



PIVOTAL FEATURES OF NOUNS IN PRESENT DAY ENGLISH

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Annotation: The noun is a word expressing substance in the widest sense of the word. In the concept of substance we include not only names of living beings (e. g. *boy, girl, bird*) and lifeless things (e. g. *table, chair, book*), but also names of abstract notions, i. e. qualities, states, actions, (*kindness, strengthsleep, fear, conversation, fight*), abstracted from their bearers¹.

Key words: nouns, features, morphological characteristics, syntactical functions.

The noun has the following morphological characteristics:

1. Nouns that can be counted have two names: singular and plural (e. g. singular: *a girl* plural: *girls*).

2. Nouns denoting living beings (and some nouns denoting lifeless things) have two case forms: the common case and the genitive case. It is doubtful whether the grammatical category of gender exists in Modern English for it is hardly ever expressed by means of grammatical forms.

There is practically only one gender-forming suffix in Modern English, the suffix *-ess*, expressing feminine gender. It is not widely

used, hen — hen-ess poet — poetess actor — actor-ess waiter — wait-ess host — host-ess lion — lion-ess tiger — tiger-ess

the distinction of nouns into masculine, feminine and neuter, may be expressed lexically by means of different words or word-compounds;

father — mother man — woman boy — girl gentleman —
lady

husband — wife boy-friend — girl-friend

Very often personal or possessive pronouns indicate the gender of the noun.

The noun has certain syntactical characteristics.

The chief syntactical functions of the noun in the sentence are those of the subject and the object. But it may also be used as an attribute or a predicative.

The sun was rising to all his splendid beauty. (A. Christie) (**subject**)

Troy and Yates followed the tourists. (A. Christie) (**object**)

He (Bostoney) was an architect ... (A. Christie) (**predicative**)

Mary brought in the fruit on a tray and with it a glass bowl, and a blue dish... (A. Christie) (**attribute**; the noun *glass* is used in the common case)

The hero and heroine, of course, just arrived from his father's yacht (A. Christie) (**ATTRIBUTE**;

¹ Kaushanskaya V.L. "A Grammar of the English language" M.1973, 186-203p



the noun *fat fur* Is used in the genitive case)

A noun preceded by a preposition (a prepositional phrase) may be used as attribute, prepositional indirect object, and adverbial modifier.

To the left were clean panes of glass.. (A. Christie) (attribute) Picket did not, answer, his throat felt too dry. He had heard of the police. (A. Christie) She went into the drawing-room and lighted the fire. (A. Christie)

(ADVERBIAL MODIFIER)

Stop, everything, Laura!* cried Jose in astonishment. (A. Christie)

The noun is generally associated with the article. Because of the comparative scarcity of morphological distinctions in English in some cases only articles show that the word is a noun.

A noun can be modified by an adjective, a pronoun, by another noun or by verbals.

Morphological composition of-nouns.

According to their morphological composition we distinguish simple, derivative and compound nouns.

3. Simple nouns are nouns which have neither prefixes nor suffixes. They are indecomposable: *chair, table, room, map, fish, work.*

4. Derivative nouns are nouns which have derivative elements (prefixes or suffixes or both): *reader, sailor, blackness, childhood, misconduct, Inexperience.*

Productive noun-forming suffixes are:

-er: reader, teacher, worker

-ist: telegraphist, dramatist **-ess:** heiress, hostess, actress **-ness:** carelessness, madness, blackness **-ism:** nationalism, Imperialism

Unproductive suffixes are:

-hood: childhood, manhood **-dom:** freedom

-ship: friendship, relationship **-merit:** development: importance - dependency -

-ty: cruelty

-ity: generosity

3. Compound nouns are nouns built from two or more stems. Compound nouns often have one stress. The meaning of a compound often differs from the meanings of its elements².

The main types of compound nouns are as follows:

(a) noun-stem + noun-stem: *apple tree, snowball;*

(b) adjective-stem-f-noun-stem: *blackbird, bluebell;*

(c) verb-stem-(-noun-stem: *pickpocket;* the stem of a gerund or of a participle may be the first component of a compound noun: *dining-room, reading-hall, dancing-girl.*

² Ilyish B.A. The Structure of Modern English.M-L., 1971., p.36-37



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