

# NOUNS

*What are they? What are they for? How can they be used in Latin?*

A **noun** is a word that can be the name of a person, animal, place, thing, event or idea.

1. *Write down as many nouns as you can think of in the time given. Try adding words from every category.*

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- The nouns in the following English text are in *italics*, to help you recognize them.

The *Romans*, at the *time* of the *Empire*, imported *goods* from *countries* around the *Mediterranean Sea*. Fancy *furniture* from *Asia Minor* decorated the *rooms* of wealthy *Romans*, while Greek *statues* and finely painted *vases* decorated the *garden* and the *atrium*.

2. *Circle the nouns in the following sentences.*

- a. Diana was the goddess of the moon.
- b. Phoebus Apollo, her twin brother, was the god of the sun.
- c. Mars was the god of war.
- d. Juno was goddess of marriage and childbirth.
- e. These deities lived on Mt. Olympus, and thus they were called the Olympians.

## A) Gender

- **In Latin** every noun, pronoun and adjective has a gender: it can be classified as **masculine** (m.), **feminine** (f.), or **neuter** (n.).
- **In English** certain pronouns and possessive adjectives have genders, relating to the biological sex of the subject.

For example:

Did Paul give Mary the book? Yes, **he** gave **it** to **her**.

- a. Mark with an **m**, **f**, or **n**, the gender of the underlined nouns in the following phrase:

Mary returned the book to Paul, and he was glad to see she had read it.

- When a noun's gender relates to its **biology** it is called \_\_\_\_\_. When it does not relate to that it is called **grammatical gender**.
- **In Latin**, the ending of the **noun** or **adjective** usually indicates what gender it is, regardless of whether it is biological or grammatical gender.

***\*It is very important that when you learn a Latin noun, you learn what gender it is.\****

## B) Number

- In English and in Latin a noun has a **number**, which means it can be identified by whether it is \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
  - **In English**, to turn a **singular noun** into a **plural noun** you can add '**-s**' or '**-es**'

For example:

book          books

kiss          kisses

box          box\_\_\_\_\_

house          house\_\_\_\_

- Some singular nouns change their spelling to turn into plural nouns.

mouse          mice

man          men

goose          \_\_\_\_\_

leaf          \_\_\_\_\_

- **In Latin** the ending of a noun will let you know whether it is **singular** or **plural**.

## C) Function

- A **noun** can have different functions in a sentence. It can be a **subject** or it can be an **object**.
  - **Subject:**
    - The **subject** of a sentence is the person or thing performing the action of the verb.
    - To find the subject, first find the **verb** and then ask **who\_\_?** or **what\_\_?** before the verb.

For example:

King Midas helps the satyr.

**Verb:** helps

*Who* helps the satyr? **Answer:** King Midas.

*King Midas* is the singular subject of the verb *helps*.

- If a sentence has more than one verb, you have to find the subject of each verb.

Bacchus was the god of wine and theatre, and the satyrs belonged to him.

**Verb 1:** was

*Who* was the god of wine and theatre? **Answer:** Bacchus (*singular subject*)

**Verb 2:** belonged

*Who* belonged to him? **Answer:** satyrs (*plural subject*)

a. Find the subjects in the following sentences:

- Next to Q, write the question you need to ask to find the subject. Next to A, write the answer.
  - Circle if the subject is Singular (S) or Plural (P)
1. King Midas turned to gold everything he touched.

Q. \_\_\_\_\_

A. \_\_\_\_\_

S   P

2. The servants prepared a sumptuous feast in celebration.

Q. \_\_\_\_\_

A. \_\_\_\_\_

S   P

○ **Object:**

- The **objects** are nouns that receive the action of the verb. They indicate *towards what* or *whom* the action of the verb is directed.
- There are three types of objects: **direct objects**, **indirect object**, and **objects of a preposition**.
- A **direct object** is a noun that receives the action of the verb directly. It answers the question *whom* or *what* after the verb.

For example:

**Bacchus blesses King Midas.**

Bacchus blesses *whom*? King Midas.

King Midas is the direct object.

**Midas touches the apple.**

Midas touches *what*? \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ is the direct object.

***\*Some sentences do not have direct objects\****

- An **indirect object** is a noun that receives the action of the verb indirectly, through the prepositions 'to' or 'for'. An indirect object answers the question *to/for whom?* or *to/for what?* asked after the verb.

For example:

**Bacchus gives a blessing to King Midas**

Bacchus gives a blessing *to whom*? King Midas.

King Midas is the indirect object.

**The servants prepared a feast for the king.**

The servants prepared a feast *for whom*? The king.

The king is the indirect object.

- An **object of a preposition** is a noun that follows a preposition and is related to it. An indirect object answers the question *whom?* or *what?* asked after the preposition.

For example:

## The king is in the river

The king is in the *what?* The river.

*River* is the object of the preposition in.

***\*A sentence can have a direct object without an indirect object, but not an indirect object without a direct object.\****

### D) Case

- **In Latin**, a noun can have a variety of forms that depend on its *function* in the sentence. Usually the ending of the word is the one that changes, but sometimes the entire word changes according to the case.
- **In English** pronouns can be subject to case changes.
  - **Subjective case:** when a pronoun acts as a subject.

*She* came home late.

- **Objective case:** when a pronoun acts as an object.

John saw *her* every day.

- **Possessive case:** when a pronoun indicates ownership.

I took *mine* and he took *his*.

1. *Indicate the case of the underlined noun or pronoun with a circle.*

- He could not eat any golden food.
- His hands touched the apple and it became gold.
- Midas begged him to take the blessing away.

S   O   P

S   O   P

S   O   P