

Noun as a part of speech in English and Ukrainian languages



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- From the grammatical point of view most important is the division of nouns into **countables** and **uncountables** with regard to the category of number and into **declinables** and **indeclinables** with regard to the category of case.

In Ukrainian, M. Zubkov differentiated the following lexico-grammatical classes of nouns to their semantic and morphological characteristics

- 1) concrete and abstract nouns (іменники конкретні й абстрактні: *ложка, парк – імовірність, кохання*);
- 2) names of living beings and lifeless objects (назви істот і неістот: *студент, дочка – технікум, завод*);
- 3) common and proper nouns (власні й загальні назви: *Роман, Ірина, Львів, Канада – дівчина, хлопець, місто, держава*);
- 4) material nouns (матеріально-речовинні: *фтор, золото, кисень, нафта*);
- 5) collective nouns (збірні: *кіннота, огудиння, студентство, листя*).




- ❑ **Material** nouns are a peculiar group of uncountables, for example: *air, iron, sugar, silver*.
- ❑ **Proper** nouns are another, even more peculiar, group of uncountables (though sometimes they form number opposemes, e.g.: *Brown – the Browns* (in English). In Ukrainian proper nouns are mostly singular though the plural form can also be met, e.g.: *два Чернігові*.

A Noun



- a notional part of speech possessing the meaning of “thingness” or “substantivity” (значення предметності) expressed in the forms of gender, number and case

The English noun as a part of speech comprises the following features:

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- 1. The lexico-grammatical meaning of “substantivity”.
 - 2. Typical stem-building morphemes, as in: *pacif-ist*, *work-er*, *friend-ship*, *manage-ment*, etc.
 - 3. The grammatical categories of number and case.
 - 4. Typical combinability: left-hand connections with articles, prepositions, adjectives, possessive pronouns, etc.; right-hand connections with nouns (creating the so called noun clusters), verbs.
 - 5. The typical syntactic function of a subject, an object, a complement or a predicative, less frequently attribute or other parts of the sentence.

The Ukrainian noun as a part of speech comprises the following features:



- 1. The lexico-grammatical meanings are similar.
- 2. The variety of lexico-grammatical morphemes is much greater for the Ukrainian noun.
- The peculiarity of Ukrainian is also the abundance of “subjective appraisal” (diminutive) suffixes, as in *дівчатко, носик, синок, батіжечок, дівчинонька*, etc.
- 3.1. The Ukrainian language possesses the category of gender which is absent in English.

In both languages we find the categories of number and case. But their opposemes, especially those of the category of case, differ greatly in the two languages:

- a) a Ukrainian case opposeme contains six (or seven if we take into account the vocative case) members as against the English two-member case opposeme;
- b) in English the “singular number, common case” grammeme is as a rule not marked. In Ukrainian any grammeme can be marked, e.g.: *pyka*, *вікно*, etc.;

- c) the productive number and case morphemes are standard in English *-(e)s* and *'s* and non-standard in Ukrainian (*столи, стільці, книги; столів, стільців, книг*, etc.);
- d) number and case are sometimes expressed by separate morphemes in English (e.g., *oxen's*), while in Ukrainian they are inseparable (*книга – книги, книги – книг*);
- e) though in both languages the meaning of case is the relation of nouns to other words in speech, the meaning of the possessive case is in the main narrowed to the relation to other nouns only, which distinguishes this case from other cases both in Ukrainian and in English.

- 3.2. In both languages nouns can be divided into countables and uncountables, the latter into – *singularia tantum* (однинні іменники) and *pluralia tantum* (множинні іменники).
- 3.3. The number of Ukrainian nouns having no case opposites (невідмінювані іменники) is rather small, namely those of foreign origin with endings: -а(-я) (*ампула, Дюма*), -у (-ю) (*інтерв'ю, какаду*), -о (*трюмо, лібрето*), -е (-є) (*ательє, резюме*), -і (*таксі, леді*). In English the majority of nouns have no case opposites.

- 3.4. In both languages the functions of different case grammemes are different.
- 4. Typical combinability of Ukrainian nouns differs from English nouns the way that it is not connected with articles since such a part of speech is absent within the Ukrainian grammatical system.
- 5. The typical syntactic functions of Ukrainian noun mainly coincides with those of the English noun, that is: of a subject, an object, a complement or a predicative, adverbial circumstances. The only exception is that the Ukrainian noun is not used as an attribute.

2. The category of number

- Both languages have two numbers: the singular number and the plural number.
- The category of number of English nouns is the system of opposemes (such as *girl* – *girls*, *foot* – *feet*, etc.) showing whether the noun stands for one object or more than one, in other words, whether its grammatical meaning is of “oneness” or “more than oneness” of objects.



- All number opposemes are identical in **content**: they contain two particular meanings of “singular” and “plural” united by the general meaning of the category, that of “number”.
- But there is a considerable variety of **form** in number opposemes, though it is not so great as in the Ukrainian language.

English and Ukrainian nouns

- countables (злічувані іменники)
- uncountables (незлічувані іменники).
 - The former have number opposites, the latter have not. Uncountable nouns are again subdivided into those having no plural opposites and those having no singular opposites.

- collective nouns (збірні) – (*cavalry, humanity, кіннота, людство*);
- nouns determining the substance or the mass (які позначають речовину або масу) (*copper, glass, мідь, скло*);
- abstract nouns (абстрактні) – (*knowledge, health, знання, здоров'я*).



- Ukrainian *дріжджі, гроші, канікули* are used only in plural,
- English nouns *yeast, money, vacation* – only in singular
- English nouns *clothes, sweepings, contents, potatoes, carrots, onions* are used only in plural,
- Ukrainian – *одяг, зелень, сміття, зміст, картопля, морква, цибуля* – only in singular.

Singularia tantum



- include nouns of certain lexical meanings.
- They are mostly material, abstract and collective nouns, such as *sugar, gold, butter, brilliance, selfishness, soldiery*.

Pluralia tantum



- nouns denoting objects consisting of two or more parts, complex phenomena or ceremonies, e.g. *tongs*, *pincers* (щіпці, кліщі), *trousers*, *nuptials* (весілля, весільна церемонія).

Ukrainian singularia tantum include the following groups of nouns:

- – abstract nouns (*мудрість, щастя, журба*);
- – collective nouns (*начальство, лицарство, ганчір'я*);
- – material nouns (*сметана, вугілля, кисень, сатин*);
- – proper names (*Полтава, Михайло, “Літературна Україна”*).

Ukrainian pluralia tantum include such groups of nouns as:

- – names of objects which have a pair of parts in their structure (ножиці, сани, окуляри, штани);
- – some collective nouns (надра, копалини, гроші);
- – names of certain materials (речовинні назви – збоїни, вершки, консерви);
- – names of some time and weather notions (приморозки, сутінки, обжинки, роковини);
- – names of some actions and processes (пустощі, походеньки, заробітки, дебати);
- – names of games (шахи, шашки, піжмурки);
- – names of abstract notions (ресурси, хвастоці, ревноці);
- – some geographical proper names (Чернівці, Суми, Піренеї)

Distinctive differences

- 1) The usage of the similar form of a singular and a plural number for such words as:
 - a) some names of animals, birds, fishes, e.g: *sheep, deer, snipe (белка), pike* etc;
 - b) some nouns denoting quantity of smth, e.g.: *stone (the measure of weight= 6,35 kg), score (twenty pieces), dozen, pair* etc, when there is a numeral before them: *two stone, four score, three dozen, five pair*;
 - c) some nouns denoting measure or the currency unit, when further there goes the denoting of the smaller unit, e.g: *two pound ten (два фунти десять шилінгів), five foot eight (п'ять футів вісім дюймів)*;

Distinctive differences



- 2) Different meanings of some nouns in the singular and the plural form, e.g.: *advice* – *advices* (порада – відомості), *manner* – *manners* (спосіб – поведінка, манери), *work* – *works* (праця, робота – завод) etc.
- 3) Some cases when there are two plural forms, having a different meaning, e.g; *brothers* (сини однієї матері) – *brethren* (члени однієї громади) etc.
- 4) The usage of some forms of nouns in the singular meaning (with the verb form also in singular), e.g.: *news*, *gallows* (шибениця), *summons* (виклик), *wages*, *goods* (товар), *works* (завод); some names of sciences, illnesses, games: *linguistics*, *physics*, *mathematics*, *measles*, *billiards* etc.

3. The category of case

- ▣ *Case is the grammatical form of a noun, which reveals its relation towards other words fulfilling the functions of parts of the given sentence* (**Відмінок** – це граматична форма іменника, яка передає його відношення до інших слів, що виступають у функції членів цього речення).

Case



- one of those categories which show the close connection
- (a) between language and speech,
- (b) between morphology and syntax:

The common case



- the form in which the English noun can fulfill functions of almost all parts of a sentence. It is by itself the pure base of the word without endings (or otherwise the base with the “zero ending”).

The possessive case



- has a very narrow sphere of usage: the noun in this case fulfills the function of only one part of the sentence – the attribute, thus only such a kind of attribute which expresses the belonging or the size. It is expressed by only one ending -s.

Meaning of the possessive case

- 1) possession, belonging (*Peter's bicycle*);
- 2) personal or social relations (*Peter's wife*);
- 3) authorship (*Peter's poem*);
- 4) origin or source (*the sun's rays*);
- 5) kind or species (*ladies' hats*);
- 6) the relation of the whole to its part (*Peter's hand*);
- 7) subjective relations (*Peter's arrival*);
- 8) objective relations (*Peter's being sent*);
- 9) characteristic (*her mother's care*);
- 10) measure (*a night's reflection; a mile's distance*)

The English possessive case

- two main usages:
- a) *the dependent possessive case*, which always fulfills the function of the attribute and the
- b) *independent possessive case*, which is used independently without the noun that follows it (very often these nouns could be the words: *house, office, shop*, e.g.: *at my friend's, to the baker's* (до крамниці булочника)).

The dependent possessive case

- renders the meaning of belonging to something (*the doctor's house*), the meaning of size or of the relation of the whole to its part (*the girl's hand*); sometimes it can have the subjective meaning regarding the word modified (*John's activity, my brother's arrival*) or in some cases the objective one (*Mike's trial* – *суд над Майком*).

The independent possessive case

- has most frequently the meaning of place (*at the chemist's*) and very seldom the meaning of belonging (*It is my uncle's*).

Group possessive case



- the ending of the possessive case serves not for one word but for a word combination, e.g.: *Peter and Helen's flat*, *Prime Minister of England's residence*, *somebody else's book*.

System of declension



- the nominative case,
 - the genitive case,
 - the dative case,
 - the accusative case,
 - the instrumental case
 - the local or locative case.
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- the seventh case – the so-called vocative form

The nominative case

- the direct case
- The term “direct” denotes the independence of the noun’s usage from its connection with other words.
- The nominative case performs the function of a subject (підмет), being the logical subject (суб’єкт) in the sentence: “*А Рось купіла в кам’яному ложі*” (Л. Костенко).
- In passive constructions it is used as an object (*Туман розгонився вітрами по долині*).
- It can also function as a nominative part of a compound nominal predicate (*Слава – зрадлива річ*) or as a main member of the nominative sentence (“*Заслання, самота, солдатчина ...*” – (Л. Костенко)).
- Sometimes it can fulfill the function of detached apposition (відокремлена прикладка – *Мінна знайшла будинок, невеличкий гарненький котедж, захований подалі від вулиці*).

The genitive case



- – belonging to some person or thing (*батько Миколи, властивість цементу*);
- – objective relations (*не дістав паперу*);
- – the part of the whole or its incompleteness (*налили води, цех заводу*);
- – circumstantial meanings: a) dates (*1990 року*); b) special relations (*наблизились до ставу*); c) time relations (*протягом тижня*); d) cause relations (*крикнув з переляку*).

The dative case



- denotes a person for whom or because of whom a certain action takes place (*служіння народові, привіт друзові*); possession (*пам'ятник Іванові Франку*); the subject of the action in the impersonal sentence (*Кому-кому, а йому тільки цього й треба було*).

The accusative case



- the objective meaning (as a direct object with transitive verbs) (*передплатити пресу, вимкнути світло*). Used as an object in prepositional constructions it denotes the space as the direction of movement (*в'їхати в ліс, стріляти в небо*), also an object (*дбати про дітей, кинути об землю*).

The instrumental case



- – objective (*копати лопатою, міряти метром*);
- – circumstantial (*їхати дорогою, плисти морем*);
- – denoting the accomplice of the doer of some action (*батько з дочкою, мати з немовлям*);
- – expressing the nominal part of the compound nominal predicate (*стати парубком, зробитися хмаркою*);
- – denoting the subject in one-member sentence (односкладне речення) (*гуртожиток заселено студентами*).

The locative case



- used with a preposition. The most important meanings are circumstantial (*ходити по березі, говорити по щирості*), or that of an object (*кохатися в мистецтві, гратися на почуттях*); much more rarely attributive meanings are used (*баба по матері, товариство по духу*).

The vocative case



- denotes the addressing to some person or personified object or any creature (*мамо, брате, лисичко, кицю; Поезіє, сонце моє оранжеве!* (І. Драч))

- The first declension – includes nouns of the feminine gender with the nominative case singular ending – **а, -я** (*наука, земля*), and some group of nouns of the masculine gender and the common case (спільного роду) (*Микола, Ілля, голова, суддя*).
- The second declension – includes the biggest part of nouns of the masculine and the neuter gender. Only those nouns of the masculine gender which have the final hard consonant or softened consonant and those having the ending –**й, -о** (*робітник, ключ, день, чай, батько*) belong to this declension. Among the neuter gender nouns this declension includes all the nouns ending in **-о, -е, -я** (except those that acquire the suffixes **-ят, -ен** in indirect cases), the latter usually have the doubling of the final consonant of the stem (*озеро, дерево, поле, бажання, обличчя*).



- The third declension – includes all the nouns of the feminine gender with the hard or the soft final consonant (*ніч, любов, тінь, радість*) and the noun *мати*, which in indirect cases acquires the suffix **-ер** (*матері*).
- The fourth declension – includes the nouns of the neuter gender with the endings **-а, -я**, denoting the names of little according to their age creatures/beings or some minute things as well as the noun *ім'я*. In indirect cases these nouns have the suffix **-ат, -ят** and the noun *ім'я* has the suffix **-ен**: *теля – теляти, лоша – лошасти, ім'я – імені*.

4. The category of gender

- In Ukrainian
- the *masculine gender*,
- the *feminine gender*
- the *neuter gender*.
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- Almost the only word building element that has the distinct gender characteristic is the noun suffix **-ess**, with the help of which we form the nouns of the feminine gender from nouns of the masculine gender: *host – hostess, poet – poetess, tiger – tigress, actor – actress* (compare the Ukrainian suffix **-к(а)**: *лікар-ка, школяр-ка*).