

Name _____
Date _____ Hour _____

What are Nouns?

A **noun** is the name of a person, place, thing, or idea.

PERSONS

husband

Pablo

author

PLACES

Detroit

beach

river

THINGS

hammer

snow

telephone

IDEAS

equality

compassion

anxiety

A **common noun** is the name of a whole group of persons, places, things, or ideas. A common noun is a name, which is common to the whole group: *camera, soldier, theater, or theory*. A **proper noun** is the name of an individual person, place, thing, or idea. A proper noun always begins with a capital letter.

COMMON NOUNS

comedian

country

holiday

PROPER NOUNS

Stevenson High School

Van Gogh

Miss Tanner

Any word that can be immediately preceded by *the* is a common noun: *the bridge, the forest, and the language*. Numerous proper nouns, but not all of them, can also be preceded by *the*: *the Pacific Ocean, the Astrodome*, but not *the Abraham Lincoln* or *the France*.

A variety of nouns name items that you can see:

desk

shirt

school

radio

Thomas Hill

Other nouns name items that you cannot see.

freedom

love

pain

joy

time

Find nouns: Circle the nouns in each of the following sentences.

EXAMPLE: Jonas Salk discovered a vaccine to prevent polio.

1. Ashley waited at the corner for the bus.
2. Tuition at colleges and universities continue to rise.
3. When will the circus come to Livonia?
4. *West Side Story* is a modern play based upon *Romeo and Juliet*.
5. Chris painted that picture for his father.
6. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected to four terms as President.
7. Emily enjoys the stories of Carson McCullers and Flannery O'Connor.
8. A white cloud hid the moon.
9. Art is my favorite subject.
10. Was Jamestown or Roanoke the first colony in America?

7. **Certain nouns form their plurals in special ways.**

man-men

mouse-mice

child-children

goose-geese

Consult a dictionary when you are in doubt about plural forms.

Form plurals: Write the plural for each of the following nouns.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. cup _____ | 8. echo _____ |
| 2. army _____ | 9. lady _____ |
| 3. glass _____ | 10. hero _____ |
| 4. day _____ | 11. woman _____ |
| 5. thief _____ | 12. sheep _____ |
| 6. house _____ | 13. salmon _____ |
| 7. buzz _____ | 14. watch _____ |

Making Nouns Show Possession

A **possessive noun** shows of the noun that follows. The noun tells who owns an object or what belongs to someone. Here are three rules for forming possessive nouns.

1. For singular noun, add an apostrophe and s.

Mary-Mary's

sister-sister's

woman-woman's

2. If a plural noun ends in s, simply add a apostrophe after the s.

boys-boys'

teacher-teachers'

Chris-Chris'

3. If a plural nouns does not end in s, add an apostrophe and an s after the apostrophe.

children-children's

men-men's

women-women's

Write possessive nouns: Write the possessive form of each of the following nouns.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Paula _____ | 6. dentists _____ |
| 2. coach _____ | 7. helpers _____ |
| 3. school _____ | 8. family _____ |
| 4. baby _____ | 9. Russ _____ |
| 5. ladies _____ | 10. Delores _____ |

Use possessive nouns: Make the underlined nouns in the following sentences below show possession. Write the possessive noun on the blank at the end of the sentence.

Example: Patti bike has a flat tire. _____ Patti's _____

1. Where is Monica new photograph album? _____
2. The girls softball team won the state tournament. _____