

1. NOUNS

In the following sentences, underline any words that name people, animals, places, things, ideas, or feelings:

1. Jane moved to St. Louis.
2. The hiker saw a bear in the forest.
3. Hate is a dangerous emotion.
4. The company sent Ms. Wilson to Italy to sell goldfish.
5. Dan baked a cake for his friends.
6. The girl received the bad news with great courage.

Do you know what the underlined words are called? If you answered *nouns*, you're right.

Definition

A **noun** is a word that names a person, animal, place, thing, idea, or feeling. There are different kinds of nouns.

A **common noun** is a word that names a general class or category of persons, places, or things and is not capitalized. In the above sentences, *hiker*, *bear*, *forest*, *hate*, and *news* are all examples of common nouns.

A **proper noun**, on the other hand, names a specific person, place, or thing and is spelled with a capital letter. *Jane*, *St. Louis*, *Ms. Wilson*, and *Dan* are all examples of proper nouns in the above sentences.

A **collective noun** is a single word that names a group or collection of persons, places, or things. Here are some examples of collective nouns: *jury*, *crowd*, *herd*, *company*, and *mob*.

If two or more words are used to describe a particular person, place, or thing (*high school*, *living room*, *soda fountain*, *ice cream*), they are treated as one noun. Titles such as *Tom Sawyer* or *Treasure Island* are also considered to be one item and treated as a single noun.

SINGULAR/PLURAL

A noun may either be **singular** (one thing) or **plural** (more than one) in form. To form the plural of a noun, you usually add *s* or *es* to the end of the singular form:

rat/rats	peach/peaches
car/cars	potato/potatoes
echo/echoes	exercise/exercises

For some nouns, you will need to change letters when forming the plural:

wolf/wolves	elf/elves
baby/babies	mystery/mysteries
goose/geese	woman/women

The singular and plural forms of a few nouns are the same:

sheep fish deer salmon

HINT

A. Certain clues will help you identify nouns. For instance, words that come right before the verb (action word) in a sentence are often nouns:

1. The tall girl won the race.
2. Jack read the book three times.
3. My grandma wishes it never rained.

B. Also, the three articles—*a*, *an*, and *the*—signal that a noun will follow:

1. The man in the red coat is a musician.
2. The hawk killed the mouse.
3. Bill eats an apple every morning.

NOUN EXERCISES

A. *Directions:* Underline the nouns in the following sentences.

EXAMPLE: Tina loves gum and ice cream.

LIFE OF THE HOBO

1. Hoboes traveled from place to place and worked in temporary jobs.
2. Hoboes were sometimes called *migratory* workers.
3. In 1900 many hoboes traveled around the United States on the railroads.
4. These men did not buy tickets but rode in empty boxcars on freight trains.

5. Hundreds of hoboes were killed or hurt on these dangerous rides.
6. Hoboes often spent the night in camps called "jungles."
7. In the winter many hoboes flocked to cities to seek shelter.
8. Hoboes often composed songs and poems about their journeys.
9. Some migratory workers even published their thoughts and opinions in a magazine called *Hobo News*.
10. The life of a hobo could sometimes be sad and lonely.

B. *Directions:* Some words can be used in more than one way. Underline the words below that could be used as nouns.

EXAMPLE: fear though not

to	London	Queen Elizabeth
apple	intelligence	slowly
and	appear	clam
love	orange	red
skunk	into	fish
ugly	song	courage
hope	never	seem
Raymond	mile	river
from	but	frost
idea	month	borrow

C. *Directions:* Insert nouns in the blanks in the following sentences.

EXAMPLE: The clams are delicious.

1. What kind of _____ does _____ like best?
2. The _____ is going to _____ for a _____.
3. The _____ in the _____ is creating a _____.
4. _____ believes that _____ is the most important quality a person can have.
5. Some _____ don't eat _____ in the _____.
6. A small _____ sat quietly by the edge of the _____.
7. The _____ took us most of the _____ to complete.
8. Please bring me a _____ from the _____.
9. I saw _____ and _____ from the _____.
10. _____ joined the _____ last _____.

D. *Directions:* Write five sentences of your own and then underline the nouns.

EXAMPLE: Sal ate the plum.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____