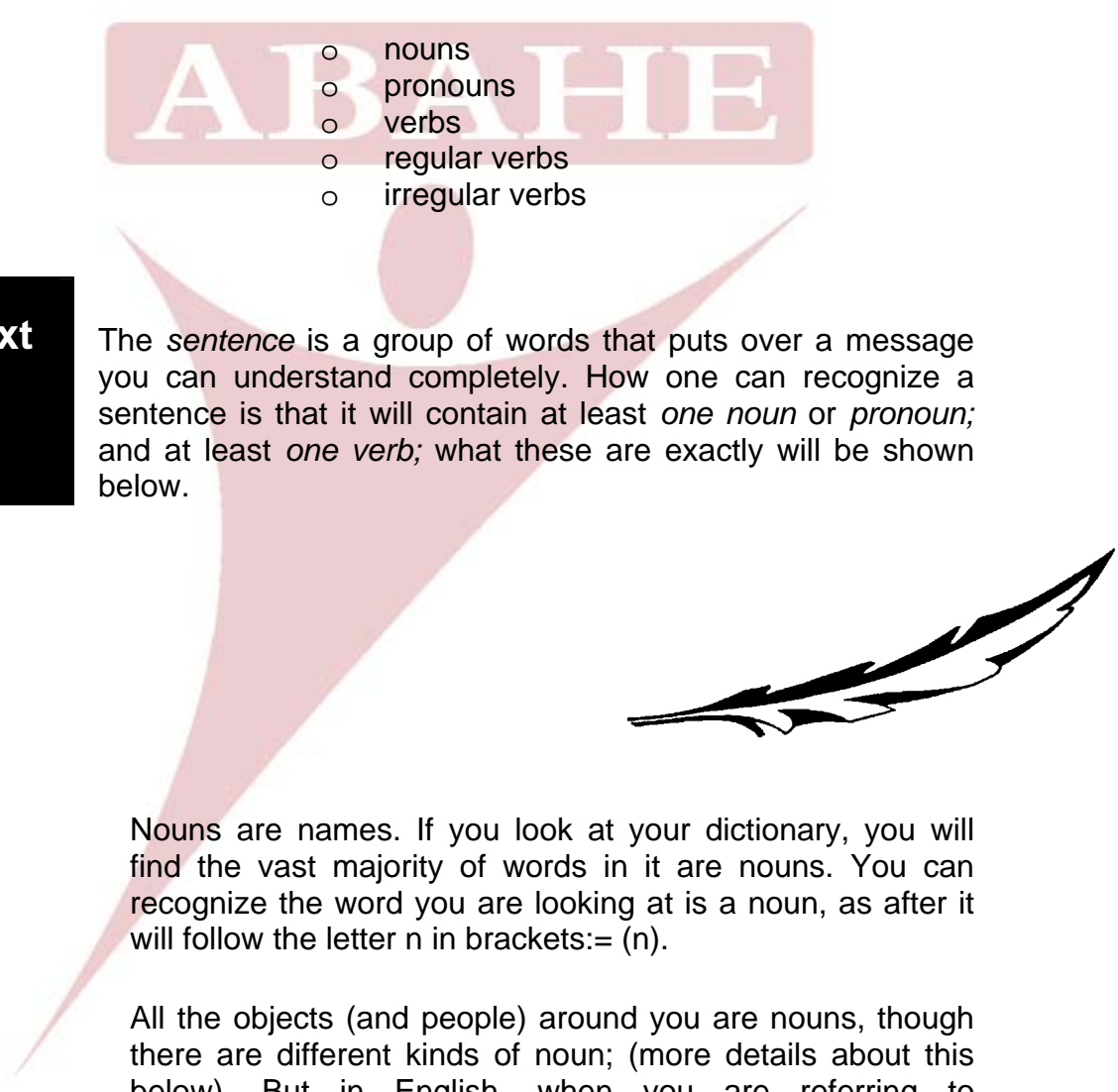


## Aims

The aims of this lesson are to enable you to learn about

- how sentences are formed

- 
- nouns
  - pronouns
  - verbs
  - regular verbs
  - irregular verbs

## Context

The *sentence* is a group of words that puts over a message you can understand completely. How one can recognize a sentence is that it will contain at least *one noun or pronoun*; and at least *one verb*; what these are exactly will be shown below.

## Nouns

Nouns are names. If you look at your dictionary, you will find the vast majority of words in it are nouns. You can recognize the word you are looking at is a noun, as after it will follow the letter n in brackets:= (n).

All the objects (and people) around you are nouns, though there are different kinds of noun; (more details about this below). But in English, when you are referring to names/nouns, you will need to accompany them by only three words: the, a, and some.

So if you are talking about tree, you can either say, **the** tree (a **particular** tree) or **a** tree (**any** tree...).

## Plurals

The plurals are easy: **the** remains the same, and **a** changes to **some**...

the books; some books (or just books).

It probably seems pretty obvious but plural nouns in English mostly end in s, or es as in boxes,foxes.

Until you notice that quite a few plural nouns end in some other letters, or in some cases they do not change at all...

Please note the following:

Man - men; woman - women; child - children; ox - oxen;

**But:** fish -fish, sheep - sheep...

## Different Kinds of Nouns

There are in English four types of noun: common, proper, collective, and abstract.

These are easy to recognize, but you have to recognize by their meaning, not their appearance. Here are the definitions of each:

**Common:** as is shown by the name itself, most nouns are common; there is by definition nothing special about them...  
e.g.: book, chair, man, woman.

**Proper:** these nouns are names, and always start with capital letters; e.g. Peter, Paris, Ben Nevis...

**Collective:** as you can see from the name itself, this type of noun refers to groups, and often is followed by a plural verb, even though the noun does not end in s... However the *collective* may easily be followed by a singular verb, you have to learn these quite tricky nouns one at a time,

e.g. the people **are** in charge

**But:** there is a crowd in the square

**Abstract:**these nouns refer to ideas, values, that you can't see physically, more feel: e.g. happiness, fear, truth, faith, hatred; love; friendship.

War is difficult as although it is in a sense invisible it has a physical presence and therefore cannot be called abstract. Peace however is definitely abstract. Interesting!

n.b. Please see over for a study of our masculine, feminine, and neuter nouns, which can equally be common or proper...  
But not collective or abstract; why you will see!

## Masculine, Feminine, Neuter

The different types of Nouns presented, Common, Proper, Abstract, Collective, do not affect their gender i.e. whether they are Masculine, Feminine, or Neuter.

Our system is a very sensible one: Male nouns are Masculine, Female nouns are Feminine, and all non-living things are Neuter.

Animals present a grey area, as only some are definitely male and female: e.g. cock, hen, bull, cow, dog, bitch. But we usually refer to for example dogs and cats, as such regardless of sex. Interestingly we tend to personalize our possessions, for example, cars, boats and so on are often referred to as she...

## Pronouns

Life would be very boring if we only had nouns as we should have to go in for endless repetition...The main pronouns or replacing words are the following:

|                              |
|------------------------------|
| <b>he, she, it,<br/>they</b> |
|------------------------------|

When they are used is obvious, but the technical name of these words: subject pronouns will be helpful.

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