Grammar Part 1
Noun: Number & Cases

Noun- Number

When we speak of a single thing, the noun is singular; when we speak of two or more things the noun is plural.

Singular Nouns: man, present, child

Plural nouns- men, presents, children

Some nouns have same words to denote the singular number as well as the plural: swine, sheep

Some nouns are used only in the plural: scissors, tongs, spectacles, trousers, alms

Key Notes on the number of Nouns:

I.

1. Proper and abstract nouns (uncountable), generally, do not have plural forms. However, the plural forms of these nouns can be formed if they are used as common nouns. Consider the following examples:

a. Proper noun: Australia is the smallest continent in the world (Proper)

Several Australias can fit in the continent of Africa. (Common)

b. The sage is said to have done many kindnesses (acts of kindness).

Exception: Proper nouns are used as plural when more than one person or place are referred to collectively: The Mehras, The three Dianas.

2. The names of certain things are also uncountable and are not therefore used in the plural.

E. G. copper, iron, tin, wood.

When used in the plural, these words become countable, carrying different meanings:

coppers =⇒ copper coins; irons = shackles; tins = cans made of tin; woods = forests.

II. Generally, the plural is formed by adding an “s” to the singular noun, but nouns ending in s, sh, x or ch, add es to make plural nouns.

E.G. Glass- glasses

E.G. Box- boxes
III. When a noun ends with *y*, and the *y* is preceded by a consonant, *y* changes to *ies* in the plural form.

E. G. Baby- babies

E.G. Lady- ladies

Note- If the *y* is preceded by a vowel, one can form the plural by adding *s* to the singular form.

E. G. Ray- rays

E.G. joy- joys

III. When a noun ends with *o* that is preceded by a consonant, the plural is formed by adding *es* to the singular form.

E. G. Tomato- tomatoes

E.G. Mosquitoes- mosquitoes

Note- All the words that end in *oo, ioi, eo, yo*, and several words ending in *o*, if preceded by a consonant, form the plural in *s*.

E.G. Cuckoo- Cuckoos

E.G. Piano- Pianos

IV. For nouns ending in *fe* or *f*, the plural form, generally, changes *fe* or *f* into *ves.*

E.G. Knife- Knives

E.G. Hoof- Hooves

**Exception:** Often, nouns ending in *fe* or *f* are made plural by simply adding *s* in the end.

E.G. Belief- Beliefs

E.G. Strife- Strifes

V. Some nouns form the plural by changing the vowels inside the words.

E.G. Man- men

E.G. Woman- Women

E.G. Foot- Feet

E.G. Goose- Geese
VI. The plural of a compound noun is generally formed by adding s to the principal word.:
E.G. Son-in-law- Sons-in-law (Here, ‘sons’ is the principal word
E.G. Passer-by - Passers-by
Note 1- Words like spoonfull & handful are regarded as one word (written without the hyphens), therefore, the s is added at the end of the word. Hence, their plural forms are spoonfulls & handsfulls.
Note 2- There are several compound nouns that take a double plural:
E.G. Man-servant- Men-servant
VII. List of commonly used foreign plurals:
Singular Plural
1. Agendum- Agenda (Latin)
2. Alumnus- Alumni (Latin)
3. Apparatus- Apparatus (Latin)
4. Appendix- Appendices (Latin)
5. Axis- Axes (Latin)
6. Data- Datum (Latin)
7. Analysis- Analyses (Greek)
8. Base- Bases (Greek)
9. Crisis- Crises (Greek)
10. Monsieur- Messieurs (Italian)
11. Cherub- Cherubim (Hebrew)
VIII. There are nouns that are used in plural sense. E.G. Cattle, People, Swine.
Note- The term “peoples” refers to is the plural of people, when the word is used in the sense of ‘nation’.
IX. Nouns with two forms of plural:
E.G. Brother- Brothers, brethren
E.G. Cloth- Cloth, Clothes
E.G. Die- Dies, Dice
E.G. Index- Indexes, Indices
X. Nouns that have the same form for singular as well as plural- Deer, Sheep, Fish, Dozen, Hundred, Thousand, Salmon.

The plural of some of the aforementioned words are used if the preposition “of” is used after them. Consider the following examples:

1.

Mahima bought two dozen mangoes.

Yesterday, Mahima bought dozens of mangoes.

2.

We have so far enrolled one hundred students.

Hundreds of men participated in the race.

XI. There are certain nouns that have different meanings in the singular and the plural.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advice: counsel</td>
<td>Advises: information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air: atmosphere</td>
<td>Airs: affected manners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good: benefit</td>
<td>Goods: merchandise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return: coming back</td>
<td>Returns: the profit earned from an undertaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand: a kind of matter</td>
<td>Sands: a tract of sandy land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef: flesh of ox</td>
<td>Beeves: cattle, bulls and cows</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

XII. There are some nouns that have two meanings in the plural, while one in the singular

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colour: hue</td>
<td>Colours: hues; flag of a regiment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom: habit</td>
<td>Customs: habits; toll or tax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effect: result</td>
<td>Effects: results; property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moral: a moral lesson</td>
<td>Morals: moral lessons; conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spectacle: a sight</td>
<td>Spectacles: sights; eyeglasses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number: a quantity</td>
<td>Numbers, quantities; verses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
XIII. Some nouns are generally used in the plural:

- Alms- We give **alms** to the charity and **these** are used for the upliftment of the underprivileged children.
- Riches- **Riches tend** to perish but good deeds do not.
- Odds- The odds of England winning the match are high.

XIV. Some nouns are generally used in the singular:

- News- The **news** that is being spread about Megha, **is** not true.
- Means- **The window** was the only **means** of escape, and I jumped out of it.
- Innings- In the T20 format each team gets only **an inning** and a maximum of 20 overs to show their efforts.

**Noun- Cases**

Cases indicate the grammatical functions of nouns and pronouns according to their relationship with rest of the words in a sentence.

The relation in which a noun stands to some other word (Subjective/Objective), or the change of form (Possessive) by which the relation is indicated is called its case.

The Subjective Case is used to mark the subject of a finite verb.

The Objective Case is used to mark the direct object of a transitive verb.

The Possessive Case is used to mark the possessor of another noun.

Note: A noun in apposition is in the same case as the noun which it explains.

**Subjective Case.**

When a noun is used as the subject to a verb or for the sake of address, it is said to be in the Subjective Case.

*Rain* falls. (Nominative of Subject)

*Are you coming, my friend?* (Nominative of Address)

To find the Subjective, put Who? or What? before the verb.

**Objective Case.**

When a noun is the object to a verb or to a preposition, it is said to be in the Objective Case.

The man killed a *rat*. (Object to verb)

The earth is moistened by *rain*. (Object to preposition)
To find the Objective put, Whom? or What? before the verb and its subject.

**Possessive Case**

Nouns are considered possessive when they are used to show ownership of something. The Possessive Case does not always denote possession. It is used to denote authorship, origin, kind, etc. as well.

_England's_ power is very great. (Possession)

A good son will repay his _father's_ benefits. (Origin)

_Shakespeare's_ plays are excellent. (Authorship, agency)

His friendship (the friendship felt by him) is sincere. (Subject)

**Formation of the Possessive Case**

1. When the noun is Singular, the Possessive Case is formed by adding ‘s to the noun;

   E.g. The boy's book; the king's crown.

   **Note:** The letter ‘s’ is omitted in a few words where too many hissing sounds would come together;

   E.g. For conscience' sake; for goodness' sake; For justice' sake; for Jesus' sake; Moses' laws.

2. When the noun is Plural, and ends in ‘s’, the Possessive Case is formed by adding only an apostrophe;

   E.g. Boys’ school; girls’ school; horses' tails.

3. When the noun is Plural but does not end in ‘s’, the Possessive sign is formed by adding 's';

   E.g. Men's club; children's books.

4. When a noun or a title consists of several words, the Possessive sign is attached only to the last word;

   E.g. The King of Bhutan's visit.

_The use of the Possessive (or Genitive) Case should be confined to the following:_

1. Names of living beings and personified objects;

   E.g. The Governor's bodyguards; the lion's mane; Nature's laws; Fortune's favourite.
So, we must say:
The leg of the table [not, the table's leg].
The cover of the book [not, the book's cover].
But the Possessive is used with the names of personified (When an inanimate thing has ascribed to it the attributes of a person it is said to be personified;
E.g. India's heroes; Nature's laws; Fortune's favourite; at duty's call; at death's door.
(2) A few stereotyped phrases; as,
E.g. For conscience' sake, for goodness' sake, at his fingers' ends, out of harm's way, the boat's crew.
(3) Nouns of space or time denoting time, space or weight:
E.g. Time: A day's work, three days' grace.
Space: a hand's breadth, a stone's throw.
Weight: a pound's weight.
(4) When two nouns in the possessive case are in apposition the apostrophe with 's' is added to the last only;
E.g. That is Tagore the poet's house.
This is my uncle, the engineer's office.
My brother Harry's watch.
For thy servant David's sake.
(5) The possessive of a proper name or of a noun denoting a trade, profession, or relationship may be used to denote a building or place of business (church, house, school, college, shop, hospital, the atre; etc.) as,
E.g. She has gone to the baker's (= baker's shop).
Tonight, I am dining at my uncle's (= uncle's house).
(6)
A) In case of joint possession, we use only the possessive closest to the noun.
E.g. Carol and Susan's car is out of gasoline.
Karim and Salim's bakery.
William and Mary's reign.
B) Each of two or more connected nouns implying separate possession must take the possessive sign;

E.g. The car’s and the bicycle’s owners could speak French perfectly.

Raja Rao’s and R.K. Narayan’s novels

(7) If a noun is used before a Gerund, it should be in the Possessive case provided that the noun is one that can take the Possessive form.

E.g. Abhinav is in favour of the candidate being interviewed on Saturday.
[Abhinav likes the candidate who has an interview on Saturday]

Abhinav is in favour of the candidate’s being interviewed on Saturday.
[Abhinav wants the interview to be on Saturday]

Note:

When you are in doubt whether to use a noun in the possessive case or with the preposition of, remember that, as a general rule, the possessive case is used to denote possession or ownership. Thus, it is better to say 'the defeat of the enemy' than 'the enemy's defeat', even though no doubt as to the meaning would arise.

Sometimes, however, a noun in the possessive case has a different meaning from a noun used with the preposition of;

E.g. ‘The Prime Minister’s reception in Delhi’ means a reception held by the Prime Minister in Delhi.

‘The reception of the Prime Minister in Delhi’ means the manner in which the people welcomed him when he entered Delhi.

The phrase 'the love of a father' may mean either 'a father's love of his child' or 'a child’s love of his father'.

**Pronouns - Correct Antecedent + Cases**

A pronoun is a word that is used instead of a noun or noun phrase. Pronouns refer to either a noun that has already been mentioned or to a noun that does not need to be named specifically.

**Types of Pronouns**

- **Personal** pronouns (e.g., he, they)
- **Demonstrative** pronouns (e.g., this, these)
- **Interrogative** pronouns (e.g., which, who)
Indefinite pronouns (e.g., none, several)
Relative pronouns (e.g., which, where)
Reflexive and Intensive pronouns (e.g., itself, himself)

Personal Pronouns
Personal Pronouns stand for the three persons.
(i) the person speaking,
(ii) the person spoken to, and
(iii) the person spoken of.

1. Three persons (points of view)
1st person - denotes the person or persons speaking; the one(s) speaking (I, me, my, mine, we, us, our, ours)
2nd person - denotes the person or persons spoken to; the one(s) spoken to (you, your, yours)
3rd person - denotes the person or persons spoken of; the one(s) spoken about (he, him, his, she, her, hers, it, its, they, their, theirs)

2. Three genders
a) Feminine (she, her, hers)
b) Masculine (he, him, his)
c) Neuter (it, its, they, them, their, theirs)

3. Two numbers
a) Singular (I, me, my, mine, you, your, yours, he, him, his, she, her, hers, it, its)
b) Plural (we, us, our, ours, you, your, yours, they, them, their, theirs)

4. Three cases
a) Subjective (I, you, he, she, it, we, they)
b) Possessive (my, mine, your, yours, his, her, hers, our, ours, their, theirs)
c) Objective (me, you, him, her, it, us, them)
Cases of Pronouns

The pronoun's function in a sentence determines which case to use.

Forms of first-person pronouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subjective</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>We</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Me</td>
<td>Us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possessive</td>
<td>My, Mine</td>
<td>Our, Ours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Forms of second person pronouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subjective</td>
<td>You</td>
<td>You</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>You</td>
<td>You</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possessive</td>
<td>Your, Yours</td>
<td>Your, Yours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Forms of third person pronouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Singular &amp; Plural</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subjective</td>
<td>Masculine, Feminine</td>
<td>Neuter, All Genders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>He, She</td>
<td>It, They</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possessive</td>
<td>His, Her, Hers</td>
<td>Its, Their, Theirs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The Possessive Cases of most of the Personal Pronouns have two forms. Of these the forms my, our, your, her, their, are called Possessive Adjectives because they are used with nouns and do the work of Adjectives.

Forms of relative and interrogative pronouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Singular &amp; Plural</th>
<th>Singular &amp; Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subjective</td>
<td>Who</td>
<td>Which</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Whom</td>
<td>Which</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possessive</td>
<td>Whose</td>
<td>Whose, Of Which</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subjective Case

The subjective case of pronoun is used when the pronoun functions as the sentence’s subject or subjective complement.
1) As personal pronoun subject
E.g. *She* visited her mother’s house last summer.

2) Personal pronoun subjective complement ("completes" the subject)
E.g. The hero in the movie is *he*.

Subjective Pronouns are used as the Subject of a Verb.
If a Verb ‘to be’ has a Pronoun for its complement, the Pronoun must be used in the subjective form.

**Objective Case**
If a Personal Pronoun is the Object of a Verb or a Preposition, it must be used in the Objective form.

1) As direct object
E.g. Hiten adores *him*.

2) As indirect object
E.g. Hiten gave *him* a gift.

3) As object of preposition
E.g. The task was easy for *him*.

It should be remembered that in Exclamatory and Predicative use, Personal Pronoun can be used in the Objective form.

E.g. It is me! It wasn’t him!

**Possessive Case**
A possessive pronoun is a pronoun that can take the place of a noun phrase to show ownership

E.g. This phone is *mine*.

The weak possessives (also called possessive determiners) function as determiners in front of nouns

E.g. *My* phone is broken.

The weak possessives are *my, your, his, her, its, our, and their*.

In contrast, the strong (or absolute) possessive pronouns stand on their own: mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, and theirs. The strong possessive is a type of independent genitive.
A possessive pronoun never takes an apostrophe.

The Gender of a Possessive Pronoun / Adjective is determined by the gender of the noun that comes before it, and not by the one that comes after it.

E.g. The purse has been returned to its owner. (not his owner)

**Rules**

1. When a pronoun is used along with a noun, choose the pronoun case that matches the noun's function.

   E.g. *We* sailors love the sea.

   The sea attracts *us* sailors.

2. When a pronoun is part of a compound element, choose the pronoun case that would be correct if the pronoun were not part of a compound element.

   E.g. *He* joined us at the theatre. (single pronoun)

   She joined us at the theatre. (single pronoun)

   He and she joined us at the theatre. (Two pronouns as a Compound Subject)

3. When a personal pronoun is used in a comparison (e.g. using ‘than’ or ‘as’), choose the correct pronoun case by carrying the sentence out to its logical conclusion.

   E.g. *I* am stronger than *he* (is)

   I am as strong as *he* (is).

   *He* loves you more than *I* (love you).

   Note: A pronoun directly after than or as is usually in the objective case unless there is a verb after it. If a verb follows it, the nominative form is used.

   E.g. *He* is taller than *me*.

   *He* is taller than *I* am. (More formal)

4. We use possessive case pronouns with gerunds.

   E.g. I do not like your arriving late for the meeting.
Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

The pronoun must agree with its antecedent in three ways:

A. Person refers to the quality of being.
   
   E.g. If a person (3rd Person) wants to succeed in corporate life, *he or she* has to know the rules of the game.

B. Number is the quality that distinguishes between singular (one entity) and plural (numerous entities).
   
   E.g. If anybody (third person singular) wants to succeed in corporate life, *he or she* has to know the rules of the game.

C. Gender is the quality that distinguishes the entities as masculine or feminine.
   
   E.g. If a man wants to succeed in corporate life, *he* has to know the rules of the game.

In referring to anybody, everybody, everyone, anyone, each, etc., the pronoun of the masculine or the feminine gender is used according to the context; as,

E.g. I shall be glad to help everyone of my boys in his studies.

**Rules**

1) A phrase or clause between the subject and verb does not change the number of the antecedent.
   
   E.g. As the house came into sight, I saw that *the police* had just taken a loaded .38 pistol away from Freddie and were driving him away in *their* car.

2) Indefinite pronouns as antecedents.

A. *Singular indefinite pronoun antecedents take singular pronoun referents.*
   
   Singular: Each, Either, Neither, One, No One, Nobody, Nothing, Anyone, Anybody, Anything, Someone, Somebody, Something, Everyone, Everybody, Everything.

   Each of the employees does a substantial amount of work in *his* or *her* department.

B. *Plural indefinite pronoun antecedents require plural referents.*
   
   Plural: Several, Few, Both, Many

   E.g. Several families in Patterson say a man has been terrorizing *them*, stalking *them* and breaking into *their* homes.
C. Some indefinite pronouns that are modified by a prepositional phrase may be either singular or plural.

Either Singular or Plural: some, any, none, all, most

When the object of the preposition is uncountable, we use a singular referent pronoun.

When the object of the preposition is countable, we use a plural referent pronoun.

3) With compound subjects joined by or/nor, the referent pronoun agrees with the antecedent closer to the pronoun.

E.g. Neither the coach nor the players did their jobs well.

4) Collective Nouns (group, jury, crowd, team, etc.) may be singular or plural, depending on meaning.

E.g. The jury read its verdict.

The jury gave their individual opinions.

5) Titles of single entities. (books, organizations, countries, etc.) take a singular referent.

E.g. It did not authorise the invasion of the North, which the United States and its allies nonetheless undertook.

6) Plural form subjects with a singular meaning take a singular referent. (news, measles, mumps, physics, etc).

E.g. The news has lost much of its sting two days later.

7) ‘Every’ or ‘Many a’ before a noun or a series of nouns requires a singular referent.

E.g. Many a girl wishes she could sing like Tina Turner.