

1 Nouns

There are two main types of nouns: common nouns and proper nouns.

Common Nouns

Words for people, places and things are called common nouns.

These common nouns are words for **things**.

ruler	chair	hammer	bicycle	truth
pen	table	saw	ship	calculator
crayons	sofa	axe	truck	television
pencil	loyalty	drill	ferry	fridge
book	lamp	ladder	train	cooker
dictionary	carpet	lawnmower	bus	computer
courage	telephone	spade	laziness	printer

These common nouns are words for **animals**. Notice that special names for young animals are included.

animal	its young	animal	its young
dog	puppy	fox	cub
cat	kitten	elephant	calf
cow	calf	kangaroo	joey
horse	foal	bear	cub
sheep	lamb	lion	cub
goat	kid	tiger	cub
frog	tadpole	whale	calf

These common nouns are words for **places**.

bank	airport	school	post office
hotel	gas station	university	police station
library	park	office	restaurant
museum	farm	mosque	supermarket
mall	zoo	temple	stadium
theater	factory	shop	synagogue
hospital	nursery	gym	church

These common nouns are words for people who do certain things.

singer	manager	sailor	gardener
dancer	secretary	pilot	police officer
artist	teacher	driver	plumber
photographer	doctor	writer	farmer
magician	dentist	friend	clerk
athlete	lawyer	brother	technician

Proper Nouns

The names of particular people, places and things are proper nouns. They always begin with a capital letter.

These people's names are proper nouns.

Robin Hood	Florence Nightingale	Mom	Miss Park
Aladdin	Muhammad Ali	Dad	Mrs. Taylor
Frankenstein	George Washington	Granny	Mr. Young
Harry Potter	David Beckham	Grandad	Dr. Lee
Santa Claus	Julia Roberts	Uncle David	Professor Raj
Mahatma Gandhi	Nelson Mandela	Aunt Diana	Jose
Confucius	Alex Rodriguez	Ms. Hall	Yang Ming

The names of the days of the week and the months of the year are proper nouns.

days of the week

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday

months

January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December



The names of special days and celebrations are also proper nouns.

New Year's Day

Mother's Day

Independence Day

Valentine's Day

Labor Day

Ramadan

Veterans' Day

Thanksgiving

Memorial Day

Halloween

Christmas

Yom Kippur

The names of famous places, buildings and monuments are proper nouns.

Big Ben

the Sphinx

Graceland

the Grand Canyon

the Sydney Opera House

Buckingham Palace

the Leaning Tower of Pisa

the Empire State Building

the Taj Mahal

the Eiffel Tower

the Golden Gate Bridge

the Great Wall of China

Chaco Canyon Pueblo

the Statue of Liberty

The names of people who live in a particular country are also proper nouns.

country	people
Afghanistan	Afghans
Australia	Australians
Britain	the British
China	the Chinese
France	the French
Germany	Germans
India	Indians
Indonesia	Indonesians
Italy	Italians
Japan	the Japanese
Korea	Koreans
Malaysia	Malaysians

country	people
Samoa	Samoans
New Zealand	New Zealanders
Pakistan	Pakistanis
the Philippines	Filipinos
Russia	Russians
Nicaragua	Nicaraguans
South Africa	South Africans
Spain	Spaniards
Switzerland	the Swiss
Thailand	Thais
USA	Americans
Vietnam	the Vietnamese

Exercise 1

Write each common noun under the correct heading.

theater
doctor
elephant

lion
restaurant
kangaroo

father
builder
museum

brother
stove
library

things

animals

places

people

Exercise 2

Underline the common nouns and circle the proper nouns in these sentences.

1. I told Uncle John about my accident.
2. Kim and Stephanie wore masks on Halloween.
3. The lawnmower is broken.
4. We're going to the movies tomorrow.
5. The lion is playing with one of its cubs.
6. My sister's favorite soccer player is David Beckham.
7. I'm watching a videotape about the Sahara Desert.
8. The tourists visited Rome and saw the Colosseum.
9. Does this bus go to the stadium?
10. We're reading a story about a boy called Harry Potter.

Exercise 3

Read the following passage containing common nouns and proper nouns. Put a **C** in the box after a common noun and a **P** in the box after a proper noun.

Mr. Peters ☐ lives in Maine ☐ in a big house ☐ by the sea ☐. He has three cats ☐ and a dog ☐. He likes to travel to different countries ☐. Last Christmas ☐, he went to Paris ☐ and saw the Eiffel Tower ☐. He enjoyed eating French food ☐ in nice restaurants ☐.

Masculine and Feminine Nouns

Masculine nouns are words for men, boys and male animals.

Feminine nouns are words for women, girls and female animals.

masculine	feminine	masculine	feminine
boy	girl	nephew	niece
man	woman	king	queen
father	mother	prince	princess
son	daughter	emperor	empress
brother	sister	wizard	witch
husband	wife	actor	actress
grandfather	grandmother	policeman	policewoman
uncle	aunt	waiter	waitress

Many nouns are used for both males and females. They are called **common gender nouns**.

teacher
pupil
child

baby
parent
cousin

doctor
astronaut
dancer

scientist
president
manager