

NOUNS

What are nouns?

Nouns are words that name *people, places, things, or ideas*. They include *gerunds, some infinitives, and the collective adjective*.

The **judge** granted the **petitioner** full custody of her **children**. (People)

Mrs. Garcia will move from her **house** in **California** to her **condominium** in **New York** next month. (Place)

The lawyer filed a **motion** to dismiss the **case**. (Thing)

The State values the **dignity** of every human person and guarantees full **respect** for human **rights**. (Idea)

Killing another person is the gravamen of Homicide. (Gerund)

To err is human. (Infinitive)

The poor are blessed. (Collective adjective)

2.1 The Categories of Nouns

a. What are **concrete and abstract nouns**?

Concrete nouns name people, places, or things you can touch, see, hear, smell, or taste. They refer to what can be perceived by the senses.

The **judge** granted the **petitioner** full custody of her **children**.

Mrs. Garcia will move from her **house** in **California** to her **condominium** in **New York** next month.

The **lawyer** filed a **motion** to dismiss the case.

Mr. Lopez and his **daughter** are **doctors**.

The **park** was along the **Pasig River**.

Henry bought a **Pepsi** and **popcorn** in the **store**.

Abstract nouns name intangible things, such as ideas, concepts, attributes, characteristics, or emotions. They refer to anything that is not directly observable.

The prosecutor expressed his **opinion** on the **subject** clearly and forcefully.

The Philippines values the **dignity** of every human person and guarantees full **respect** for human **rights**.

The **meeting** to discuss the **evidence** will be held on **Thursday** at **noon**.

We must fight for **justice** and **fairness**.

It is **time** to change **careers**.

Celina has both **beauty** and **intelligence**.

b. What are **common and proper nouns**?

Common nouns name any non-specific person, place, thing, or idea.

The **judge** granted the **petitioner** full **custody** of her **children**.

Mrs. Garcia will move from her **house** in California to her **condominium** in New York next **month**.

The **lawyer** filed a **motion** to dismiss the case.

Mr. Lopez and his **daughter** are **doctors**.

The **park** was along the Pasig River.

Henry bought a Pepsi and **popcorn** in the **store**.

Proper nouns are the names of specific or unique persons, places, or things. (Proper nouns are *capitalized*. If a professional title is used with the name, it is capitalized as well.)

Mrs. Garcia will move from her house in **California** to her condominium in **New York** next month.

The park was along the **Pasig River**.

Henry bought a **Pepsi** and popcorn in the store.

Atty. Jasmin obtained her **Master of Laws** from **Harvard University**.

2.2 The Properties of Nouns

Nouns have four main properties: *Number*, *Case*, *Gender*, and *Person*.

a. Number

What is the number of nouns?

The number of nouns tells us whether a noun is *singular* or *plural*.

i. Singular nouns name only one person, place, thing, or idea.

A law **student** was caught smoking in the **classroom**.

A **committee** of **seven** has been formed.

Sauce for the **goose** is sauce for the **gander**.

The **store** is famous for antique **furniture**.

ii. Plural nouns name more than one person, place, thing, or idea.

He asked his **students** to submit **assignments** on time.

The **alumni** of this University meet once a year.

What are the **criteria** for judging the **essays**?

The **police** arrived in time to arrest the **robbers**.

What are countable and uncountable nouns?

i. Countable nouns are those that can be treated as individual, separate units. They may be used with the articles *a*, *an*, and *the*. They can be used in the plural form with words like *few*, *many*, and *these*, but not with *much* or *less*.

They drafted three **pleadings** last week.

The **witnesses** for the **defendant** testified last week.

He borrowed two million **pesos** from a **bank** yesterday.

ii. Uncountable nouns (or mass nouns) name something which cannot be divided into individual elements or separate parts. They cannot be plural. They can be tangible objects, such as **substances like** water, air, wood, and smoke, or **collective categories** of things, such as luggage, homework, accommodation, and furniture. They can be intangible objects, concepts, and ideas like love, knowledge, beauty, justice, and news.

The **smoke** in the room *is* suffocating. (substances)
The farmer gathered **wood** in the forest. (substances)
The **furniture** for the bedroom *has been delivered*. (collectives)
Your **hair** *looks* terrific. (collectives)
The **news** was reported earlier. (concepts)
Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder. (concepts)

What are collective nouns?

Collective nouns name a group or a collection of people or things. They are countable and have singular and plural forms.

The boys in the **band** are good musicians.
Two **bands** played in the concert.
His **family** is on vacation.
The **families** of Ben and Carlos are in Tokyo.
A **pride** of lions was on the prowl.
Several **prides** of lions were spotted in South Africa.

What are the rules on the inflection of nouns from singular to plural?

a.1. The plural noun is generally formed by adding **-s** to the singular

book/books, dog/dogs, plaintiff/plaintiffs
N/Ns, 1960/1960s, CD/CDs, John/Johns, Mary/Marys

a.2. Nouns ending in *-s*, *-sh*, *-ch*, and *-x* form their plural by adding **-es** to the singular.

Class/classes, bush/bushes, watch/watches, box/boxes

a.3. Most nouns ending in *consonant* + *-o* form their plural by adding **-es** to the singular.

hero/heroes, potato/potatoes, mango/mangoes, veto/vetoes

a.4. A few nouns ending in *vowel* + *-o* or *abbreviations ending in -o* form their plural by adding **-s**

radio/radios, zoo/zoos, kilo (abbreviation of a kilogram)/kilos,
photo (abbreviation of photographs/photos, logo(abbreviation of
logotype) /logos

a.5. Nouns ending in *consonant* + *-y* form their plural by changing *-y* to **-i** and adding **-es**.

baby/babies, city/cities, story /stories, lady/ladies, dormitory/dormitories, ferry/ferries

a.6. Nouns ending in *-f* or *-fe* form their plural by changing *-f* to *-v* and adding **-es**.

knife/knives, wife/wives, half/halves, leaf/leaves, wolf/wolves, thief/thieves

a. 7. Most other nouns ending in *vowel* + *-f* or *-fe* form their plural by adding **-s**.

chief/chiefs, proof/proofs, giraffe/giraffes, roof/roofs

a.8. A few nouns form their plural by changing their **vowels** and **even consonants**

man/men, woman/women, foot/feet, mouse/mice, goose/ geese, tooth/teeth, ox/oxen,

a.9. Words from other languages form their plural in different ways

alumnus/alumni, radius/radii, agendum/ agenda, stimulus/stimuli, memorandum/memoranda, crisis/crises, analysis/analyses, hypothesis/hypotheses, criterion/criteria, appendix/appendices, index/indices, vertex/vertices

a.10. Some nouns have the same form for singular and plural

bison, deer, moose, sheep, salmon, aircraft, insignia, spacecraft, crossroads, means, series, trout, gallows, species (a specific type of animal, plant, or living thing)

Other rules on the number of nouns

a.11 Some nouns exist only in plural form.

glasses, pajamas, scissors, shorts
pants, binoculars, jitters, tweezers

a. 12 Measurements of distance, time, and amount are singular.

Eight miles is too far to travel on foot.
Five days is enough time to file the reply.
\$20,000 has been credited to your account.

a.13 Uncountable Nouns or Mass Nouns are singular.

The **smoke** in the room is suffocating.
The **furniture** for the bedroom has been delivered.
The **news** was reported earlier.
Tea is my favorite drink.
The **evidence** is clear and convincing.
Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder.
Your **hair** looks terrific.

a.14 Collective nouns such as family, jury, team, committee, orchestra, herd, and platoon may be singular or plural. However, even their singular form may be plural when the context refers to the individuals in the group rather than the group as a whole.

The **jury** has made its verdict.
The **jury** have taken their seats.

The **team** practices every day.
The **team** go to their homes when their season is over.

The **committee** has adjourned its meeting.
The **committee** were taking their bathroom breaks.

a.15 A few collective nouns are always plural.

The **police** have arrived.
The **people** are marching on the streets.
Cattle are raised on large farms.

b. Case

What is the case of nouns?

The **case of a noun** tells us a noun's function in a sentence. They may be *nominative, objective, dative, possessive, vocative, or predicative nominative*.

i. Nominative Case

The noun is in the nominative case when it is the **subject** of the sentence. The subject in a sentence (or clause) is the person or thing doing, performing, or controlling the verb's action.

Congress has the sole authority to proclaim the winning candidates for President and Vice-President.

The **quarterback** hurriedly threw Peter the football when the opposing **players** blitzed him.

The **defendant** rested his case because his last **witness** did not appear in court.

ii. Objective Case

The noun is in the objective case if it is the **direct object of the verb** or *the object of the preposition*. The direct object of the verb is the receiver of the action of the verb; the *object of the preposition* is the noun governed by the preposition in a prepositional phrase.

Direct Objects of the Verb

Nicole *briefs* three **cases** a day.

The quarterback hurriedly *threw* Peter the **football** when the opposing players blitzed him.

The defendant *rested* his **case** because his last witness did not appear in court.

The crowd *will cheer* the **President**.

Objects of the Preposition

The cat **on** the *roof* is black.

The food **on** the *table* is still hot.

Put your clothes **in** the *cabinet*.

This song was written **for** *you*.

The lion is the king **of** the *jungle*.

iii. Dative Case

The noun is in the dative case if it is the **indirect object** of the *verb*. The **indirect object** of the verb is the receiver of the *direct object*.

The quarterback *threw* **Peter** the *football*.

The attorney *sent* the **company** his *resume*.

Susan *loaned* **Bernadette** some *money*.

Important: **Indirect objects can only be placed directly after the verb and before the direct object.**

The following sentences mean the same but have different mechanics.

The attorney *sent* the **company** his *resume*. (“Company” is the indirect object.)

The attorney *sent* his *resume* **to the company**. (“Company” is the object of the preposition “to.”)

iv. Possessive Case

The noun is in the possessive case if it denotes **possession**. Nouns in the

possessive case function as *adjectives* and are called *determiners*.

The **lawyer's** opinion was authoritative.
Aaron borrowed **Nicole's** calculator.

v. **Vocative case**

Nouns in the vocative case (nouns of address or vocatives) are used in direct speech to identify **the person or persons directly spoken to by the speaker**.

If the common noun is the *title of a job* or *family member* and is used in place of a person's name, it should be capitalized. But when we use terms of endearment in place of a person's name, we do not capitalize.

"Sorry, **Coach**, I didn't hear you earlier."

"Can I go out with my friends tonight, **Dad**?"

"How are you doing, **Doctor**?"

"Thanks, **friend**; I appreciate your help."

"Please get me a glass of water, **sweetheart**."

vi. **Predicate Nominative**

A noun is in the predicative nominative case if it follows a linking verb and renames the subject. It is also called a *subject complement*.

These boys are **athletes**. (noun)

Volleyball is a *non-contact* **sport**. (noun phrase)

He was *the managing* **partner of the firm before his retirement**. (noun phrase)

c. **Gender**

What is the gender of nouns?

The gender of nouns tells us about the sex of the noun.

There are four genders: *masculine, feminine, common, and neuter*.

i. Masculine

It refers to a male character or member of the species.

A **boy** is playing in the park.

The **hero** of the story is blind.

The **king** loves his people.

The sauce for the goose is sauce for the **gander**.

ii. Feminine

It refers to a female member of the species.

Her **daughters** and **nieces** study at Harvard.

The **empress** owns vast tracts of land.

Where did the farmer put his **hens**?

Behind every successful man is a **woman**.

iii. Common

It refers to a member of the species, which can be either male or female.

A **child** likes to play.

A **leader** serves his people.

Dogs go to heaven.

Our **cousins** from Australia arrived yesterday.

iv. Neuter

It refers to things that are neither male nor female.

My students are often in the **library**.

The **ball** rolled into a **pool** of **water**.

d. Person

What is the person of nouns?

The person of nouns describes the relationship of the noun to the speaker.

It may be first person, second person, or third person.

i. First Person: The noun itself is the speaker.

I, **Juan dela Cruz**, am the elected class beadle.
We, the first-year **students**, seek an audience with the dean.

The nouns *Juan dela Cruz* and *students* are in the first person because these nouns themselves are speaking in the sentence.

ii. Second Person: The noun spoken to is in the second person.

Donna, please read your poem.
Listen to me, **children**.

The nouns *Donna* and *children* are in the second person because these are the nouns spoken to.

iii. Third Person: The noun spoken about is in the third person.

The **army** defeated the **enemy**.
The **president** was pleased with the ambassador's **gift**.

The nouns *army* and *enemy* in the first sentence and the nouns *president* and *gift* in the second sentence are all in the third person because they are all being spoken about.

2.3. Other Categories of Nouns

a. Compound Nouns

What is a compound noun?

A **compound noun** is a noun made up of two or more words. It may be a single-word combination, two words, or a hyphenated word.

Single word: haircut, toothpaste, football, rattlesnake, courtroom

Two words: grand jury, ice cream, Atlantic Ocean, blue jays, trash can

Hyphenated word: city-state, runner-up, six-year-old, brother-in-law

Compound nouns may be formed by combining two or more words:

Noun+noun: bedroom, motorcycle, toothpaste, bus stop, fish tank, water bottle

Noun+verb: rainfall, sunrise, sunset, haircut

Noun+prepositional phrase: Brother-in-law, mother-in-law, comrade-in-arms, sergeant-at-arms

Adjective+noun: mobile phone, software, small talk, whiteboard, full moon

Verb+noun: breakfast, washing machine, swimming pool, pickpocket

Plurals of compound nouns

We usually add “s” or “es” to the **defining word** (semantic head) of the compound noun. The defining word is that word that conveys the primary meaning.

courtroom	courtrooms
water bottle	water bottles
greenhouse	greenhouses
football	footballs
full moon	full moons
mother-in-law	mothers-in-law
secretary-general	secretaries-general
passerby	passersby
commander-in-chief	commanders-in-chief
attorney-at-law	attorneys-at-law
notary public	notaries public
solicitor general	solicitors general
bill of attainder	bills of attainder
city-state	city-states
child laborer	child laborers
per diem	per diems
passerby	passersby
hanger-on	hangers-on
force majeure	forces majeures
fait accompli	faits accomplis
corpus delicti	corpora delicti
plaintiff-appellant	plaintiffs-appellants

b. Verbals: Gerunds and Infinitives

What are verbals?

A **verbal** is a verb form that does not function as a verb and acts as another part of speech in a sentence. Gerunds and infinitives are verbals.

i. Gerunds

A **gerund** is the present participle form of a verb that functions as a noun.

Smoking is not permitted in the restaurant. (Subject)

Swimming is a demanding sport. (Subject)

Susan considered **resigning** from her job. (Direct Object)

The team practiced **kicking** the football. (Direct Object)

I give **studying** my priority. (Indirect Object/ The direct object is the word *priority*.)

Mrs. Acuzar gave painting a try. (Indirect Object/ The direct object is the word *try*.)

His love *for* **writing** was intense. (Object of the Preposition)

My *responsibility* here is **coordinating** the work of associates. (Subject Complement)

ii. Infinitives

An **infinitive** is the base verb form preceded by “to” that functions as *a noun, an adjective, or an adverb*.

As a noun

To err is human; **to forgive** is divine. (Subject)

To fly *an airplane* is difficult. (Subject)

I am trying **to study**. (Direct Object)

I wanted **to cook** *dinner for my friends*. (Direct Object)

His goal is **to become** *a lawyer*. (Subject Complement)

As an adjective

Kai is a *player* **to watch out for**. (The infinitive modifies the noun *player*.)

The manager is *the person* **to see**. (The infinitive modifies the noun *person*.)

As an adverb

Dr. Montano *is working* on weekends **to boost** his income. (The infinitive modifies the verb *is working*.)

Gilbert *studies* hard **to get** a scholarship. (The infinitive modifies the verb *studies*.)

c. Appositives

What is an appositive?

An **appositive** is a noun element immediately following another noun element to define or further identify it.

An appositive may be **restrictive or non-restrictive**. (Commas frame a non-restrictive appositive.)

A **restrictive appositive** is essential for understanding. A **non-restrictive appositive** is removable bonus information.

a. *Robert Burns*, **the poet**, wrote many songs about women.

(Non-restrictive)

b. Kirby, my dog, will chew slippers if you leave them on the floor.

(Non-restrictive)

c. The roads in *Paris*, **the most romantic city in the world**, have no stop signs. (Non-restrictive)

a. *The poet* **Robert Burns** wrote many songs about women. (Restrictive)

b. *My sister* **Dawn** loves to bake cakes. (Restrictive)

c. *Her favorite city* **Paris** has roads with no stop signs. (Restrictive)

3. PRONOUNS

What are pronouns?

Pronouns are words used in place of a noun in a sentence. The noun being replaced is known as the *antecedent of the pronoun*.

Atty. Amorado trains all *associates*. **He** gives **them** advice on drafting pleadings and contracts.

Those *criminals* consider **themselves** to be above the law.

The *president* **himself** will attend the conference.

Whom did you ask to write the report?

This isn't mine.

Neither of them plays well.

What are the *antecedents* of pronouns?

Antecedents are nouns represented by pronouns.

Atty. Amorado trains all *associates*. **He** gives **them** advice on drafting pleadings and contracts.

Justice Velasco **himself** penned the decision of the Supreme Court.

Nobody questioned the decision of the judge.

Marie drives a *Toyota Camry*; **she** keeps **it** in top condition.

Paquito regularly brings **his** incredibly talented *sister* to the museum because **he** loves **her**.

Like nouns, pronouns may be *singular* or *plural* and may function as the *subject*, the *direct object*, the *indirect object*, or the *object of the proposition*.

Justice Velasco **himself** penned the decision of the Supreme Court.
(Singular)

Atty. Amorado trains all *associates*. He gives **them** advice on drafting pleadings and contracts. (Plural)

3.1. Properties of Pronouns

The properties of pronouns are *number*, *person*, *gender*, and *case*.

a. Pronoun number: It may be singular or plural.

i. Singular pronouns are those used in place of singular nouns or antecedents.

Marie drives a Toyota Camry; **she** keeps **it** in top condition.

Atty. Amorado trains all associates. **He** gives them advice on drafting pleadings and contracts.

ii. Plural pronouns are those used in place of plural nouns or antecedents.

Atty. Amorado trains all associates. He gives **them** advice on drafting pleadings and contracts.

These clothes belong to Cristina. **They** are for sale.

Grace and I applied for Australian tourist visas. **We** are still waiting for approval.

b. Pronoun person: first person, second person, and third person.

First-person pronouns refer to the **one(s) doing the speaking**.

I want some water.

We collect books and magazines.

Those drafts are **mine**.

Second-person pronouns refer to the **one(s) spoken to**.

You are among the best and the brightest.

The case digests that we use are **yours**.

Third-person pronouns refer to **those spoken about**.

The panelists read your essay; **they** loved **it**.

He memorized the punctuation rules; there are so many of **them**.

c. Pronoun gender: It may be masculine, feminine, or neuter.

i. Masculine pronouns have *male antecedents*.

Atty. Amorado trains all associates. **He** gives them advice on drafting pleadings and contracts.

Socrates was a great philosopher and teacher. Many admired **him**.

The owner **himself** presided over the meeting.

ii. Feminine pronouns have *female antecedents*.

Marie drives a Toyota Camry; **she** keeps it in top condition.

These clothes belong to Cristina. **She herself** takes care of them.

The SS Freedom is a good ship. **She** has seen her fair share of adventure.

iii. Neuter pronouns have neuter antecedents.

Marie drives a Toyota Camry; she keeps **it** in top condition.

These clothes belong to Cristina. **They** are for sale.

d. Pronoun case: It may be subject, object, or possessive. The case is how a pronoun is used in a sentence.

i. Nominative or Subjective Case: Subject pronouns are pronouns used as the subject of a sentence or as a subject complement.

He told her to be quiet.

I know that **she** said that.

That television is **mine**.

ii. Objective Case: Object pronouns are used as direct objects, indirect objects, or objects of a preposition.

Take **him** away. (Direct object)

Please tell **them** any news immediately. (Indirect object)

It was new to **her**. (Object of the preposition)

iii. Possessive Case: Possessive Pronouns are pronouns that show ownership. They may be possessive pronouns or possessive determiners.

Possessive pronouns

The book is **mine**.

The argument is **his**.

The rooms are **theirs**.

Possessive determiners (Possessive determiners function as adjectives.)

This is **my** book.

Joseph loves reading books. It is **his** hobby.

The students insist that **their** rooms are clean.

3.2 Kinds of Pronouns

Pronouns may be *personal, reflexive, intensive, indefinite, demonstrative, interrogative, or relative pronouns*.

a. Personal Pronouns

Personal pronouns represent people or things in a sentence.

Marie drives a Toyota Camry; **she** keeps it in top condition.

Atty. Amorado trains all associates. **He** gives them advice on drafting pleadings and contracts.

Socrates was a great philosopher and teacher. Many admired **him**.

I walk to school every day.

My students are environmentalists. **They** plant trees once a month.

The associates are busy; Atty. Joseph asked **them** to draft pleadings.

Olga watched a movie; **she** liked **it**.

Martin bought a grammar book; **it** proved useful to **him**.

b. Reflexive Pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are pronouns that reflect back to the subject. The subject antecedent is the doer; the object pronoun is the receiver.

They consider **themselves** to be above the law.

I saw **myself** in the mirror.

One should not concern **oneself** with the business of others.

c. Intensive Pronouns

Intensive pronouns are pronouns that emphasize a preceding noun or pronoun.

I checked these documents **myself**.

I **myself** witnessed the shooting.

The president **himself** will attend.

d. Relative Pronouns

A **relative pronoun** shows a relationship between a noun and a clause. It is used to connect a relative clause to the main clause to help clarify the *antecedent* with essential (restrictive) or nonessential information (nonrestrictive).

i. Restrictive Relative Clause

The woman ***who*** *always sits next to me on the bus* is sick.

The book ***that*** *I wrote* is being published in January.

The man ***who*** *came to my house* was my witness.

I want a phone ***that*** *has a dual camera*.

A **restrictive relative clause** limits the noun it is referring to, or the woman, the book, the man, and the phone, from other women, books, men, and phones.

ii. Nonrestrictive Relative Clause

The person, ***whose*** *name can't be revealed*, appeared in court today.

Luneta Park, ***which*** *she used to visit when she was young*, was a popular gathering spot for children.

Mr. Samson, ***who*** *lives next door*, claims to be a superhero.

For a balloon to float, it must be filled with helium, **which is lighter than the air around it.**

Nonrestrictive relative clauses do not restrict the references of the nouns. They are not information that distinguishes the noun from its kind. They only provide incidental information.

Nonrestrictive relative clauses are set off by commas.

The relative pronoun may be the *subject, object, or determiner* in a relative clause.

i. A **subject relative pronoun** is used as the subject in *the relative clause*.

The man ***who*** came to my house was my witness. (restrictive)

I want a phone ***that*** has a dual camera. (restrictive)

ii. An **object relative pronoun** is used as the object in *the relative clause*.

The associate ***whom*** we hired last year is a dedicated lawyer. (restrictive)

Mary passed the test ***that*** she took last month. (restrictive)

iii. A **possessive relative pronoun (determiner)** shows the ownership of the antecedent.

Ben tried to help the encoders ***whose*** computers broke down. (restrictive)

The professor gave free passes to the students ***whose*** grades were above 90. (restrictive)

e. Interrogative Pronouns

Interrogative pronouns are pronouns used to ask questions. The answer to the question is the antecedent.

The **five primary interrogative pronouns** are *who, whom, what, whose,* and *which*.

Who is attending this weekend's Mandatory Continuing Legal Education lectures?

Whom did you ask to draft the demand letter?

What do you expect the prosecutor to do?

Whose is this citation manual?

Which will it be: the money or the trip?

Important Note: “**Where**,” “**why**,” and “**how**” are **interrogative adverbs**. They are adverbs because the answers refer to place, reason, purpose, or manner.

f. Demonstrative Pronouns

A **demonstrative pronoun** is a pronoun that points directly to its antecedent.

This is the computer my dad gave me.

Those are the contracts we drafted this morning.

These are brand-new shoes.

That was a copy of the pleading I filed.

He may have caused much inconvenience for the class, but **such** was not his intention.

“This” and “these” tell us that the antecedents are closer or nearer to the speaker.

“That” and “those” tell us that the antecedents are closer or near the person spoken to.

g. Indefinite Pronouns

An **indefinite pronoun** refers to persons or things in a general way but does not refer to a person or thing in particular.

There is enough food for **all**.

Somebody missed the train.

Some say he is the best lawyer in the city.

His mom has one job during the day and **another** at night.

Each of the parties has a lawyer.

Can **anyone** answer the phone?

Many have arrived already.

It is best to say **nothing**.

Everybody is entitled to his own opinion.
None of his books have been copyrighted.

3.3. Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in number, person, and gender.

- a. Jay, one of the waiters, dropped his tray.
- b. Rey got a job as a newsboy in Manila, where he could find a boy selling newspapers on most city streets.
- c. Juan is one of the employees who work long hours.
- d. Pedro is the only one of the employees who works long hours.
- e. None of this makes sense.

4. Pronoun Shifts

Pronoun shifts must be avoided. All pronouns must agree in person and number with their common antecedent.

Do not change from first-person or second-person pronouns.

- a. We went to the top of the Sears Tower, where we could see the entire city of Chicago.
- b. Police officers have a dangerous job because they often put their lives at risk.

C. ADJECTIVES

An **adjective** is a word that modifies or changes a noun.

Sometimes nouns, possessive nouns, and proper nouns are used as adjectives.

Examples:

Racquel loves **chocolate** cakes.

The **teacher's** computer needs repair.

Washington apples and **Virginia** ham are **expensive**.

Even demonstrative, possessive, interrogative, and indefinite pronouns may be used as adjectives. If these pronouns are used by themselves, they are pronouns. If they modify nouns, they are being used as adjectives (and also called determiners).

These toys are for **her** dog.

Which car belongs to **your** brother?

Some people are pessimists.

A. Types of Adjectives

Articles, possessive adjectives, and demonstrative adjectives are known as **determiners** in modern grammar. Numbers, amounts, or sequence adjectives are referred to as **quantifiers**.

1. **Determiners (Some consider determiners as separate parts of speech).**

Determiners are adjectives used to introduce a noun or noun phrase. There are several classes of determiners.

a. Articles

There are only three articles, and all of them are adjectives: a, an, and the. Because they are used to discuss non-specific things and people, **a** and **an** are called **indefinite articles**.

I'd like **an** apple.

Let's go on **a** trip.

Neither one of these sentences names a specific apple or a certain trip. Without more clarification, any apple or trip will do.

"**The**" is called the **definite article**. It is used to indicate very specific people or things.

Please give me a book. I'd like **the** one with the hardcover.

b. Possessive Adjectives (Possessive determiners)

As the name indicates, **possessive adjectives** are used to indicate possession. They are my, your, his, her, its, our, and their possessive nouns and pronouns.

Please give me **my** book.

Her writing is exceptional.

Look at the dog. **Its** tail is wagging like crazy.

Chito's car is parked outside.

Caring for **one's** children is a parental duty.

c. Demonstrative adjectives (Demonstrative determiners)

Demonstrative adjectives are used to indicate or demonstrate specific people, animals, or things. These, those, this, and that are demonstrative adjectives.

These books belong to her.

This movie is my favorite.

Please put **those** cookies on the blue plate.

d. **Interrogative Adjectives** (Interrogative determiners)

Interrogative adjectives are used to ask questions. They are what, which, and whose.

What shirt are you wearing?

Which book are you going to buy?

Whose bicycle is that?

e. **Distributive Adjectives** (Distributive determiners)

Distributive adjectives are used to refer to individual members of a group or within a pair.

Each student submits a thesis.

Every lawyer must be a member of the IBP.

Either boxer could win the match.

Neither statement is true.

2. **Quantifiers (number and amount determiners)**

Quantifiers are adjectives that indicate the number, amount, or sequence of the noun.

a. **Number adjectives** are used to indicate the number.

Five students were late.

She filed **three** motions.

b. **Amount adjectives** are used to indicate the amount.

There is **much** work to be done.

There is **little** rice left.

Many law schools are in the National Capital Region.

c. **Sequence adjectives** are used to indicate the number order.

He was the **first** employee to avail of the loan.
She was celebrating her **30th** birthday.
Atty. Lumio drafted the **last** pleading filed with the court.

3. Descriptive Adjectives

Descriptive or attributive adjectives talk about specific traits, qualities, or features. There are different kinds of attributive adjectives:

a. **Opinion or Observation adjectives**, such as real, perfect, best, attractive, or rarest, can indicate the value or talk about subjective measures.

She is a **beautiful** lady.
Ferdinand bought the **cheapest** watch.
The **well-written** pleading was drafted by Atty. Lumabas.

b. **Size and shape adjectives** talk about measurable, objective qualities, including specific physical properties. Some examples include small, largest, square, round, wealthy, and slow.

The **square** peg doesn't fit in the **round** hole.
The **tall** lumberjack cut the **largest** tree.

c. **Age adjectives** denote specific ages in numbers and general ages. Examples are old, young, new, and five-year-old.

The **five-year-old** son broke the **new** jar.
The **old** house was haunted.

d. **Color adjectives** are adjectives that indicate color. Examples include pink, yellow, and blue.

The **red** Ferrari costs a fortune.
There are six **yellow** houses in the neighborhood.

e. **Origin adjectives** indicate the source of the noun, whether it's a person, place, animal, or thing. Examples include American, Canadian, Mexican,

and Spanish. These adjectives form from proper nouns and are referred to as proper adjectives.

Manuel is an **American** citizen.

French perfume smells wonderful.

f. **Material adjectives** tell what something is made of. Some examples include leather, silver, and wool.

My brother has many **cotton** shirts.

The **gold** statue was stolen.

g. **Qualifier adjectives** are often regarded as part of a noun. They make nouns more specific. Some examples include a log cabin, streetcar, and pillow cover.

He bought a **recliner** chair.

Body bags were brought to the crime scene.

4. Compound Adjectives

A **compound adjective** is an adjective made up of two or more words. Some are written as one word, and some are hyphenated.

Hyphens are used:

when two adjectives work together as a single idea, prefixes with words that must be capitalized,

numbers or letters combined with words,

fractions,

prefixes with dates,

numbers from 21 to 99, and

prefixes such as ex, near, self, and all.

Her **three-year-old** son is sleeping.

Ginger will try to complete her **half-finished** essay.

Many Filipinos are **pro-American** fans.

He sank a **30-foot** putt last Sunday.

She ordered a **one-half** cup of rice.

Ninety-seven students passed the bar.

It was a **near-death** experience.

No hyphen is used when the compound is found after the noun. Adverbs, combined with adjectives, are not hyphenated.

Her son is **three years old**.

Ginger's essay is **half finished**.

The **slowly moving** train broke down.

His **kindhearted** mother donated to charity.

5. Order of Adjectives

- a. Two or more adjectives appear in sentences according to the **order of adjectives**. The order is as follows:

Determiners: Articles/Possessives/Demonstratives

Quantifiers: Numbers/Amounts/Sequence

Opinions:

Traits: Size/Shape/Age/Color/Pattern/Origin

Material/Purpose/

Qualifiers (Noun Adjectives)

Examples:

The /two /comfortable/big old black striped Italian leather recliner chairs belong to Professor Kingsfield.

My/ few /faithful, friendly/ big black spotted Labrador/ retrievers.

- b. If two adjectives modify nouns in the same way, they are **coordinate adjectives**. Coordinate adjectives need a comma.

The elegant, wealthy lady went to the market.

The cunning, sneaky wolf ran into the forest.

Cumulative adjectives build upon each other and give different types of information. They follow the order of adjectives.

The big old black bull charged the matador.
The beautiful young French woman won the contest.

6. Collective Adjectives

A **collective adjective** is an adjective describing a class or group of people.

The definite article "the" and a collective adjective form a phrase that acts as a noun.

(A collective adjective used as a noun is always plural and requires a plural verb.)

The rural poor have been ignored by the government.

The rich favor the status quo.

The elderly are beginning to demand their rights.

The young at heart are always a joy to be around.

7. Degrees of Comparison

- a. **Comparative adjectives** are adjectives that compare the difference between the attributes of two nouns.

"Short" adjectives that have only one syllable or two syllables and end in-y use the "-er" comparative. **"Long" adjectives** use "more" or "less."

large / larger tall/taller happy/happier big/bigger

careful /more careful intelligent/less intelligent

A truck is **bigger than** a car.

Cats are **more independent** than dogs.

Drawing is **easier** than painting.

Reading is **less difficult** than mathematics.

- b. **Superlative adjectives** are adjectives that describe the attribute of a person or thing that is highest or lowest in a group of three or more.

We form superlative adjectives by adding "-est" for "**short**" **adjectives** or using "most" or "least" for "**long**" **adjectives**.

big/biggest thin/thinnest weak/weakest happy/happiest

gifted/most gifted intelligent/most intelligent caring/least caring

Rey is the **smartest** student in his class.

He buys the **most advanced** computer available.

Among the three siblings, Bong has the **worst** eyesight.