SOME TRAITS OF ENGLISH NOUNS

Definition of "noun" - A noun is a word used in a sentence (used in context) as a name, a noun names something.

The following is a partial list of important traits pertaining to English nouns.
These are only some preliminary thoughts, please add to this list as you discover more information.

nouns can have a plural form

student	students
child	children
woman	women
book	books

most nouns can be counted
(these are called "count nouns")
one car / two cars / twelve cars
an assignment / three assignments
one apple / five apples

(note: some nouns can't be counted)
(these are called "non-count nouns")

hay	police
salt	water
air	people

nouns can form a syntatic unit with determiners

the tree	some grass
this building	those people
that man	a message
an eagle	any money

nouns can be specific or non specific

(specific)	(non-specific)
the book	a book
this sugar	some sugar
those people	any people

nouns can form a syntatic unit with possessive adjectives

my car	your friend
her wallet	his parents
its odor	our relationship
their money	

English has "common" nouns and "proper" nouns.
Proper nouns are names of people, places, etc.
In English, proper nouns are capitalized.

(proper)	(common)
John	person
Paris	city
Ms. Brown	woman
Mercedes	automobile

nouns can show possession

the cat's fur	my teacher's hat
the bank's policy	our parent's house

nouns can form a syntactic unit with adjectives

red paint	strong coffee
cold beer	beautiful people

can form a syntactic unit with determiners and adjectives

the old white house	that silly child
my new bicycle	this funny joke
her only child	a little old lady

nouns can act as the object of a preposition

in our house	from New York
about happiness	in three weeks
under that table	

nouns have "function" when used in sentences

subject	time
direct object	location
beneficiary	destination
object of preposition	accompaniment
predicate nominal	possession
instrument	etc.

The tree blocked the sun. (performer)
The farmer cut down the tree. (victim)
Insects were living in the tree. (location)

nouns (the full syntactic unit) can be replaced by pronouns

the old white house	→ it
that silly child	→ he
my crazy parents	→ they
John and Mary	→ you

pronouns can show case forms

I	me
she	her
he	him
we	us
they	them
who	whom