

Grammar

Parts of Speech: Noun Review

THE NOUN

A noun is a word that names something, something that you may or not be able to see or touch.

*A **noun** is a word that names a person, place thing, or idea.*

Persons: Mother, Dan, Mrs. Farrell, teacher, woman
Places: Grand Canyon, city, Nevada, kitchen
Things: train, lamp, canary, bread
Ideas: happiness, imagination, democracy, bravery

Exercise 1: Identifying Nouns Circle all of the nouns in the following paragraph.

Rebecca Motte was a great patriot. During the Revolutionary War, British soldiers seized her mansion in South Carolina and set up defenses. General Harry Lee told Motte that Americans would have to burn her home to smoke out the enemy. Motte supported the plan and was glad to help her country. She even supplied fire arrows and a bow for the attack. The enemy raised the white flag, and the house was saved. That night, Mottle invited both sides to dinner.

Proper Nouns and Common Nouns

Some nouns begin with a **capital letter**. These are called *proper nouns*. A proper noun names a particular person, place, or thing. Here are some examples of proper nouns:

Persons: Mrs. Frankel, Tom Brady, Shane, Aunt Mary
Places: Kansas City, Idaho, Egypt, Australia
Things: Eiffel Tower, Old Faithful, Jupiter

A *common noun* does not name a particular person, place, or idea. It does not begin with a capital. These are common nouns:

Persons: child, teacher, movie star, uncle
Places: town, meadow, street, valley, gym
Things: book, airplane, scissors, computer, shed
Ideas: friendship, consideration, justice, anger

Exercise 2: Common and Proper Nouns Circle proper nouns and underline common nouns in the following sentences.

1. The moon shines by reflected sunlight.
2. Tulips and daffodils are spring flowers.
3. Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky.
4. Joan belongs to the 4 – H Club.
5. Robert Fulton built the first successful steamboat.
6. My sister attends the University of Michigan.
7. We should never cross the street except at crossings.
8. Penguins are numerous in Antarctica.
9. Paul and his brother stopped to see the animals.
10. The railroad which extends from Cape Town to Cairo was planned by Cecil Rhodes.

Plural Nouns

A **plural noun** is one that refers to **more than one thing**. Most nouns become plural with the addition of *-s* or *-es*, like *chairs* and *dishes*. Other nouns follow different rules, such as nouns ending in *y*. The plural of nouns ending in *y* preceded by a vowel is formed by adding *-s*. For nouns ending in *y* preceded by a consonant, you would need to change the *y* to *i* and add *-es*

Exercise 3 Writing the Plural of Nouns Write the plural of the following nouns.

1. baby _____

11. toy _____

2. stitch _____
3. puppy _____
4. deer _____
5. tomato _____
6. journey _____
7. address _____
8. sheep _____
9. man _____
10. silo _____

12. fox _____
13. moss _____
14. mouse _____
15. buzz _____
16. soprano _____
17. foot _____
18. lady _____
19. child _____
20. crash _____

Compound Nouns

Compound nouns are two or more nouns combined to form a single noun.

Compound nouns are written as separate words (*grapefruit juice*), as words linked by a hyphen (*sister-in-law*), or as one word (*schoolteacher*).

Exercise 4 Compound Nouns Circle the compound nouns in each of the following sentences. Remember that compound nouns sometimes form one word and sometimes form more than one.

1. While Chad could not decide whether a dragonfly or a goldfish was a cooler pet, his cat wanted him to choose the goldfish.
2. While her preferences are a little baffling to me, Carrie's favorite foods include grapefruit and eggplant.
3. The drummer desperately needed new drumsticks, so his band played a trick on him and brought him a bucketful of Kentucky Fried Chicken.
4. The school board decided to extend summer vacation for the students.
5. The hidden classroom was out of use for so long that cobwebs lurked in every corner.
6. The graveyard is one place I don't want to be on Halloween.

7. The teddy bear was so adorable that I could not resist buying it for myself, even though I was shopping for a birthday present for my nephew.
8. Eating cranberry sauce is my niece's favorite part of Thanksgiving.
9. Her jack-in-the-box was Donna's favorite toy as a child; she could play with it for hours and never grow bored.
10. When my parents were in high school, they had fewer classmates than most students seem to have today.

Collective Nouns

Some nouns that are **singular in form** name a **group** of people or things: *class, family, team, group, and flock*. These nouns are called **collective nouns**.

Exercise 5 Collective Nouns Circle the collective nouns in the following sentences.

1. Every afternoon the baseball team follows its coach out to the hot field for practice.
2. Today, Mrs. Winter's class takes its first 100 point exam.
3. The jury agrees that the state prosecutors did not provide enough evidence, so its verdict is not guilty.
4. The committee decided to fund the new community project.
5. The majority believe that homework on the weekends should be considered cruel and unusual punishment.
6. The public has the right to know if changes to the law are going to be enforced.
7. My entire family came to see me as I made my Broadway debut.
8. The dance troupe had to attend extra practice the week before the big show.

9. The school board decided that students needed three months of summer vacation.

10. The Blake drama department puts on a musical every spring.

Concrete and Abstract Nouns

Nouns that name a material or physical objects, such as a *chicken* or an *egg*, are called ***concrete nouns***. Other nouns refer to things we cannot touch, such as *courage* or *freedom*. These nouns are called ***abstract nouns***.

Exercise 6 Concrete versus Abstract Nouns In the sentences below, underline the concrete nouns and circle the abstract nouns.

1. The principal asked all the students to think about the importance of friendship.

2. When I looked at the new mother, her love for her newborn baby was obvious.

3. He looked at the pile of money with greed in his eyes, and then he tried to grab it.

4. He patted his full stomach with satisfaction after he finished eating his dinner.

5. Her eyes were full of hope as she asked her mom to let her keep the puppy.