

THE NOUN PARADIGM/ PART 1

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NOUN PARADIGM

The noun paradigm consists of four positions or slots: the stem, the plural form, the singular possessive form, and the plural possessive form.

Accordingly, the maximum number of the forms in a noun paradigm is four, while the minimum number is one form only. The reason is that not all nouns have all the four forms, some of them have only one , some have two or three only.



There are some nouns that do not have the four forms of the paradigm

1- Many nouns are less likely to have possessive forms. They instead take the (of structure)

- These nouns mostly include inanimate nouns like: hair, pencil, chair, shirt, land,.....

instead of saying (the land's price), we say (the price of the land)

instead of saying (the chair's leg), we say (the leg of the chair)

instead of saying (the shirt's sleeves), we say (the sleeves of the shirt)

- So with inanimate nouns the two positions (the singular possessive and the plural possessive) are empty.

The stem	Plural form	Singular possessive	Plural possessive
chair	chairs	-----	-----



2- Nouns which are always singular or plural. These nouns include the following

A- few nouns have only one form (the stem) like (courage, love, tennis, haste, anger,...). These nouns have only one form in the noun paradigm which is the stem position only.

The stem	Plural form	Singular possessive	Plural possessive
tennis	-----	-----	-----
haste	-----	-----	-----

❑ These nouns are always singular, so they go with the singular form of the verb.

Tennis **is** a racket sport.

Haste often **causes** nasty things.



B- some other nouns do not have a singular form, these nouns are always in the plural form. for example, clothes, environs, trousers, scissors, pliers, tweezers, pants, goods, thanks, means,... they occupy two positions in the noun paradigm (the stem and the plural form).

The stem	Plural form	Singular possessive	Plural possessive
trousers	trousers	-----	-----

❑ These nouns go with the plural form of the verb and they take plural pronouns.

The trousers **are** dirty, I need to clean **them**.

Her clothes **don't fit** right.

