second edition

MODERN ENGLISH

exercises for non-native speakers

PART I: parts of speech

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# Nouns

## Structural Description of Nouns

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<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Sentences</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. subject of verb</td>
<td>John loves Mary.</td>
<td>before the verb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. object of verb</td>
<td>John loves Mary.</td>
<td>after the verb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. direct object</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. indirect object</td>
<td>John sent Mary money.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. retained object</td>
<td>Mary was sent some money.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. object of preposition</td>
<td>I took it from John.</td>
<td>after a preposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. complement</td>
<td>John is the president.</td>
<td>after the verb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. subjective (after verbs like be)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. objective</td>
<td>They elected John president.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. noun adjunct</td>
<td>John waited at the bus stop.</td>
<td>before a noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. appositive</td>
<td>John, president of his club, gave a speech.</td>
<td>after a noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. direct address</td>
<td>John, come here.</td>
<td>usually at the beginning of the sentence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Form

- **Inflectional Endings**
  - -s for plural
  - 's or s’ for possessive

- **Derivational Endings**
  - -ment; -ion;
  - -a(e)nce;
  - -ure; -age;
  - -th; -ness;
  - -hood; -ship;
  - -ity; -ing

- **Determiners:**
  - The _____ (articles)
  - My _____ (possessives)
  - This _____ (demonstratives)
  - Four _____ (numbers)
  - Some _____ (indefinite pronouns)

- **Descriptive adjectives:**
  - Large _____

- **Prepositions:**
  - In _____

- **Other nouns:**
  - Bus _____

### Markers

- **Determiners:**
  - The _____ (articles)
  - My _____ (possessives)
  - This _____ (demonstratives)
  - Four _____ (numbers)
  - Some _____ (indefinite pronouns)

- **Descriptive adjectives:**
  - Large _____

- **Prepositions:**
  - In _____

- **Other nouns:**
  - Bus _____
INFLECTED POSSESSIVE FORMS

1. Use ’s for all nouns not ending in s.
   a. singular nouns—The girl’s dress is expensive.
   b. irregular plurals of nouns—The children’s dresses are expensive.

2. Use ’ for all nouns already ending in s.
   a. plural nouns—The girls’ dresses are expensive.
   b. singular nouns, especially proper nouns—Dickens’ (also Dickens’s) novels are excellent.

3. Use ’s at the end of a group of nouns—The Queen of England’s throne; the boy from Canada’s mother.

The inflected possessive form is generally preferred for words referring to animate beings, the of phrase for words signifying things or ideas. However, the inflected form may also be used with nouns that represent: time (a day’s journey), natural phenomena (the earth’s atmosphere), political entities (Japan’s industrialization), groups of people working together (the company’s new refinery).

Change the of phrases in the following sentences to inflected possessive forms.

EXAMPLE:  
a. The parents of the students were invited to the graduation.  
The students’ parents were invited to the graduation.

   b. It has always been the policy of this newspaper to report the news honestly and accurately.  
   It has always been this newspaper’s policy to report the news honestly and accurately.

1. The house of Mr. Jones has recently been sold.

2. The crew of the ship decided to go on strike.

3. He was irritated by the attitude of his friends.

4. The rays of the sun shine on all.

5. The courteous service of the waiters pleased all the guests in the restaurant.
Add the noun suffixes to the words given below. Make whatever changes are necessary.

bury + al ____________________________  vary + ety ____________________________
apply + cation ______________________  lovely + ness _________________________
marry + age _________________________  lively + hood ________________________
try + al _____________________________  lazy + ness _________________________
holy + day __________________________  likely + hood ________________________
handy + man (exception)\(^7\) ________________  busy + ness ________________________

1-10

DERIVATION (5)

CHANGING THE STEM BEFORE NOUN SUFFIXES

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate noun forms. Because the first part of each of the words in this exercise changes when the noun suffix is added, you may need the help of a dictionary.

Nouns from Verbs

1. The (maintain) __________________________ of that building is the responsibility of Mr. Jones.
2. He gave a vivid (describe) __________________________ of his home town.
3. The child was punished for his (disobey) __________________________.
4. His (succeed) __________________________ in business was the result of hard work.
5. Everyone would like a (reduce) __________________________ in taxes.
6. We must find a (solve) __________________________ to this problem.
7. His wife’s constant (suspect) __________________________ of infidelity irritated him.
8. The judge’s (decide) __________________________ is final.
9. The tornado caused a great deal of (destroy) __________________________.
10. That gas can easily cause an (explode) __________________________.
11. What is the (pronounce) __________________________ of this word?
12. The (omit) __________________________ of a few words in the contract caused a great deal of trouble.

\(^7\)The y is kept before endings that form compounds, such as -man (laundryman), -side (countryside).
EXAMPLES:  
a. a book about grammar  a grammar book  
b. the end of the week  the weekend or the week-end  

1. a room for dining  
2. a store that sells drugs  
3. a bomb powered by atomic energy  
4. a salesman who travels  
5. the lids that cover the eyes  
6. a board for ironing clothes  
7. a person who keeps books  
8. gum for chewing  
9. a store that sells hardware  
10. seeing the sights  
11. control of birth  
12. stew with lamb  
13. production of steel  
14. a person who tends bar  
15. a person who witnesses a scene with his or her own eyes  
16. a store that sells books  
17. a gown worn at night for sleeping  
18. checks for travelers  
19. a mine of gold  
20. a carriage for a baby  

1-13  

AGREEMENT WITH VERBS (1)  

The verb must agree in number with the subject.  

The girl is resting.  
The girls are resting.  

If the subject includes modifiers, the verb agrees with the noun head in the subject.  

His technique for solving crimes is very simple.  
The advertisements in the front part of a newspaper are usually the most expensive.
14. The number of people who understand Einstein’s theory of relativity (be) very small.

15. A number of people (be) waiting at the airport to greet the movie star.

16. The spirit in which these things are done (be) very important.

17. The people who live in this building (seem) very friendly.

I-14
AGREEMENT WITH VERBS (2)
NOUNS ENDING IN S

Some nouns ending in s may cause problems in agreement.

1. Some are singular noncountable nouns—news, billiards, economics (name of a field of study)

   The news about the increase in jobs is good.
   Physics is a difficult, but fascinating, subject.

   The name used for a field of study may be plural if it refers to a practical matter.

   The acoustics in this room are not good.

2. Some nouns have the same form for singular or plural—series, means, species.

3. Some nouns are plural only and require plural verbs—brains, riches, goods, clothes, premises, proceeds. Included in this group of plurals are nouns signifying two-part objects—scissors, trousers, eyeglasses.

4. Some nouns may be singular or plural—headquarters, barracks, measles (name of a disease).

5. Nouns representing quantities and amounts that are considered as one unit are usually singular—five dollars, three quarts.

   Five dollars is too much to pay for that pen.

Underline the correct form of the verb. Consult the dictionary in case of doubt about whether the noun ending in s is singular or plural.

1. Mathematics (has, have) never been my favorite subject.

2. The news printed in that paper (is, are) never accurate.

3. A second series of books on American literature (is, are) being planned by the publisher.

4. Several means of accomplishing our purpose (was, were) proposed at our meeting.

The number is usually singular, a number is plural.