

## Identifying Kinds of 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** city, monarch      **PROPER** Boston, Queen Victoria

A **concrete noun** names a person, place, or thing that can be perceived by one or more of the senses (sight, hearing, taste, touch, smell). An **abstract noun** names an idea, a feeling, a quality, or a characteristic.

**CONCRETE** hat, water, finger      **ABSTRACT** shyness, fear, need

**EXERCISE** Identify each underlined noun in the following sentences by writing above it *COM* for *common* or *PRO* for *proper* and *CON* for *concrete* or *ABS* for *abstract*.

**Example 1.** Have you ever seen a <sup>COM, CON</sup> blindfish?

- Mrs. Perry was planning a field trip to Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico.
- Parts of Carlsbad Caverns are still unexplored.
- The giant formations produce feelings of awe in many visitors.
- She captured our interest by describing cave-dwelling animals and fish.
- Blindfish live in dark areas such as caves and underground streams.
- A distinguishing characteristic of these fish is blindness.
- They have nerves on their bodies that have a special sensitivity.
- When tiny animals such as amphipods move, the blindfish senses the movement.
- In this way, the fish can find and eat smaller animals without using sight.
- A blindfish may eat its own offspring if it senses their movement.
- These young fish stop moving when they feel something swimming nearby.
- Blindfish may be found in Mammoth Cave in Kentucky and in other caves across the U.S.
- Mammoth Cave is part of the longest known cave system in the world.
- As a result of our field trip to the caves, I developed a desire to learn more.
- I learned that geologists study caves and the stalactites and stalagmites within.
- The Geology Department at Idaho State University has an interesting Web site.
- It contains photos, information, and links to other Web sites about geology.
- All of this fascinating information has increased my enthusiasm and curiosity.
- My cousin belongs to a group of cave explorers.
- Before I join, I will have to conquer my fear of the dark.

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*

14. As a result of our field trip to the caves, I developed a desire to learn more. *COM, ABS*
15. I learned that geologists study caves and the stalactites and stalagmites within. *COM, CON*
16. The Geology Department at Idaho State University has an interesting Web site. *PRO, CON*
17. It contains photos, information, and links to other Web sites about geology. *COM, CON*
18. All of this fascinating information has increased my enthusiasm and curiosity. *COM, ABS*
19. My cousin belongs to a group of cave explorers. *COM, CON*
20. Before I join, I will have to conquer my fear of the dark. *COM, ABS*

### Pronouns and Antecedents, p. 29

#### EXERCISE A

- You have probably read or heard Aesop's fables.
- Aesop was once a Greek slave; he may have lived on the island of Samos.
- Aesop told stories about animals with human traits; they spoke and thought like people.
- One well-known story is about a boy who cried "Wolf!" even though he saw no wolf.
- Later, when the boy was in real danger from a wolf, he again cried "Wolf!"
- The villagers had grown tired of the boy's false alarms, and they ignored his cries.
- Have you heard the story about the ant and the grasshopper?
- The grasshopper chirps and plays during summer, and it does not prepare for winter.
- The ant works hard at storing food, and this food saves it from starving in the winter.

10. Reading these tales is enjoyable, and it doesn't take long.

#### EXERCISE B

Answers may vary slightly.

- Larry, will you please work this math problem? *you*
- These plants do not bear flowers, nor are they these plants poisonous. *they*
- My ten-year-old cat is jealous, and he my ten-year-old cat has not accepted the new kitten. *he*
- When Amanda and Kirsten got to class, they Amanda and Kirsten realized they were late. *they*
- Learning to type is slow, but learning to type is worthwhile. *it*

### Personal, Reflexive, and Intensive Pronouns, p. 30

#### EXERCISE

- Sara picked up a handout for herself. *R*
- Are you aware of the dangers of smoking? *P*
- We should not let ourselves overlook the plight of the homeless. *P, R*
- "I will not tolerate lateness," the band leader told us. *P*
- The principal himself called me with the good news. *I, P*
- "Jogging is not for me," said Dr. Wong. *P*
- The cat found a hiding place for itself. *R*
- After the twins frosted the cake, they looked for candles to put on it. *P, P*
- Before you mop the floor, please move the chairs. *P*
- Don't wear the new boots until you waterproof them. *P, P*