

Lesson 2

Nouns: Proper and Common; Concrete and Abstract

A **proper noun** is a noun that names a particular person, place, thing, or idea. A proper noun begins with a capital letter. A **common noun** is the general name of a person, place, thing, or idea.

	PROPER	COMMON
Person:	Uncle Al	uncle
Place:	Dominican Republic	country
Thing:	<i>Schindler's List</i>	movie
Idea:	(the) Renaissance	era

► **Exercise 1** Write *P* above each proper noun and *C* above each common noun.

^P Pedro is taking his little brother to ^C Wrigley Field to see a baseball game.

1. The World Cup is the most popular sporting event in the world.
2. Every four years, soccer teams from continents such as Europe, Africa, and South America battle for first place.
3. In 1994, the tournament was held in the United States.
4. Teams from twenty-four nations took part in the 1994 World Cup.
5. In every city where a game was played, fans of each country cheered their players.
6. Thousands of soccer fans from Italy and Ireland invaded New Jersey.
7. Soldier Field in Chicago rocked to the cheers of Germans and Bolivians.
8. Brazilians backed their team by singing samba songs in Portuguese.
9. Fans of Nigeria, champions of Africa, pounded drums to spur their team to victory.
10. Supporters of the home team enthusiastically waved the Stars and Stripes.
11. Only 16 teams advanced to the second round of the World Cup.
12. These teams then met to decide who would become world champion.
13. Several games were decided by a "shoot-out," in which a single player challenges the goalkeeper.
14. One of the best games in the second round was Holland against Brazil.
15. The United States put up a good fight against Brazil but lost by a score of 1-0.

16. When the smoke had cleared, only four teams were left.
17. Brazil, led by goalscorers Romario and Bebeto, advanced to the final by edging Sweden.
18. In the other semifinal, Italy and its star Roberto Baggio crushed Bulgaria.
19. More than two billion soccer fans around the world watched the final game on television.
20. They saw the Brazilians edge a tough Italian team to become world champions.

A **concrete noun** names an object that occupies space or can be recognized by any of the senses. An **abstract noun** names an idea, quality, or characteristic.

Concrete: sneeze, star, explosion, hedgehog, chimney

Abstract: politeness, ability, honesty, love, beauty

► **Exercise 2** Write *con.* above each concrete noun and *abs.* above each abstract noun.

con. *con.* *abs.*
 Bob admires people who practice modesty.

1. Sheila likes to plant and care for flowers.
2. Daniel's integrity cannot be questioned.
3. Ruth and Joe have shown their devotion to this company.
4. Kindness and sincerity dominate my list of important qualities.
5. Claire's new bicycle impressed her neighbors.
6. Uncle Rico will give you the recipe.
7. The coach reminded his players of the necessity for good sportsmanship.
8. The bakery on the corner sells the best chocolate chip cookies.
9. Thoughtfulness is always appreciated.
10. Rashida wants us to make compassion a priority.
11. Mr. Fernandez is teaching us about great world leaders.
12. Jealousy can be extremely destructive.
13. Sunee has empathy for Roger because she has gone through a similar experience.
14. Brad and Carolino hosted a reception for the new exchange student.
15. I always enjoy visiting Mexico and Canada, although they have few similarities.

16.1

Nouns (Names, Compound Nouns) • Practice 2

Exercise 1 Identifying Nouns as People, Places, or Things. Underline the two nouns in each group. Then label each pair as *people*, *places*, or *things*.

EXAMPLE: tree funny dandelion things

1. able baby musician _____
2. rabbit really chair _____
3. prison mountainside write _____
4. misery rusty success _____
5. only forest swamp _____
6. sailor tiny explorer _____
7. tame table dog _____
8. destroy dentist mayor _____
9. rock clever pie _____
10. beach pasture foolish _____
11. carry courage freedom _____
12. lion kindly kite _____
13. conductor do woman _____
14. grim king president _____
15. bedroom school rough _____
16. jolly desk thought _____
17. construction pain pretty _____
18. hunter nurse into _____
19. pelican shouted honor _____
20. plaza library ill _____

Exercise 2 Recognizing Compound Nouns. Underline the compound noun or nouns in each sentence.

EXAMPLE: Last weekend Jane received an invitation to visit her grandparents.

(1) As soon as she arrived at the airport, Jane became excited about her first flight alone. (2) Once the ticket agent had given her a boarding pass, she kissed her parents, went on board, and fastened her seatbelt. (3) Shortly after takeoff, the flight attendant brought her a soft drink. (4) Later, the passengers lunched on meatloaf, string beans, and fruit salad. (5) Soon she heard the landing gear come down and returned her tray table to its correct position. (6) In a few minutes, she felt the gentle bump of the touchdown.

(7) Inside the terminal, next to the runway, her grandmother and grandfather were waiting for her. (8) A slight mix-up over her suitcases was soon solved. (9) With the help of a porter, they carried the luggage to the station wagon. (10) Jane couldn't believe her luck as she watched the beautiful scenery along the freeway on the way into town.

Unit 1: Parts of the Speech

Lesson 1

Nouns: Singular, Plural, Possessive, Concrete, and Abstract

A **noun** is a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea. A **singular noun** names one person, place, thing, or idea, and a **plural noun** names more than one.

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
Person:	visitor	visitors
Place:	valley	valleys
Thing:	hammer	hammers
Idea:	belief	beliefs

The possessive form of a noun shows possession, ownership, or the relationship between two nouns.

	SINGULAR POSSESSIVE	PLURAL POSSESSIVE
Possession:	teacher's desk	teachers' desks
Ownership:	student's term paper	students' term papers
Relationship:	country's beauty	countries' beauty

► **Exercise 1** Write *S* above each singular noun, *P* above each plural noun, and *poss.* above each possessive noun.

- S**
P
poss.
S
1. The announcer told the fans the game's score.
 2. Beautiful white snow covered the mountain's flanks.
 3. The audience enjoyed the speaker's anecdotes about the hike.
 4. Kentucky's pastures produce many fine thoroughbreds.
 5. Alaina received three scholarships after her audition.
 6. Did your puppy run under Mrs. Swenson's porch?
 7. The parakeet squawks while the canary sings.
 8. Our excursion to the park was shortened by warnings of an approaching tornado.
 9. Driving hurriedly through the countryside, Jaleel seemed careless about avoiding potholes.
 10. The committee's decision to suspend the rules gave Adam more freedom to present his proposal.
 11. The figurine on the trophy cracked when the cheering teammates broke the shelf.
 12. Su-Lin scrubbed the car's tires while Tom polished the chrome.

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Grammar

12. Jamal's understanding of the technology involved in storing information on a disk seems correct.
13. Many persons in our hectic society have forgotten the beautiful art of sewing.
14. Geraldo insisted on playing devil's advocate whenever discussions arose.
15. Running around the house, the children could not find their father's hat.
16. Having scored twenty-three points in the game, Dowana received the lion's share of praise on the nightly broadcast.
17. Beethoven's fifth symphony is one of his most popular works.
18. Paul's personal library is becoming so large there is no place to add any more shelves.

A **concrete noun** names an object that occupies space or can be recognized by any of the senses. An **abstract noun** names an idea, a quality, or a characteristic.

music (concrete) value (abstract) scent (concrete) loyalty (abstract)

► **Exercise 2** Write *con.* (concrete) or *abst.* (abstract) above each italicized noun.

John ardently studies ^{con.} *heraldry*.

1. Kwang showed his *affection* for his sister Annette by writing her three poems.
2. The *sound* of singing birds makes one's spirits rise.
3. Olaf had not yet reached the *peak* of his abilities.
4. *Hate* is a dangerous emotion.
5. Are you a member of the Republican or Democratic *party*?
6. One of Americans' most prized possessions is *freedom*.
7. Sherri's *urgency* caused Kim to make more mistakes than she normally would have.
8. His cold feet were soothed by the *warmth* from the evening campfire.
9. Kevin was mesmerized by the *aroma* of the bread baking in the kitchen.
10. Muriel's two cats and her dog brought her much *enjoyment*.
11. I was not impressed with his *singing* during the student choir concert.
12. There are several theories as to what caused the *rings* around Saturn.
13. Throughout the entire *kingdom*, none was as brave as Sir Lancelot, the famous knight.
14. Making the team and passing English were two of Ping's *goals* for this semester.