

Concrete Nouns, Abstract Nouns, and Collective Nouns

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	song	ABSTRACT	loyalty
	hubcap		dishonor
	dog		trust

A **collective noun** is a word that, even when it is singular, names a group.

COLLECTIVE audience, family, batch, herd, class

EXERCISE A Decide whether each of the following nouns is concrete or abstract. Identify each one by writing **CON** for *concrete* or **ABS** for *abstract*.

Examples CON 1. locker

ABS 2. enthusiasm

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| _____ 1. humor | _____ 6. bridge |
| _____ 2. Brazil | _____ 7. dishonesty |
| _____ 3. computer | _____ 8. Jupiter |
| _____ 4. sympathy | _____ 9. procrastination |
| _____ 5. Great Barrier Reef | _____ 10. Queen Elizabeth II |

EXERCISE B Underline each collective noun in the following sentences.

Example 1. The choir practiced in the new auditorium.

- I sing tenor in a quartet.
- Everyone in the group received a door prize.
- The team arrived early and went to the locker room.
- As I watched, a flock of geese flew overhead.
- The jury filed into their seats and listened to the judge's instructions.
- During lunch today the committee will meet to plan fund-raising events.
- Can you find your way through this thick grove of trees?
- The cat and her litter found a home in my dog's abandoned doghouse.
- When Jared hit the beehive with a stick, a swarm of angry bees flew out.
- For this short flight, the plane needs a crew of only three.

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.

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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.

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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