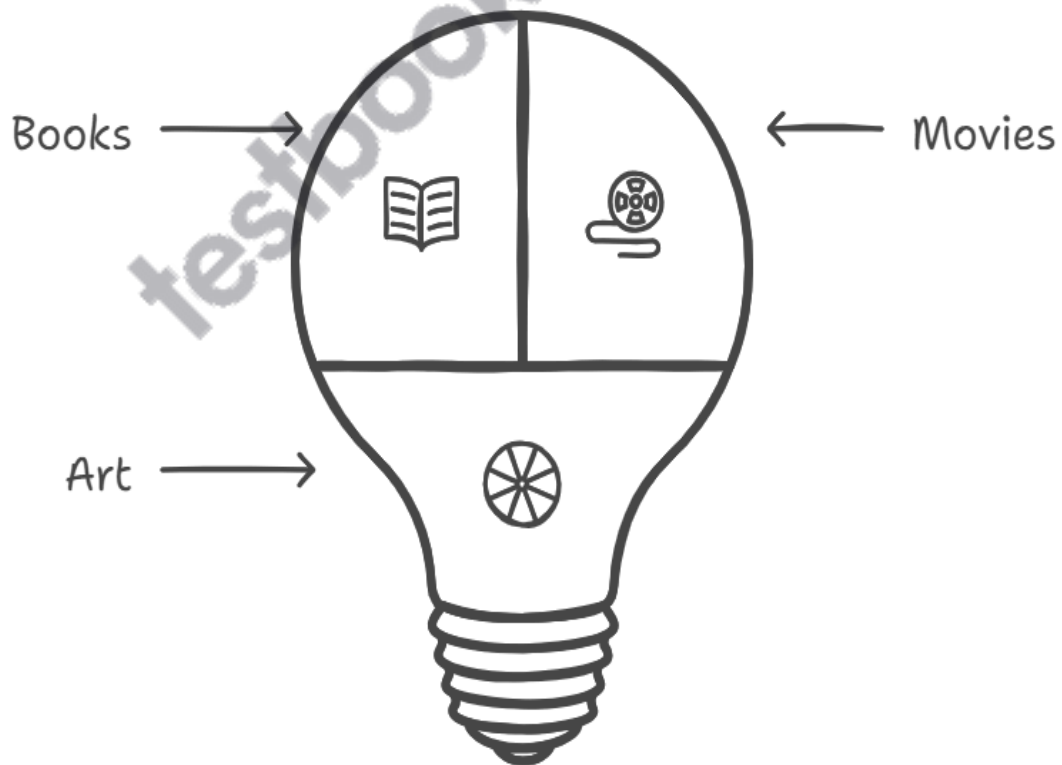
The + Proper *Noun*  
Denotes comparison

**Example:** Kalidas is **the** Shakespeare of Indian drama.

5. **Capitalisation in Titles:** Capitalise significant terms in book, movie, and art titles.

**Examples:** 'The Great Gatsby', 'The Merchant of Venice', 'Pulp Fiction'.

## Understanding Title Capitalization



6. **Names of Nationalities and Languages:** Capitalise the names of nationalities, languages, and ethnic groups.

**Examples:**

She speaks **Latvian**

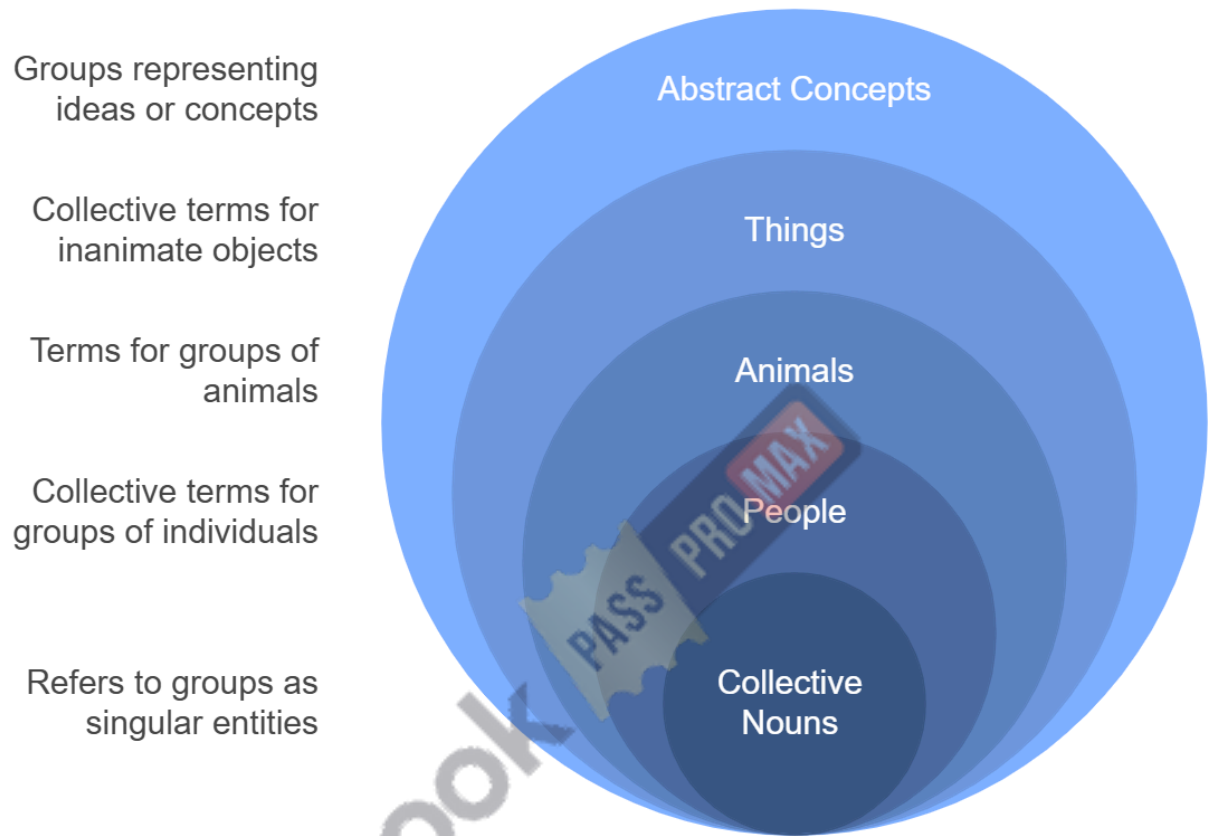
He is **Japanese**.



<b>Exceptions and Special Cases</b>		
<b>Exception</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Example</b>
Seasons	While months and days are capitalised, season names (spring, summer, fall, winter) do not, unless they appear in a title or a formal occasion.	He loves <b>winter</b>  <i>but</i>  The <b>Summer</b> Festival
Articles in Place Names	The names of some places have an article as a part of their proper noun. Example: ‘the United States’, ‘the Netherlands’	She traveled to the <b>Netherlands</b>
Titles in Formal Writing	If a brand or work of art utilises lowercase letters (e.g., “iPhone”), using traditional capitalisation unless a different style is specified.	The store sells <b>iPhones</b> .
Generic Usage	When a proper noun becomes a general phrase or verb, such as “googling” for searching or “xerox” for photocopying, capitalisation standards may differ depending on the context; however, professional writing prefers to capitalise them.	Formally, ‘I used <b>Google</b> to search’.  Informally: ‘I <b>googled</b> it’.

**3. Collective Noun:** The kind of noun that refers to a group of people, animals, or things treated as a single entity. Although the group has several members, the term is typically considered singular when referring to the group as a whole.

## Hierarchy of Collective Nouns

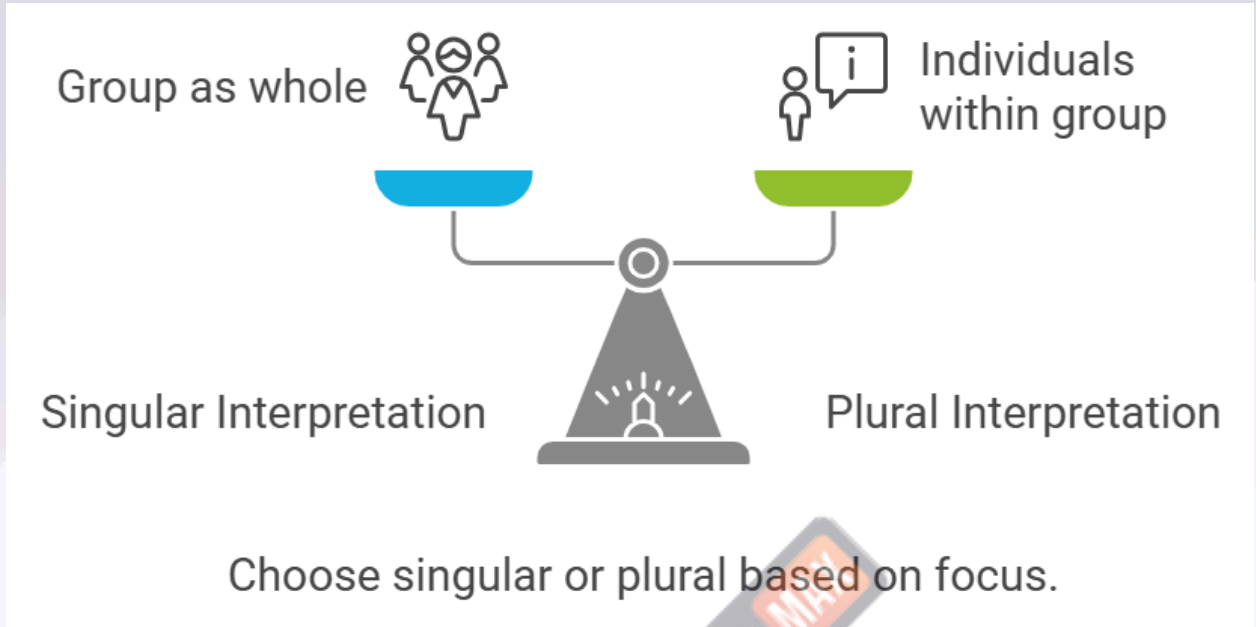


### Key Features of Collective Nouns:

- **Singular and Plural Uses:** A collective noun is normally handled as singular, even if it refers to numerous people because the group is viewed as a whole. However, in other circumstances, it may be interpreted as plural when focused on the individuals within the group.

**Example:** The **team** is winning the match.(singular - the team as a unit)

**Example:** The **team** have been arguing among themselves.(plural - individuals in the team)



- **Variety of Categories:** Collective **nouns** describe groupings of humans, animals, things, and abstract notions.

### Uses of Collective Nouns:

#### i. Collective Nouns for People:

These terms allude to groups of individuals behaving as one.

- **Army:** A group of soldiers.

**Examples:**

The **army** is ready for the republic parade.

An **army** of volunteers cleaned the park within a week.

- **Committee:** A group of people appointed for a specific task.

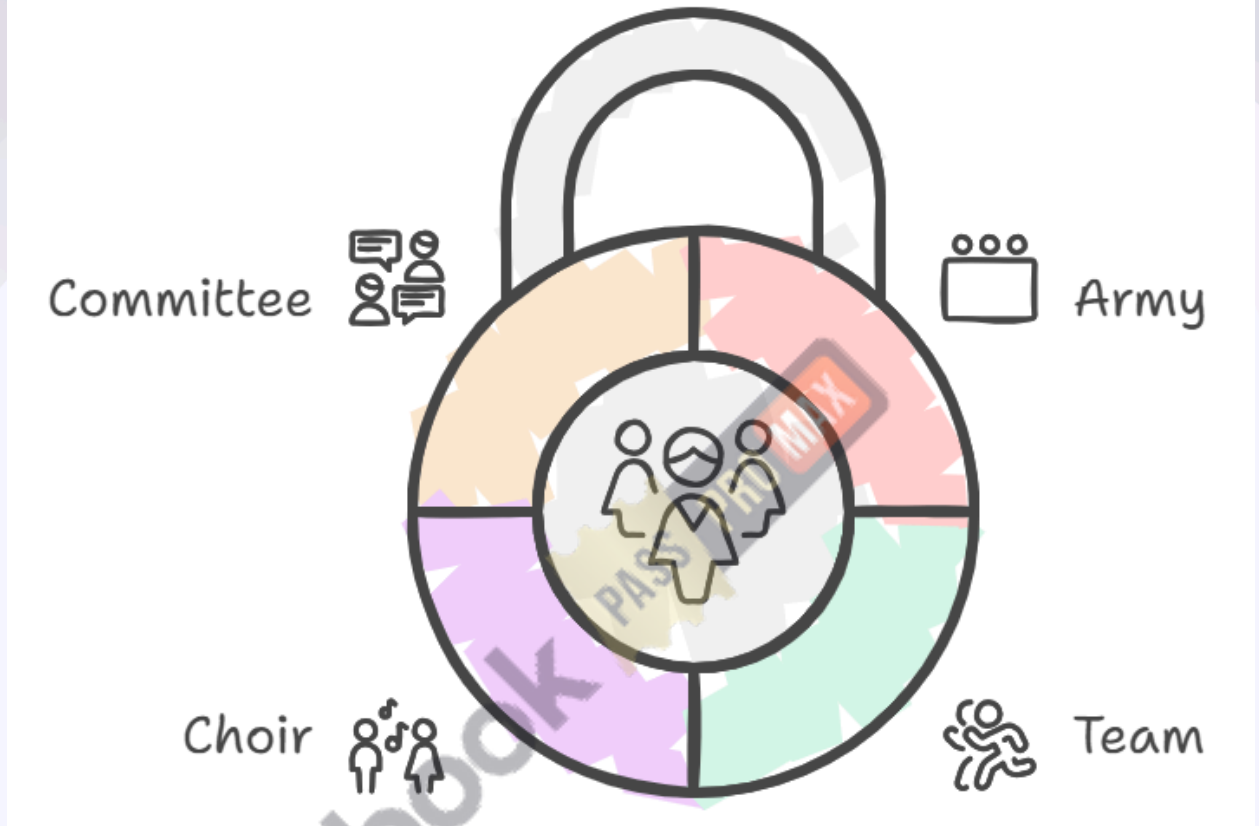
**Examples:**

The **committee** was discussing the new policy introduced by the government.

(The singular verb **'was'** is used as the **'committee'** is treated as a single unit.)

The **committee** have different opinions on the issue of primary education for children. (The plural verb **'have'** is used as the **'committee'** is NOT treated as a single unit.)

## Collective Nouns for People



### ii. Collective Nouns for Animals:

These nouns refer to groups of animals.

- **Herd:** a big group of animals, primarily hoofed mammals, that live or are maintained together as livestock.

**Examples:**

A **herd** of cattle is crossing the main road.

The **herd** of cows grazes in the field.

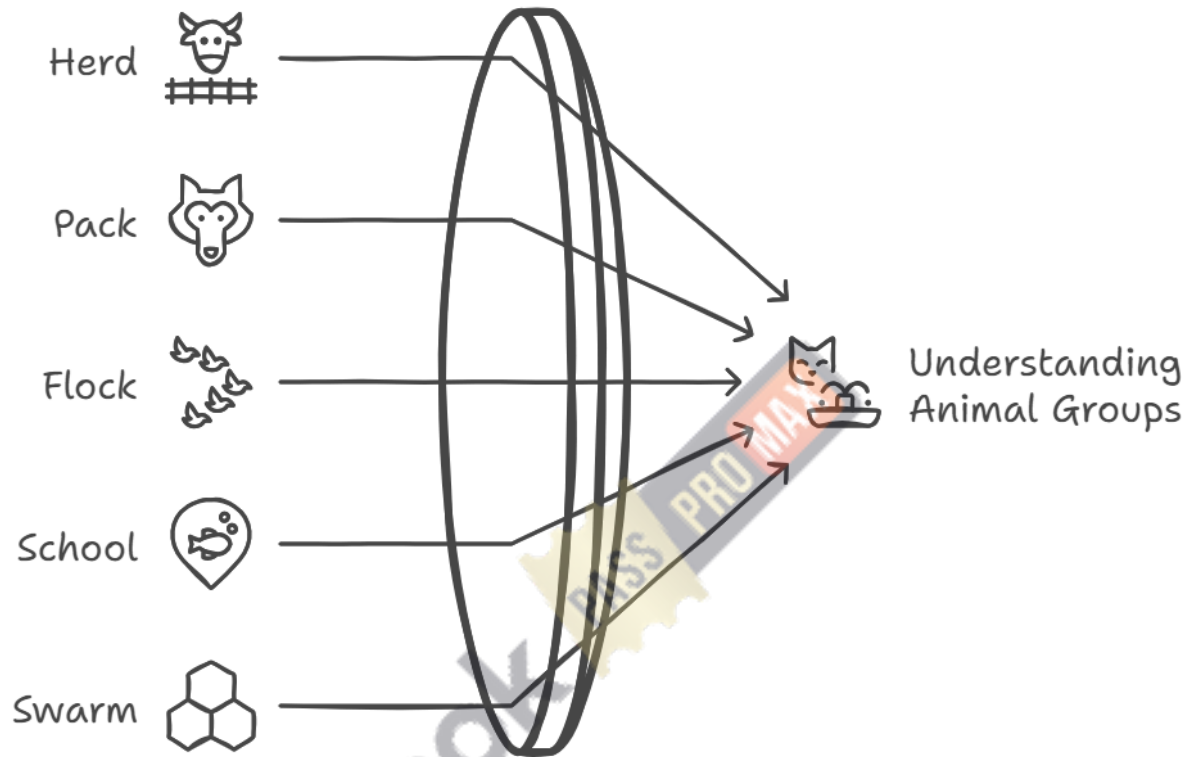
- **Flock:** A group of birds of the same kind feeding, resting, or travelling together.

**Examples:**

A **flock** of gulls flew over the bridge.

The lady kept a **flock** of hens in her garden.

## Collective Nouns for Animals



### iii. Collective Nouns for Things:

These nouns refer to groups of objects, items, or concepts.

- **Bunch:** A collection of items, usually of the same type, growing or tied together.

**Examples:**

She received a **bunch** of flowers as a birthday present.

He lost a **bunch** of keys at the fair.

- **Pack:** A collection of objects or creatures, as wolves or cards.

**Examples:**

A **pack** of wolves is hunting for its new prey.

He bought a **pack** of playing cards at the mall.

## Understanding Collective Nouns for Things



### iv. Collective Nouns for Places:

These are organisations or gatherings that occur in certain locations or settings.

- **Class:** A group of students.

**Examples:**

The **class** was attentive during the whole lecture.

The **class** took a field trip to the museum.

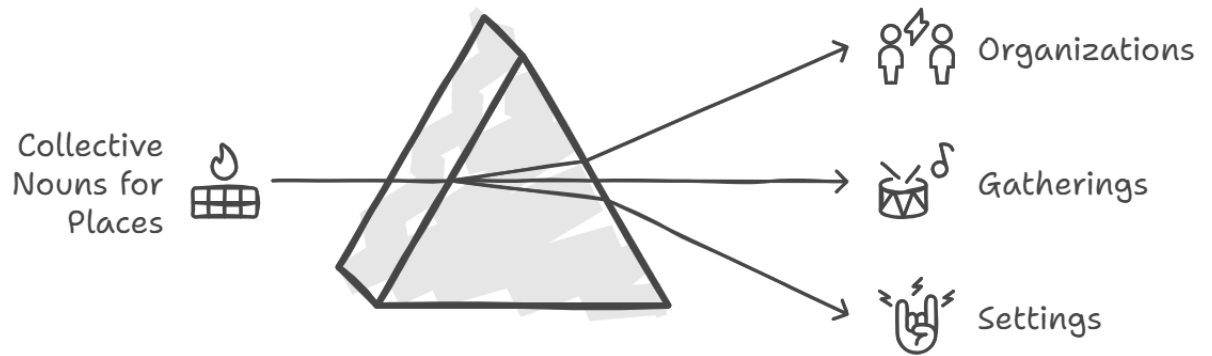
- **Audience:** A number of people have assembled to watch or listen to something.

**Examples:**

The **audience** applauded after the brilliant performance by the singer.

The **audience** is eagerly waiting for the past couple of hours for the show to begin.

### Exploring Collective Nouns for Places



#### v. Collective Nouns for Abstract Concepts:

These terms relate to a group of thoughts or abstract objects.

- **Team:** A group of people collaborated on a task or game.

##### Examples:

The **team** has won the championship for the third time in a row.

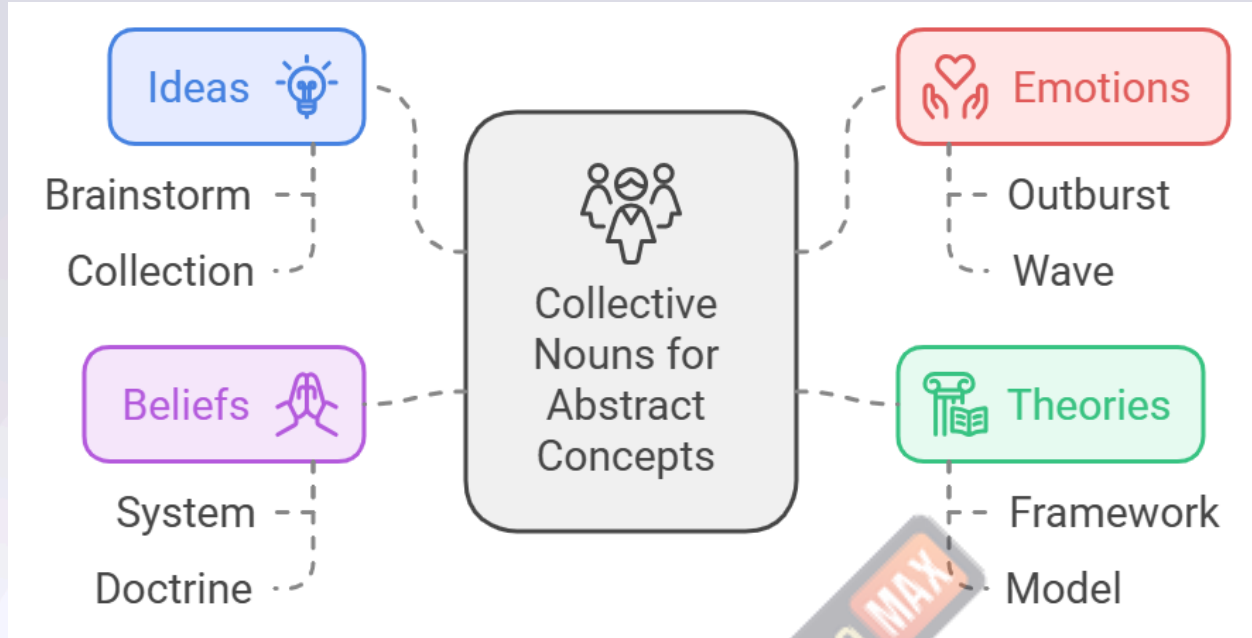
The **team** is brainstorming new project ideas for the app's user interface.

- **Government:** A group of people who run a country and make rules and policies ensuring its citizens a better life.

##### Examples:

The **government** is planning new reforms in the old Education policy.

The **government** has passed the new bill, turning it into an Act.



**Exceptions and Special Rules:**

1. **Singular vs. Plural Agreement:** Collective nouns can be singular or plural, depending on whether the group is viewed as a single entity or as an individual.
  - **Singular uses:** The **team** has been playing well. (treating the team as one unit)
  - **Plural usage:** The **team** are arguing about a controversial topic. (treating the team members individually)

How to view a collective noun for proper grammatical agreement?



### Singular Perspective

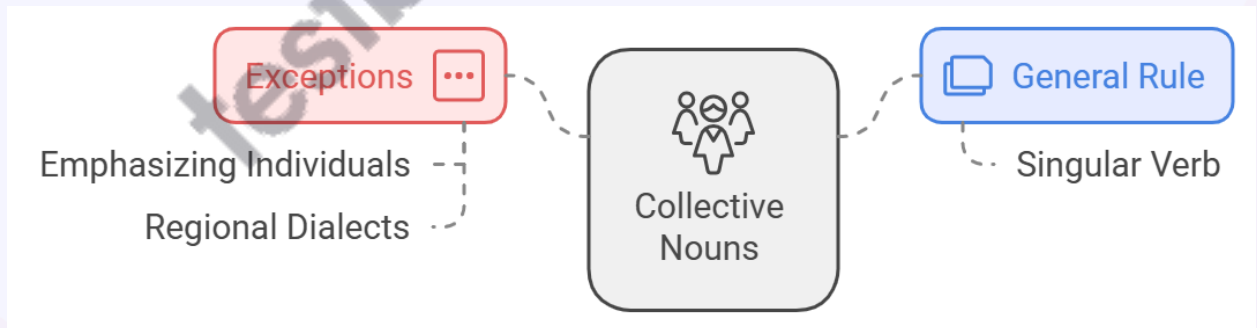
Treats the group as a single entity

### Plural Perspective

Considers individuals within the group

2. **Exceptions with Collective Nouns in Context:** In some cases, collective nouns require a plural verb.

- **Police:** Although 'Police' refers to a group, it is always used with a plural verb.  
**Example:** The **police** are investigating the matter where the child is missing.
- **People:** Although "people" is a collective noun, it always requires a plural verb.  
**Example:** The **people** of New York are concerned about the new law with exorbitant tax rates.



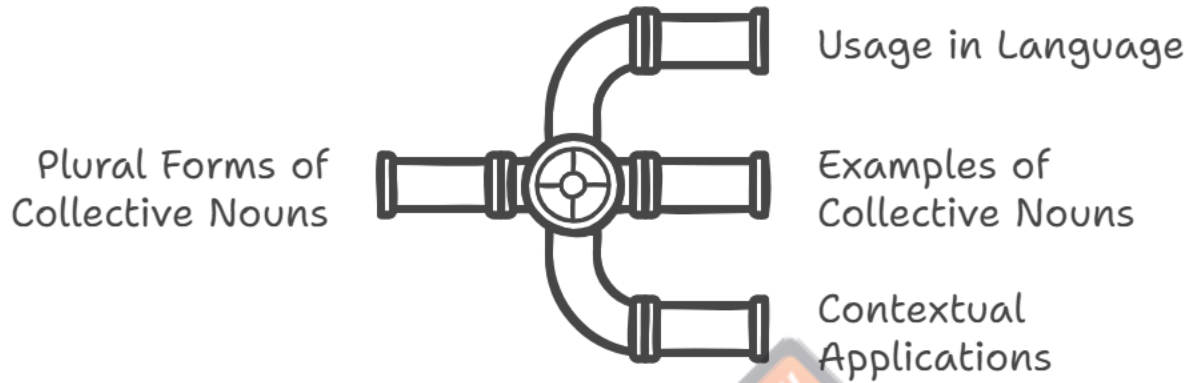
3. **Plural Forms of Collective Nouns:** When referring to more than one group, collective nouns can take on plural forms.

**Examples:**

There were several **committees** that were handling different projects.

Both **families** live next door.

## Exploring Plural Forms of Collective Nouns

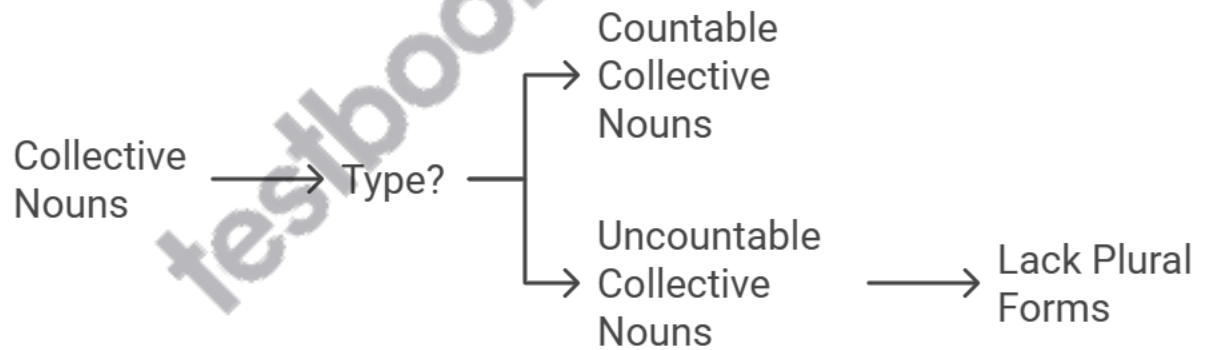


4. **Uncountable Collective Nouns:** Some collective nouns are uncountable and lack plural forms.

**Examples:**

The termite-infested **furniture** was moved into the new house. (No plural form of "furniture")

His **luggage** was packed and ready to be shipped (No plural form of "luggage").



Some common Collective <b>Nouns</b>
A <b>tribe of Indians</b>
A <b>choir of singers</b>
A <b>band of musicians</b>

<i>A regiment of soldiers</i>
<i>A bench of judges</i>
<i>A panel of experts</i>
<i>A team of players</i>
<i>A troupe of dancers</i>
<i>An army of soldiers</i>
<i>An audience of listeners</i>
<i>An orchestra of musicians</i>

**4. Material Noun:** Material nouns describe substances or materials found in nature or utilised to make other things. These nouns primarily indicate raw materials or natural resources that can be used to manufacture products, and they are frequently uncountable (mass nouns), which means they have no plural forms and are considered singular.

### Material Nouns

#### Examples

Includes substances like water, sand, and metals that are uncountable.

#### Definition

Describes substances or materials found in nature or used to make other things.

#### Characteristics

Often uncountable, indicating singularity and lack of plural forms.

**Key Features of Material Nouns:**

- Material **Nouns** are uncountable nouns
- **Singular verb** is used with them
- **Articles** are **not** used with them

**Example**

- My father has a shop for diamonds
- Calcium is a good mineral for health
- Plastic is made up of many molecules of ethylene