

Unit 2: Nouns

Lesson 7

Nouns: Proper and Common

A **noun** names a person, place, thing, or idea. When a word names a specific person, place, thing, or idea, it is a **proper noun**. The first word and all other important words in proper nouns are capitalized. When a word names any person, place, thing, or idea, it is a **common noun**. Common nouns are not capitalized.

	PERSON	PLACE	THING	IDEA
Proper Noun:	Sinia Yakov	Canada	Bill of Rights	Islam
Common Noun:	man	country	document	religion

► **Exercise 1** Underline each common noun and circle each proper noun. Draw three lines under each proper noun that should be capitalized.

Dr. martin luther king Jr. was the highly respected african american who led the civil rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s.

1. A baby named martin luther king jr. was born in atlanta, Georgia.
2. His family lived in a two-story house on Auburn avenue.
3. His father, martin Luther King sr., was a minister and the son of a sharecropper.
4. His mother, Alberta williams king, was a teacher.
5. King skipped two grades at booker T. Washington high school.
6. Still a teenager, king graduated from morehouse College.
7. King first thought of becoming a doctor or a lawyer but finally decided to go into the ministry.
8. While still at morehouse, king was ordained in the church of his father.
9. King was elected co-pastor at the church upon his graduation from college.

10. The hardworking young man went on to graduate school at Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania.
11. King was very intelligent and an avid reader.
12. King studied the ideas of people such as Martin Luther, Mohandas Gandhi, Jesus of Nazareth, Aristotle, Plato, and Adam Smith.
13. King earned the degree of Bachelor of Divinity at Crozer.
14. King won a fellowship to go to the university of his choice for his doctorate.
15. King chose to go to Boston University.
16. King also took courses in philosophy at Harvard.
17. While at Boston University, King met an intelligent and beautiful woman named Coretta Scott.
18. Coretta Scott was a soprano, studying voice at the New England Conservatory of Music.
19. King and Scott married a few years after their first encounter.
20. Coretta and Martin Luther King Jr. had four children: Yolanda Denise, Martin Luther III, Dexter, and Bernice Albertine.
21. While still working on his doctoral degree, King received a letter from a church in Montgomery, Alabama.
22. The letter stated that the church would be happy to have King preach.
23. The church was located on Dexter Avenue and was called the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.
24. The church was close to the impressive Alabama State Capitol, where the legislature meets.
25. Ironically, Jefferson Davis had been sworn in as the new president of the Confederacy on the steps of that same building.

Lesson 8**Nouns: Concrete and Abstract**

Concrete nouns name things that can be experienced with any of the five senses—touch, sight, hearing, smell, and taste. **Abstract nouns** name ideas, qualities, or feelings that cannot be experienced with any of the five senses.

Abstract Nouns: sadness truth freedom intelligence justice
Concrete Nouns: frown book rain library music

▶ Exercise 1 Underline each concrete noun once and each abstract noun twice.

My dad tells me cleanliness is important.

1. A commercial pilot must have a lot of flying experience.
2. My uncle, aunt, and cousin live in a large trailer.
3. The judge reminded the witness to tell the truth.
4. The inventor had an idea that would help the auto industry improve safety.
5. The playful beagle liked to chase its tail.
6. The hardworking farmer was disappointed with the weather.
7. The walls and ceiling of the room were black with age and dirt.
8. Clouds covered the sun and sky.
9. Many people voted in the elections last fall.
10. The veterinarian spent time and energy examining horses.
11. My cat gets great pleasure on the windowsill on a sunny day.
12. During the holiday season, the malls are bursting with people.
13. The museum held paintings and sculptures of great beauty.
14. The girl's bravery during the disaster did not go unnoticed.
15. As huge waves crashed onto the shore, the beachcombers fled in fear.
16. The college students lived in a quiet dormitory.
17. The florist made a bouquet of roses for their anniversary.
18. The teacher at the preschool showed much patience.

Lesson 9**Nouns: Compounds, Plurals, and Possessives**

Compound nouns are nouns that are made up of two or more words. Compound nouns can be one word, like the word *football*, or more than one word, like *rocking chair*. Other compound nouns have two or more words that are joined by hyphens, such as *hand-me-down*.

To form the plural of most compound nouns written as one word, add *-s* or *-es*. To form the plural of compound nouns that are hyphenated or written as more than one word, make the most important part of the noun plural.

ONE WORD

snowmobile**s**, baseball**s**, grandfathers

HYPHENATED

fathers**-in-law** baby-sitters runners**-up**

MORE THAN ONE WORD

home runs music boxes quarter horses surgeons general

A **possessive noun** names who or what has something. Possessive nouns can be common or proper nouns, singular or plural, compound or not. To form the possessive of all singular nouns and of plural nouns not ending in *-s*, add an apostrophe and *-s*. To form the possessive of plural nouns already ending in *-s*, add only an apostrophe.

boy**'s** boss**'s** Luis**'s** women**'s** puppies**'**

► **Exercise 1** Write in the blank the plural form of each compound noun.

jelly bean **jelly beans** _____

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. fund-raiser _____ | 8. motor home _____ |
| 2. attorney-at-law _____ | 9. sergeant at arms _____ |
| 3. sister-in-law _____ | 10. beehive _____ |
| 4. nutcracker _____ | 11. color guard _____ |
| 5. stomachache _____ | 12. steam iron _____ |
| 6. funny bone _____ | 13. farmhand _____ |
| 7. sweatshirt _____ | 14. workshop _____ |

15. stepfather _____ 18. minute hand _____
 16. mailbox _____ 19. drawstring _____
 17. bill of health _____ 20. field trip _____

► **Exercise 2** Complete each sentence by writing the correct possessive form of the noun in parentheses.

_____ **Marietta's** hands felt cold and clammy. (Marietta)

1. The young sailor sounded the _____ horn. (ship)
2. The _____ performance during the big game was not good enough to win.
(players)
3. _____ test scores improved dramatically. (Dennis)
4. The _____ teeth were sharp as razors. (bobcat)
5. The _____ vacation was relaxing and fun. (Ramoses)
6. I can do a lot of my homework on my _____ computer. (parents)
7. The _____ loud and persistent chirping caused Cole to wake up. (birds)
8. The teacher enjoyed the sound of the _____ laughter. (children)
9. During autumn, the _____ colors change. (leaves)
10. The _____ weight is more than one ton. (Liberty Bell)
11. The _____ movement began to gain momentum. (women)
12. After the touchdown, the _____ cheering was deafening. (fans)
13. The hook caught in the _____ mouth. (fish)
14. In the sunlight, the _____ leaves grew wildly. (plant)
15. The _____ soup was piping hot and delicious. (cook)
16. _____ largest city is Chicago. (Illinois)
17. The _____ route never changed. (bus)
18. _____ reign was one of the longest in Great Britain's history.
(Queen Victoria)

Lesson 10**Nouns: Collective**

A **collective noun** names a group that is made up of individuals.

The **family** struggled through the **crowd** to see the **band**.

COLLECTIVE NOUNS

class	family	herd	audience	orchestra	panel
staff	team	swarm	jury	flock	

Collective nouns can have either a singular or a plural meaning. When referring to the group as a unit, the noun has a singular meaning and takes a singular verb. When referring to the individual members of the group, the noun has a plural meaning and takes a plural verb.

The **team works** on its defensive plays.

The **team go** to their individual lockers.

► **Exercise 1** Underline the verb form in parentheses that best completes each sentence.

The audience (leaves, leave) their seats.

- The book club (discusses, discuss) their personal opinions of the plot.
- The class (is, are) going on a bus to the art museum.
- The choir from East High School (sings, sing) the loudest.
- The elephant herd (makes, make) a thundering noise during a stampede.
- The baseball team (boasts, boast) an excellent batting average.
- The budget committee (reaches, reach) a final decision.
- The entire class (takes, take) a trip to Washington, D.C.
- The theater troupe (comes, come) out separately at the end of the play.
- The bee swarm (buzzes, buzz) around the hive.
- The jury (argues, argue) among themselves over the verdict.
- The debating team (wins, win) almost every time.
- The band (puts, put) their instruments away after practice.
- The barbershop quartet (knows, know) their individual parts.