

General characteristics

As any other part of speech, the noun can be characterized by three criteria:

- ❖ Semantic (the meaning)
- ❖ Morphological (the form and grammatical categories)
- ❖ Syntactical (functions, distribution)

Semantic features of the noun

According to different principles of classification nouns fall into several subclasses:

- ❖ According to the type of nomination they may be proper and common
- ❖ According to the form of existence they may be animate and inanimate. Animate nouns in their turn fall into human and non-human
- ❖ According to their quantitative structure nouns can be countable and uncountable

Morphological features of the noun

In accordance with the morphological structure of the stems all nouns can be classified into:

- ❖ Simple, derived (stem + affix, affix + stem- *happiness*)
- ❖ Compound (stem + stem- *armchair*)
- ❖ Composite (*the Hague*)

Morphological categories

The noun has morphological categories of:

- ❖ Number
- ❖ Case
- ❖ Gender (some scholars admit the existence of that category, but not all)

Syntactic features of the noun

- ❖ The noun can be used in the sentence in all syntactic functions but predicate.
- ❖ What about noun combinability, we can say that it can go into right-hand and left-hand connections with practically all parts of speech.
- ❖ So practically all parts of speech but the verb can act as noun determiners. However, the most common noun determiners are considered to be articles, pronouns, numerals, adjectives and nouns themselves in the common and genitive case.