



English Grammar: Nouns, Adjectives, and Prepositions

Summary of key points from the Mini Conference 2025 presentation by Steven Reid.

Nouns

- Countable Nouns:
 - Can be individually counted
 - Have a plural form
 - Used with a/an
 - Quantifiers: many, several, few
- Uncountable Nouns:
 - Cannot be individually counted
 - No plural form
 - Not used with a/an
 - Quantifiers: much, a little, a lot
- Some nouns can be both countable and uncountable depending on context.
- Plural Nouns:
 - Regular: add -s or -es
 - Irregular
 - Ending in consonant +y: drop -y, add -ies
 - Ending in -f or -fe: drop -f or -fe, add -ves
 - Ending in -um or -on: drop -um or -on, add -a
 - Ending in -is: change -is to -es
 - Ending in -us: drop -us, add -i
 - Some nouns do not change in plural form (e.g., sheep, deer)
 - Some nouns change words, no pattern

Adjectives

- Adjective order matters in English (e.g., 'two young red hound dogs')
- Adjectives typically precede the noun
- Teaching tip: Use examples and practice with adjective strings

Prepositions

- Do not translate one-to-one from other languages
- Usage varies across English dialects
- Teaching tips include visual aids, body movement, and interactive activities
- Categories of Prepositions:
 - Place: at, on, in, above, below
 - Time: until, before, during
 - Direction: into, onto, over, across
- Phrasal Verbs:
 - Examples: break through, point out, catch up, pull over, cut off

Resources

- Order of Adjectives
 - <https://www.gingersoftware.com/content/grammar-rules/adjectives/order-of-adjectives>
- Collocations:
 - <https://7esl.com/category/common-phrases/english-collocations/>
- Phrasal Verbs:
 - <https://englishilm.com/important-phrasal-verbs-examples/>