

Common and Proper Nouns

A **common noun** names any one of a group of persons, places, things, or ideas and is generally not capitalized. A **proper noun** names a particular person, place, thing, or idea and begins with a capital letter.

COMMON pilot, book **PROPER** Willa Brown, *The Once and Future King*

EXERCISE A Underline each common noun once and each proper noun twice in the sentences below.

Example 1. My favorite book, *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, was written by Jules Verne.

- Jules Verne must have loved adventure.
- Born in France, he worked on a ship when he was a boy.
- Later he studied law in Paris, but he preferred a career in literature.
- He wrote a popular play, which provided only a little income.
- Verne found a job as a stockbroker, but he also pursued his literary dreams.
- He wrote books about imaginary adventures, such as *A Journey to the Center of the Earth*.
- The public loved these stories and eagerly awaited each new novel.
- Many of his books, including *Around the World in Eighty Days*, have been made into movies.
- These novels by Verne influenced another famous writer, H. G. Wells.
- Wells wrote over one hundred books, including *The War of the Worlds*.

EXERCISE B Revise the following sentences by substituting a proper noun for each common noun. You might have to change some other words in each sentence. You may make up proper names.

Example 1. That parrot belongs to my sister. *Oscar belongs to Lucinda.*

- Don't forget to take this book to your next class. _____
- I would love to travel to two other countries. _____
- To get to that city, you need to get on a highway. _____
- Before we go to the theater, I should tell my uncle where we'll be. _____
- I am learning to speak two more languages. _____

Chapter 11: Parts of Speech

Overview, pp. 24–44

Choices: Exploring Parts of Speech, p. 24

Choices activities are designed to extend and enrich students' understanding of grammar, usage, and mechanics and to take learners beyond traditional classroom instruction. To use the Choices worksheet, have each student pick an activity that interests him or her. In some cases, you may wish to assign an activity to a particular student or group of students. You may also want to request that students get your approval for the activities they choose. Establish guidelines for what constitutes successful completion of an activity. Then, help students plan how they will share their work with the rest of the class.

Choices activities can be scored with a pass-fail grade or treated as bonus-point projects. Those activities that require students to research or create a certain number of items might be graded in a traditional manner.

The Noun, p. 25

EXERCISE A

1. When a volcano erupted in the Sunda Strait of Indonesia, the whole world felt the effects.
2. The noise from the eruption of Krakatoa could be heard at great distances.
3. The force from the blast could be felt as far away as Hawaii.
4. A cloud of ash circled the globe and created spectacular sunsets.
5. Volcanic eruptions are powerful forces that can affect the entire planet and its living creatures.

EXERCISE B

6. Please put these new books in the bookcase over there.
7. Takako Mioshi, an exchange student, is here from Japan for the year.

8. Mr. Morales was fascinated by the koalas at the San Diego Zoo.
9. Manuel is the new goalie on the team.
10. Stephanie is having a party after the foot-
ball game.
11. Did your grandparents go to Hawaii for a convention or a vacation?
12. The storm interrupted the final game of the World Series.
13. The journalists learned to have faith in their editor in chief.
14. Lucy, a young chimpanzee, learned several words in sign language.
15. Ryan always puts a little humor into his term papers.

Common and Proper Nouns, p. 26

EXERCISE A

1. Jules Verne must have loved adventure.
2. Born in France, he worked on a ship when he was a boy.
3. Later he studied law in Paris, but he preferred a career in literature.
4. He wrote a popular play, which provided only a little income.
5. Verne found a job as a stockbroker, but he also pursued his literary dreams.
6. He wrote books about imaginary adventures, such as A Journey to the Center of the Earth.
7. The public loved these stories and eagerly awaited each new novel.
8. Many of his books, including Around the World in Eighty Days, have been made into movies.

9. These novels by Verne influenced another famous writer, H. G. Wells.
10. Wells wrote over one hundred books, including The War of the Worlds.

EXERCISE B

Answers will vary. Sample responses are given.

11. Don't forget to take your copy of Barrio Boy to English.
12. I would love to travel to England and Japan.
13. To get to Tallahassee, you need to get on I-10.
14. Before we go to the Paramount Theater, I should tell Uncle Josh where we'll be.
15. I am learning to speak Spanish and French.

Concrete Nouns, Abstract Nouns, and Collective Nouns, p. 27

EXERCISE A

- | | | |
|--------|--------|---------|
| 1. ABS | 5. CON | 8. CON |
| 2. CON | 6. CON | 9. ABS |
| 3. CON | 7. ABS | 10. CON |
| 4. ABS | | |

EXERCISE B

11. I sing tenor in a quartet.
12. Everyone in the group received a door prize.
13. The team arrived early and went to the locker room.
14. As I watched, a flock of geese flew overhead.
15. The jury filed into their seats and listened to the judge's instructions.
16. During lunch today the committee will meet to plan fund-raising events.
17. Can you find your way through this thick grove of trees?
18. The cat and her litter found a home in my dog's abandoned doghouse.

19. When Jared hit the beehive with a stick, a swarm of angry bees flew out.
20. For this short flight, the plane needs a crew of only three.

Identifying Kinds of Nouns, p. 28

EXERCISE

1. Mrs. Perry was planning a field trip to Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico.
PRO, CON
2. Parts of Carlsbad Caverns are still unexplored.
PRO, CON
3. The giant formations produce feelings of awe in many visitors.
COM, ABS
4. She captured our interest by describing cave-dwelling animals and fish.
COM, ABS
5. Blindfish live in dark areas such as caves and underground streams.
COM, CON
6. A distinguishing characteristic of these fish is blindness.
COM, CON
7. They have nerves on their bodies that have a special sensitivity.
COM, ABS
8. When tiny animals such as amphipods move, the blindfish sense the movement.
COM, CON
9. In this way, the fish can find and eat smaller animals without using sight.
COM, CON
10. A blindfish may eat its own offspring if it senses their movement.
COM, CON
11. These young fish stop moving when they feel something swimming nearby.
COM, CON
12. Blindfish may be found in Mammoth Cave in Kentucky and in other caves across the U.S.
PRO, CON
13. Mammoth Cave is part of the longest known cave system in the world.
COM, CON