

## Chapter 3 Not Just ‘Things:’ The Noun

### Additional paper or project ideas

1. Take any short article or excerpt of an article—print or web—then identify all words functioning as nouns. Provide one piece of evidence supporting your claim. Now, create a paper or electronic survey using the article or excerpt. Survey a variety of persons—age, education level, profession—and ask them to identify all the nouns and what evidence they are using to support their claim. Analyze the results for correctness, errors, types of evidence. What does this tell you? Write up your findings.
2. If you are proficient in or, even, learning another language, take a sample text—something fun like a poem or story or news article—and determine the nouns in that article. Now, depending on how proficient you are, determine what evidence you can supply to support your claim that the word identified is functioning as a noun. You may need to consult a grammar of that language. Once you have compiled your list of nouns (let’s say 15 should work) from within the context of the text, now translate those words into their English form. What evidence could you use to support each as a noun? Compare your evidence for the two languages. What can you say about nouns in these two languages? Create a presentation discussing these observations about nouns in Language A and in English.
3. In their dissertation, Bordbarjavidi, F. (2023) analyzed sequences of noun + noun (such as “grammar book”) in published research in different disciplines. Pick one assigned reading from two of your other classes each (ideally, classes in different disciplines, so maybe a biology class and an English class), and highlight all noun+noun combinations. Then, try to analyze those combinations. Do they have anything in common? Do the lists from the two different classes (ideally in different disciplines) differ in meaningful ways?
4. Using this [Oxford English Dictionary’s post](#) on new words of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as a guide, come up with three new nouns that would provide the name for new types of food, objects, relationships, identities, or other such phenomena. Explain their meaning and what in society would create a demand of this new term or how each might fill a gap for speakers. Lastly, how might these new words gain popularity? Explain where you would expect to see or hear them and why. You may find it useful to do additional research on some of the examples the OED’s new word list to see how new words take hold within a given language.