

Unit 48: PROPER NOUNS & VERBAL NOUNS

These nouns usually have only one form. Proper nouns are either singular or plural; verbal nouns are mass nouns (Unit 47).

1 Proper nouns

These are names for a particular person (**John**) or thing (**Toyota**) or place (**Rome**) or time (**May**).

a They begin with a capital letter

Mr. and Mrs. Smith

Africa

Prime Minister Harper

Independence Day

b Normally, we do not use **the**. We say:

Maria NOT *the Maria*

Pearson Airport

NOT *the Pearson*

Tokyo NOT *the Tokyo*

January

NOT *the January*

BUT NOTICE

plurals

the Queen Charlotte Islands **the** Badlands

rivers and seas

the Indian Ocean

the Nile

famous buildings

the Acropolis

the Louvre

names with of

the King of Spain

the House of Commons

2 Verbal nouns

These are the **-ing** form of the verb (Unit 14) used as a noun.

a as the subject **Smoking** is bad for you.

b as part of the subject **Travelling by plane** makes me nervous.

c after verbs He doesn't **mind working** at night.

Would you **mind leaving** now? (A polite command.)

I'll **do the washing** and you **do the cooking**.

Let's **go shopping**. (A suggestion.)

My car **keeps stopping**.

I **remember locking** the door. (I remember that I did this.)

BUT I'll remember to lock the door. (I won't forget to do it.)

I **like listening** to music. (Generally.)

BUT I would like to listen to some music. (now)

He **stopped talking**. (He was talking; then he stopped.)

BUT He stopped to talk. (He was doing something; then he stopped because he wanted to talk.)

d after prepositions How **about phoning** John? (A suggestion.)

He's no good **at driving**.

Why don't we walk instead of **going** by car? (A suggestion.)