

Grammar - Common & Proper Nouns

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Common Nouns

Definition: The name of a particular person, place, thing or idea. Common nouns are not capitalized. Examples: country, winter, car, river

Exercise #1

Verbally give as as many nouns as you can think of for the common nouns listed below. Do this as quickly as you can!

Example

jewelry store = rings, necklaces, broaches, beads, locket, bracelets, anklets, wrist watches, pocket watches, clock fobs, tie clasps, (French) cufflinks, tie clips, counters, cloths (to wipe the jewelry to make it shiney), cash register, clerk, lights, cleaner, etc.

kitchen	bedroom	bathroom	frontroom
backyard	frontyard	church	grocery store
mall	parade	amusement park	restaurant
tools	car	library	ocean
forest	closet	toys	zoo
countries	doctor's office	veterinarian	sports
buildings	castle	museums	music store
pirates	farm	fruits	vegetables

Proper Nouns

Definition: The name of a particular person, place, thing or idea. Proper nouns are always capitalized. Examples: John Witherspoon, Monday, Statue of Liberty, G.A. Henty, *Beric the Briton*

In order to connect proper nouns with capitalization, over exaggerate the term **proper**. You may want to imitate a British accent while performing a courtesy or a bow.

Exercise#2

Verbally give as as many nouns as you can think of for the proper nouns listed below. Do this as quickly as you can!

Example

tyrants = Hitler, Mussolini, Nero, Caligula, Osama Bin Ladin, Augustus, Tiberius, Claudius, Julius Caesar, Arafat, Saddam Hussein, Napoleon, Ramses, Alexander the Great, Ivan the Terrible, King John, Blue Beard, Castro, Attila the Hun, Genghis Khan, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Zedong

heroes	authors	newspapers	cathedrals
magazines	books	fictional characters	holidays
weekdays	countries	museums	months
artists	composers	movies	nicknames
animal pet names	presidents	famous battles/wars	planets
famous documents	Bible characters	books of the Bible	apostles
Founding Fathers/ Mothers	national landmarks		amusement parks

Flashcards

Cut on solid lines and fold on the dotted lines.

Front

Back

Common Noun

The name of a particular person, place, thing or idea. These nouns are **not** capitalized.

Examples: country, winter, car, river

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Proper Noun

The name of a particular person, place, thing or idea. These nouns are **always** capitalized.

Examples: John Witherspoon, Monday, April, July Fourth, Statue of Liberty, G.A. Henty, *Beric the Briton*

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Exercise#3

Verbally or in writing, give name five (5) proper nouns listed for the common noun that is given. Do this as quickly as you can!

Common Noun: man
Proper Noun: ex. George Bush

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Common Noun: country
Proper Noun: ex. United States

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Common Noun: river
Proper Noun: ex. Mohawk River

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Common Noun: city
Proper Noun: ex. Detroit

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Common Noun: lake
Proper Noun: ex. Lake Superior

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Common Noun: mountain
Proper Noun: ex. Rocky Mountains

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Common Noun: street
Proper Noun: ex. Elm Avenue

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Common Noun: heroes
Proper Noun: ex. Patrick Henry

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Common Noun: documents
Proper Noun: ex. Bill of Rights

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Common Noun: national landmarks
Proper Noun: ex. White House

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Common Noun: relatives
Proper Noun: ex. Aunt Sally
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Common Noun: Bible characters
Proper Noun: ex. Joshua
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Common Noun: songs
Proper Noun: ex. Dixie
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Common Noun: car
Proper Noun: ex. Ford Tempo
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Common Noun: nursery rhymes
Proper Noun: ex. Humpty Dumpty
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Common Noun: woman
Proper Noun: ex. Dolley Madison
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Common Noun: king
Proper Noun: ex. Alfred the Great
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Common Noun: queen
Proper Noun: ex. Marie Antoinette
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Common Noun: hymn
Proper Noun: ex. Onward Christian Soldiers
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Common Noun: president
Proper Noun: ex. Geo. Washington
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Common Noun: composer
Proper Noun: ex. Mozart
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Common Noun: magazine
Proper Noun: ex. *The Captain*
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Common / Proper Noun Test

Directions: Write **C** for common noun and **P** for proper noun on the blank.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| ___ Friday | ___ Columbus Day | ___ hero |
| ___ Christmas | ___ king | ___ Bill of Rights |
| ___ document | ___ Catherine the Great | ___ girl |
| ___ April | ___ Bugs Bunny | ___ collie |
| ___ Westminster Cathedral | | ___ church |
| ___ Good Friday | ___ book | ___ <i>For the Temple</i> |
| ___ G. A. Henty | ___ author | ___ England |
| ___ Ford Motor Company | | ___ stereo |
| ___ Busch Garden Amusement Park | | ___ waltz |
| ___ Virginia | ___ city | ___ Harrisburg |
| ___ Grand Canyon | ___ zoo | ___ Olive Garden |
| ___ Dr. Samuel Blumenfeld | | ___ Holiday Inn |
| ___ <u>U.S.S. Constitution</u> | | ___ ship |
| ___ newspaper | ___ Fox News | ___ motorcycle |
| ___ Harley Davidson | ___ female | ___ Nefertiti |
| ___ holiday | ___ sea | ___ Black Sea |
| ___ statue | ___ The Thinker | ___ painting |
| ___ Mona Lisa | ___ tyrant | ___ Nero |
| ___ goblet | ___ Royal Doulton | ___ War of 1812 |
| ___ Eleanor Powell | ___ World War II | ___ Agatha Christie |

Field Trip

In order for your scholar to really grasp the concept of common nouns, you may want to take several field trips to some of the places listed on the first page under *Common Nouns*. Prior to going on the field trip, you may want to practice at home.

Examples:

Take your scholar into the kitchen. While s/he is standing there, have your scholar list off what s/he sees, e.g., stove, oven, ice box, counter, mixer, clock, faucet, sink, drawers, cupboard, mugs, dishes, flatware, plates, cups, saucers, cereal, fruit, vegetables, spices, timer, salt, pepper, microwave, bread machine, (coffee) pot, towels, dishcloths, dishwasher, etc.

Bathroom = tub, shower, toilet, curtain, floor, ceiling, sink, cabinet, towel, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, perfume, deodorant, etc.

Bedroom = bed, closet, shoes, clothes, slacks, toys, blanket, pillow, window, floor, hanger, etc.

As you are sitting in the car preparing to go on your field trip, have your scholar start to identify nouns s/he sees, e.g., dashboard, handle, lock, key, windshield, (steering) wheel, radio, pedal, etc. Next, as you drive, have your scholar identify nouns s/he sees while going to your field trip, e.g., cars, road, trees, flowers, birds, (license) plates, billboards, buildings, stores, police, accident (hopefully not, but it is a noun), signs, etc.

If you go to the mall, for example, take your scholar to different sections in a department store to identify the various nouns s/he sees. The linen department, for example, may have towels, washcloths, tablecloths, (napkin) rings, napkins, placemats, quilts, sheets, pillowcases, doilies, towels, runners, etc. Department stores offer many sections e.g., housewares, women/men/children sections, shoes, automotive, etc. Do not forget the specialized stores within a mall as they offer many opportunities to identify nouns.

Field trips to church, post office, fire department, police department, department of motor vehicles, zoos, restaurants, libraries, museums, amusement parks, etc. offer an almost endless variety of nouns to be identified.

Activity

What you will need:

- 2 pieces of construction paper or 2 posters
- glue
- scissors
- old magazines that may be cut up
- markers

Note: Frequently, old magazines may be picked up for free at the post office in a bin or from the public library.

On top of one piece construction paper or on the poster, take a color marker and write:

Common Nouns

On top of the other piece construction paper or on the poster, take a color marker and write:

Proper Nouns

Recommendation: Allow your child to pick the marker colors. If your child is old enough to write the titles, let the child do so if s/he desires.

Have your child go through old magazines cutting out pictures that apply specifically for each category, i.e., common noun or proper noun.

Proudly display your child's grammar artwork in a prominent place in your home.