The label **noun** refers to the part of speech which includes the words *dog, tree, house, number and honesty*. The easiest way to identify nouns is to consider the following frames: *The ————– was sweet; The —————— were sweet*. Any single word which can fill one of the blanks to produce a grammatical sentence is a noun, because the English grammar permits nouns, and only nouns, to fill such positions. So for example, *girl(s), boy(s), apple(s), mango(es)* and several other similar words can fit into one of the blanks, and hence these words can be nouns in English.

English nouns distinguish number: that is, most nouns can be either **singular** or **plural**.

**Noun clause**

The label **noun clause** refers to any kind of subordinate clause which can occupy the position of a noun or noun phrase. It can, for example, be the subject of a verb. It can also be the object of a verb.

She has decided **that she will find a good job**. (Here the noun clause ‘that she will find a good job’ is the object of the verb decided.)  
**That she has not yet arrived** worries me. (Here the noun clause ‘that she has not yet arrived’ is the subject of the verb worries.)

**Noun phrase**

A **noun phrase** is a syntactic unit which can serve as subject, direct object or object of a preposition in a sentence. A noun phrase is constructed around a noun or a pronoun as its head. A noun phrase may be of any size. The simplest form consists of just one word.