

A brief message to the students who have  
chosen English as a subject for the  
AECC (Ability Enhancement compulsory course) in  
their 2nd semester (UG)

Dear students, I hope all of you are  
in good health. Today, I am providing you  
something on Number and Gender of Noun.  
Before starting your study with this, it will  
be better if you have a clear idea of  
what Noun is, the classification of Noun etc.  
Please go through the pages of this pdf,  
study well and do the exercises attached  
at the end of every chapter. After finishing  
the exercises, you go to the chapters and  
check your progress or improvement  
yourself. In this way, I believe, you will be  
able to have good hold over English Grammar.  
I will keep providing you study materials.  
Please utilise your time by effective study  
staying home. I wish you all good health  
and progress in your study. Thank you.

[N.B. — Study those areas I have marked with  
red pen and do those exercises only  
I have marked for you]



# THE NOUN : NUMBER

**The Countable Nouns have two forms : Singular and Plural.**

[ Countable Noun-এর দুটি রূপ : একবচন ও বহুবচন ]

{ Boy	{ Box	{ Baby	{ Knife	{ Child	{ Ox	{ Man
{ Boys	{ Boxes	{ Babies	{ Knives	{ Children	{ Oxen	{ Men

The first word of each pair denotes one and the second word of each pair denotes more than one.



শব্দযুগলের প্রথমটিতে একটি এবং দ্বিতীয়টিতে একাধিক বোঝাচ্ছে। এই ধরনের ব্যক্তি বা বস্তুর সংখ্যাকে Number বা বচন বলে। বাংলার বচন দুরকমের—একবচন ও বহুবচন।

ইংরেজিতেও Number দুরকমের—**Singular Number** ও **Plural Number**.

When one person or thing is spoken of, the noun is singular and when more than one person or thing is spoken of, the noun is plural.—**Nesfield**

যখন একজন ব্যক্তি বা একটি বস্তু বোঝায় তখন noun-টি Singular Number হয়। যেমন—A boy, a book, a man ইত্যাদি। আর যখন একাধিক ব্যক্তি বা বস্তু বোঝায় তখন noun-টি Plural Number হয়। যেমন—Boys, books, men ইত্যাদি।

মনে রাখবে, সাধারণভাবে Noun-এর Number পরিবর্তন হয় বলা হলেও Boy, Book, Brother প্রভৃতি **Common Noun** এবং Class, Army প্রভৃতি **Collective Noun**-এর Number পরিবর্তন হয়। কিন্তু Kolkata, Delhi প্রভৃতি **Proper Noun**, Oil, Rice প্রভৃতি **Material Noun** এবং Honesty, Kindness প্রভৃতি **Abstract Noun**-এর কোনো Number পরিবর্তন হয় না।

## HOW PLURALS ARE FORMED

**1. The Plural of Nouns is generally formed by adding—s to the singular.** (সাধারণত Singular Noun-এর শেষে-s যোগ করে Plural Number করা হয়।)

### Singular

Book  
Desk  
Cat

### Plural

Books  
Desks  
Cats

### Singular

Pen  
Chair  
Table



### Plural

Pens  
Chairs  
Tables

<b>Singular</b>		<b>Plural</b>	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
Cow		Cows	House	Houses
Dog		Dogs	Eye	Eyes
Lion		Lions	Ear	Ears
King		Kings	Hand	Hands
Girl		Girls	Head	Heads

2. Nouns ending in **-s, -sh, -ch (soft), or -x** form the plural by adding **-es** to the singular : (Noun-এর শেষে s, sh, ch (ছ), x থাকলে -es যোগ করে plural হয়।)

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
Ass	Asses	Box	Boxes
Gas	Gases	Fox	Foxes
Glass	Glasses	Kiss	Kisses
Class	Classes	Inch	Inches
Lass	Lasses	Bench	Benches
Bush	Bushes	Branch	Branches
Brush	Brushes	Bunch	Bunches
Dish	Dishes	Church	Churches



**Note** : If 'ch' sounds as 'k', Plural is formed by adding **-s** :

(ch-এর উচ্চারণ 'ক'-এর মতো হলে Noun-এর শেষে শুধু -s যোগ করে Plural হয়।)

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
Monarch (মনার্ক)	Monarchs (মনার্কস)
Stomach (স্টম্যাক)	Stomachs (স্টম্যাকস)



3. Nouns ending in **-o** having a **Vowel** before it, take **-s** to form plural : (Noun-এর শেষে o এবং তার পূর্বে একটি Vowel থাকলে -s যোগ করে Plural হয়।)

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
Bamboo	Bamboos	Radio	Radios
Cuckoo	Cuckoos	Studio	Studios
Hindoo	Hindoos	Folio	Folios

4. Nouns ending in **-o** having a **Consonant** before it, take **-es** to form plural : (Noun-এর শেষে o এবং তার পূর্বে Consonant থাকলে -es যোগ করে Plural হয়।)

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
Hero	Heroes	Echo	Echoes
Zero	Zeroes	Mosquito	Mosquitoes
Mango	Mangoes	Bureau	Bureaus
Buffalo	Buffaloes	Potato	Potatoes
<b>Some exceptions</b> : (কিছু ব্যতিক্রম)			
Dynamo	Dynamos	Photo	Photos
Piano	Pianos	Quarto	Quartos

5. Nouns ending in -y having a Vowel before it, form their plurals by adding -s :

(Noun-এর শেষে y এবং তার পূর্বে Vowel থাকলে -s যোগ করে Plural হয়।)

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Boy	Boys	Day	Days
Toy	Toys	Play	Plays
Key	Keys	Ray	Rays
Monkey	Monkeys	Donkey	Donkeys

6. Nouns ending in -y having a Consonant before it, form their plural by changing -y into i and adding -es :

(Noun-এর শেষে y এবং y-এর পূর্বে Consonant থাকলে y পরিবর্তিত হয়ে i হয় এবং -es যোগ হয়।)

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Army	Armies	Copy	Copies
Baby	Babies	Duty	Duties
Body	Bodies	Fly	Flies
City	Cities	Lady	Ladies
Country	Countries	Story	Stories

7. Nouns ending in -f or -fe form their plural by changing f or fe into v and adding -es :

(Noun-এর শেষে f বা fe থাকলে f বা fe স্থানে -ves যোগ করে Plural হয়।)

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Calf	Calves	Self	Selves
Half	Halves	Shelf	Shelves
Knife	Knives (নাইভস)	Sheaf	Sheaves
Life	Lives (লাইভস)	Thief	Thieves
Leaf	Leaves	Wife	Wives
Loaf	Loaves	Wolf	Wolves



8. Several Nouns ending in -f form their Plurals by adding s :

(কয়েকটি Noun-এর শেষে f থাকলেও -s যোগ করে Plural হয়)

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Chief	Chiefs	Gulf	Gulfs
Cliff	Cliffs	Hoof	Hoofs
Brief	Briefs	Proof	Proofs
Belief	Beliefs	Roof	Roofs

9. Some Nouns form their plural by changing the inside Vowel of the Singular :

(কতকগুলি Noun-এর plural করার সময় শব্দের ভিতরের Vowel পরিবর্তন করতে হয়।)

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Man	Men	Foot	Feet
Woman	Women	Tooth	Teeth
Gentleman	Gentlemen	Goose	Geese
(কিছু) Human	Humans [vide 'The Cage' by Bertram Chandler]		

10. A few Nouns form their plural by changing the inside Vowel and the Consonant of the singular : (কয়েকটি Noun-এর Plural করার সময় শব্দের ভিতরের Vowel এবং Consonant পরিবর্তন করতে হয়।)

**Singular**  
Mouse

**Plural**  
Mice



**Singular**  
Louse

**Plural**  
Lice

11. A few Nouns form their Plural by adding -en to the Singular : (কয়েকটি Noun-এর Plural করার সময় -en যোগ করতে হয়।)

**Singular**  
Ox  
Brother

**Plural**  
Oxen  
Brethren (ভ্রাতৃস্থানীয় ব্যক্তিগণ)

**Singular**  
Child

**Plural**  
Children

12. Compound Nouns generally form their plural by adding -s to the principal word or by changing inside vowel of the principal word : (Compound Noun-এর প্রধান Word-এর শেষে -s যোগ করে অথবা প্রধান word-এর vowel পরিবর্তন করে plural হয়।)



**Singular**

**Plural**

Son-in-law

Sons-in-law

Daughter-in-law

Daughters-in-law

Father-in-law

Fathers-in-law

Mother-in-law

Mothers-in-law

Man-of-war

Men-of-war

Commander-in-Chief

Commanders-in-Chief

Grant-in-aid

Grants-in aid

**Singular**

**Plural**

Maid-servant

Maid-servants

Step-son

Step-sons

Step-daughter

Step-daughters

Looker-on

Lookers-on

Passer-by

Passers-by

Washer-man

Washer-men

[But, Grown-up

Grown-ups]

13. Compound Nouns written without hyphen take ( )

## 18. Noun with one meaning in the Singular but two in the Plural :

(Singular-এ একরকম অর্থ, Plural-এ দু'রকম অর্থ।)

Singular	Plural	Meaning
Arm—part of body, (বাহু)	Arms	{ 1. parts of the body 2. weapons
Colour—hue (রং)	Colours	{ 1. hues 2. flag
Custom—habit (অভ্যাস)	Customs	{ 1. habits 2. revenue duties
Manner—method (পদ্ধতি)	Manners	{ 1. methods 2. behaviour
Minute—1/60th part of an hour (এক ঘণ্টার 1/60 ভাগ)	Minutes	{ 1. 1/60th parts of an hour 2. proceedings of a meeting
Part—portion (অংশ)	Parts	{ 1. portions 2. skill
Pain—suffering (কষ্ট/যন্ত্রণা)	Pains	{ 1. sufferings 2. take pains = take care
Premise—proposition (বক্তব্য)	Premises	{ 1. propositions 2. buildings
Quarter—fourth part (1/8 অংশ)	Quarters	{ 1. fourth parts 2. lodgings
Spectacle—a sight (দৃশ্য)	Spectacles	{ 1. sights 2. eye-glasses



## 19. Some Nouns have the Singular and the Plural alike : NO CHANGE IN NUMBER (কয়েকটি Noun singular এবং Plural-এ একইরকম থাকে।)

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Deer	Deer	Dozen	Dozen (Five dozen)
Sheep	Sheep	Score	Score (Four score)
Pice	Pice	Hundred	Hundred (Two hundred)
Public	Public	Thousand	Thousand (Three thousand)

The public is the best judge/are the best judges—POD & COD.

**Note :** অবশ্য Hundreds of students (শত শত ছাত্র), Thousands of people (হাজার হাজার লোক) এরূপ প্রয়োগ হয়।

## 20. Some Collective Nouns or Group Nouns are singular in form, but are used as Plural : (কতকগুলি Noun আকারে Singular, কিন্তু ব্যবহারে Plural)

**Cattle**—These cattle are mine.

**Folk**—The old folk have gone.

**22. Nouns Plural in form but Singular in use :** (কতকগুলি Noun আকারে Plural কিন্তু ব্যবহারে Singular)

Gallows (ফাঁসিকাঠ), News, Physics, Ethics, Politics, Statistics, Economics, Athletics, Gymnastics etc.

**News**—What is the news?

**Mathematics**—Mathematics is his favourite subject.

**Statistics**—Statistics is a difficult subject. But, "These statistics are rather complicated." (= these figures).—*Oxford Guide to English Grammar*—**Eastwood**

**23. Some Nouns are always Plural :** [ কতকগুলি Noun সর্বদাই Plural, এদের Singular হয় না। ]

(a) Names of such instruments having two parts or **Pair Nouns** : (দুটি অংশ নিয়েই তৈরি এমন যন্ত্রের নাম বা Pair Noun-গুলি সর্বদা Plural হিসাবে ব্যবহৃত হয়।)

Bellows (হাপর), Scissors (কাঁচি), Glasses/Spectacles (চশমা)

Your new *glasses/spectacles* are very nice.

(b) Names of certain articles of dress :

Trousers, drawers, breeches, shorts (দু-পা বিশিষ্ট পোষাক)

These *shorts* are nice. These *trousers* need cleaning.

(c) Names of diseases (রোগের নাম)

Measles, mumps [ কিন্তু Smallpox একটি singular noun. ]

Smallpox *has* broken out there.



Dot your *i*'s and cut your *t*'s. Add two *s*'s and three *z*'s.

**24. An Uncountable Noun takes a Singular Verb :** (সংখ্যার সাহায্যে গোনা যায় না, এমন uncountable Noun-এর পর Singular Verb বসে।)

The *grass* is getting long. His *hair* is grey. (hairs নয়)

**Note :** When an Uncountable Noun is used countably, it will take an article/determiner before it. There is a *hair* in my soup.

### APPLIED SECTION

**1. Change the subject into singular with other necessary changes in the following sentences.** (নীচের বাক্যগুলির Subject-কে Singular করে প্রয়োজনীয় অন্যান্য পরিবর্তন করো।)

- These oranges are very sweet.
- Those mangoes are not ripe.
- Three boys were present yesterday.
- Good children are liked by all.
- There are ten benches in this room.
- The windows facing the street are broken.
- The thieves were arrested last night.

**2. Change the subject into Plural with other necessary changes.** (Subject-কে Plural করে প্রয়োজনীয় অন্যান্য পরিবর্তন করো।)

- The boy is playing in the play-ground.
- The girl is dancing gracefully.
- A bird is singing on the tree.
- The owl sleeps in the daytime.
- A bad boy hides his faults.
- The book was on the table.
- The shop was closed yesterday.

## EXERCISE

1. **How many kinds of number are there in English? What are they? Give some examples.** (ইংরেজিতে Number কয় প্রকার ও কী কী? কয়েকটি উদাহরণ দাও।)

2. **Change the number of the following Nouns.** (নীচের Noun-গুলির Number পরিবর্তন করো।)

Boy, Bus, Comb, City, Country, Fool, Foot, Tooth, Eye, Ear, Baby, Thief, Knife, Life, Man, Woman, Fisherman, Gentleman, Calf, Roof, Hero, Radio, Bamboo, Body, Leaf, Chief, Child, Mouse, Son-in-law, Step-brother, Man-servant, Passer-by, Sheep, Railway, Valley, Volcano.

6. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate word given in the brackets. (বন্ধনীর মধ্যে প্রদত্ত শব্দগুলির মধ্য থেকে word সঠিক নির্বাচন করে শূন্যস্থান পূরণ করো।)

- (a) The ..... are reading. (child, children)
- (b) That ..... is singing. (woman, women)
- (c) Ratan's ..... are white. (tooth, teeth)
- (d) These ..... are playing. (boy, boys)
- (e) The ..... are grazing (deer, deers)
- (f) Give me ten ..... (pice, pices)



What in nature is called the difference of sex is in grammar called the difference of Gender. —Nesfield

{ Boy  
{ Girl

{ Lion  
{ Lioness



{ Hero  
{ Heroine

{ Boy-friend  
{ Girl-friend

The first word of each pair  
second word of each pair

denotes the name of a male and the  
denotes the name of a female.

শব্দ যুগলের প্রথমটি পুংবাচক এবং দ্বিতীয়টি স্ত্রীবাচক শব্দ।

A noun that denotes a male is said to be of the **Masculine Gender**.

**Noun** পুংবাচক হলে **Masculine Gender** বা পুংলিঙ্গ হয়। যেমন—Boy, Lion, Hero, Boy-friend.

A noun that denotes a female is said to be of the **Feminine Gender**.

**Noun** স্ত্রীবাচক হলে **Feminine Gender** হয়। যেমন—Girl, Lioness, Heroine, Girl-friend.

A noun that denotes either a male or a female is said to be of the **Common Gender**.

**Noun** পুংবাচক বা স্ত্রীবাচক উভয়কেই বোঝালে **Common Gender** হয়। যেমন—Parent, child, baby, infant, friend, people, servant, thief, enemy, cousin, orphan, student, doctor, teacher, police, neighbour etc.



A noun that denotes things without life is said to be of **Neuter Gender**.

**Noun** যদি প্রাণহীন (জড়) পদার্থকে বোঝায়, তাহলে **Neuter Gender** হয়। যেমন—Book, pen, chair, table, room, gold, silver, iron, knife, shirt, coat etc.

Though 'tree' is not lifeless, yet it is Neuter Gender in English.

**Therefore, there are four kinds of Gender** : (Gender চার প্রকার)

- (1) Nouns denoting male : Masculine
- (2) Nouns denoting female : Feminine
- (3) Nouns denoting of either sex : Common
- (4) Nouns denoting things without life : Neuter

## RULES OF CHANGING GENDERS

Generally there are four rules for changing **Masculine Genders** of nouns into **Feminine Genders** : (Masculine gender-এর Noun-কে Feminine Gender-এ পরিবর্তিত করার প্রধানত চারটি নিয়ম আছে।)

(a) **By using different words** : (নতুন Word-এর সাহায্যে।)

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Father	mother	Son	daughter
Brother	sister	Sir	madam
Boy	girl	Bull, Ox	cow
Uncle	aunt (আন্ট)	Dog	bitch
Nephew	niece (নীস)	Fox	vixen
Husband	wife	Horse	mare
Man	woman	Boar	sow
Male	female	Buck	doe
Gentleman	lady	Drake	duck
Lord	lady	Drone	bee
King	queen	Gander	goose
Bachelor	maiden, spinster	Ram	ewe (ইউ)
Monk	nun	stag	hind (হাইন্ড)
Cock	hen	Wizard	witch (উইচ্)



(b) **By adding—'ess'** : (-ess যোগ করে)

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Author	authoress	Mayor	mayoress
Baron	baroness	Patron	patroness
Count	countess	Peer	peeress
Giant	giantess	poet	poetess
Heir (এয়ার)	heiress	Priest	priestess
Host	hostess	Prophet	prophetess
Jew	Jewess	Shepherd	shepherdess
Lion	lioness	Steward	stewardess
Manager	manageress	Viscount	viscountess

**Note the changes in spelling in some cases** : [By dropping the vowel before 'ess']

(কিছু ক্ষেত্রে -ess যোগ করার সময় বানানের পরিবর্তন দেখো।)

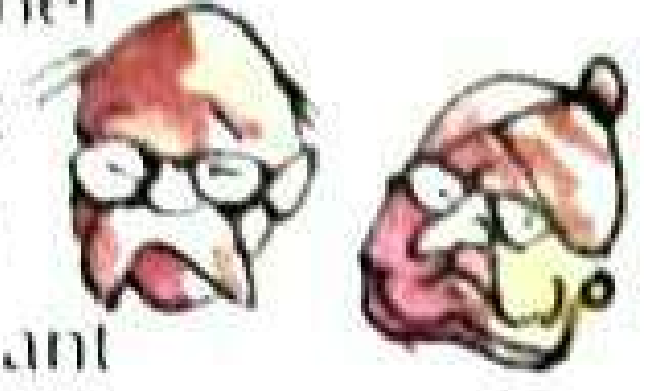
Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Actor	actress	Instructor	instructress
Abbot	abbess	Master	mistress
Duke	duchess	Prince	princess
Emperor	empress	Seamster	seamstress
Governor	governess	Songster	songstress
God	goddess	Tiger	tigress
Hunter	huntress	Waitor	waitress



(c) **By changing the Masculine word of a Compound word :**

(Compound word বা সমাসবদ্ধ শব্দের পুংবাচক শব্দটিকে পরিবর্তন করে)

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Boy-friend	girl-friend	Grandfather	grandmother
He-goat	she-goat	Great-uncle	great-aunt
He-bear	she-bear	Step-brother	step-sister
Bull-calf	cow-calf	Man-servant	maid-servant
Bridegroom	bride (exception)	Milk-man	milk-woman
Son-in-law	daughter-in-law	Peacock	peahen
Father-in-law	mother-in-law	Landlord	landlady
Brother-in-law	sister-in-law	Washerman	washer-woman



(d) **Sometimes Feminine forms are made by adding *a, ine, ix* etc. :**

(কখনো কখনো *a, ine, ix* যোগ করে Feminine হয়।)

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Hero	heroine	Administrator	administratrix
Sultan	Sultana	Executor	executrix
Czar (জার)	Czarina	Prosecutor	prosecutrix
Signor	signora	Testator	testatrix



**Note :** Objects without life are often personified and then they are regarded as males or females. (জড় পদার্থের উপরও কখনো কখনো ব্যক্তিস্বভাব আরোপিত হয়, তখন সেগুলি পুংবাচক বা স্ত্রীবাচক হয়।)

(a) The Masculine Gender is often applied to objects remarkable for strength or power. (উল্লেখযোগ্য শক্তি বা ক্ষমতার অধিকারী বিষয়গুলি প্রায়শ Masculine Gender হয়।)

যেমন—The Sun, Summer, Winter, Death, Time etc.

*The sun sheds his* beams on the rich and the poor alike.

(b) The Feminine Gender is often applied to objects remarkable for beauty and gracefulness. (সৌন্দর্য ও মাধুর্য প্রকাশক বিষয়গুলি প্রায়শ Feminine Gender হয়।)

যেমন—The Moon, The Earth, Nature, Autumn, Spring, Liberty etc. *The moon* has hidden *her* face behind the cloud.

(c) A ship is always spoken of as Feminine Gender. (জাহাজকে সর্বদাই Feminine Gender ধরা হয়।)

*The ship* lost all *her* boats in the storm.



(d) Collective nouns, even when they denote living beings, are considered of the Neuter Gender. (Collective Noun প্রাণীবাচক হলেও Neuter Gender হয়।)

*The army* showed *its* strength.

(e) Lower animals are often considered as Neuter Gender. (ইতর প্রাণীকে প্রায়শ Neuter Gender গণ্য করা হয়।)

*The mouse* cut the rope with *its* teeth.

**Some more words denoting male or female :**

Masculine	Feminine
Mr. (মিস্টার—বয়স্ক পুরুষ)	Mrs. (মিসেস—বিবাহিতা মহিলা)
Master (মাস্টার—ছোট ছেলে)	Miss (মিস—কুমারী)

## APPLIED SECTION

**Read the passage and change the Genders :** (Passage-টি পড়ে Gender পরিবর্তন করো।)

Mr. Roy is a teacher. He teaches me English. He has two sons. One of them is a poet. He has a pet peacock. His uncle is a doctor. He is a widower. His grandfather was a landlord and his son-in-law is a hunter. His step-brother is a bachelor and his step-sister is an actress.

### EXERCISE

**1. Classify the following nouns according to Gender and put them in the following boxes :** (নীচের Noun-গুলিকে Gender অনুযায়ী শ্রেণিবিভাগ করে সঠিক box-এ বসাতো।)

Baby, cock, man, chair, table, book, pen, oil, rice, tutor, hero, brother, child, teacher, doctor, son, poet, prince, tiger, master, priest, lord, aunt, wife, niece, male, host, bride.

Masculine	Feminine	Common	Neuter
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....

**2. Change the Gender of the following nouns :** (নীচের Noun-গুলির Gender পরিবর্তন করো।)

Father, boy, daughter, husband, uncle, hero, master, widow, man, nephew, sir, brother, poet, actor, son-in-law, mother-in-law, milkman, host, bride, tiger, lion, man-servant, grandfather.

**3. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate word given in the bracket.** (বন্ধনীর মধ্যে প্রদত্ত শব্দগুলির মধ্য থেকে সঠিক word নির্বাচন করে শূন্য স্থানে বসাতো।)

- (a) Naren is my ..... (sister, brother)
- (b) Rupa is my ..... (brother, sister)
- (c) Sukanta is a great ..... (poet, poetess)
- (d) Chandragupta was a great ..... (queen, king)
- (e) The ..... gives us milk. (bull, cow)

**4. Apply the rules of Genders and write -**