Nouns

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

Types of nouns:

1. Concrete and Abstract
2. Common and Proper
3. Compound
4. Collective

The noun is one of the most frequently used parts of speech. The words in bold type below are nouns.

Examples:

1. Steve was on his way to becoming the fastest runner in the school.
2. The thought of going to Florida during the winter created a lot of excitement.
3. Freedom and justice are ideals that people in many countries desire.

Nouns may be classified in several ways.

Concrete and Abstract Nouns

Nouns are often categorized in two main groups: concrete nouns and abstract nouns.

Because concrete nouns name people, places, and things, they are easy to identify.

Abstract nouns are often harder to recognize because they name ideas and qualities.

Concrete Nouns

People: student, mother, friend, Jimmy, Mrs. Owens, Dr. Shuler

Places: school, racetrack, earth, Chicago, California, Africa, Main Street

Things: ocean, summer, car, lion, airplane, building, cash

Abstract Nouns

Ideas and Qualities: love, hope, grief, sorrow, dream, belief, beauty, happiness, honor
## Common and Proper Nouns

### Common nouns

A **common noun** names any person, place, or thing.

Examples: friend, city, spacecraft, holiday, month, store

### Proper nouns

A **proper noun** names a particular person, place, or thing. Proper nouns are always capitalized.

Examples: Maria Rodriguez, Houston, Voyager, Memorial Day, August, Wal*Mart

Some proper nouns include more than one word, but they are still considered one noun. *Maria Rodriguez* is the name of one person, and *Memorial Day* is the name of one holiday.

### Compound Nouns

**Compound nouns** include more than one word. These nouns can take three different forms. If you are unsure about which form to use when you write, check a dictionary.

Examples:

- **Separate Words:** first aid, coffee roll, sleeping bag
- **Hyphenated Words:** ambassador-at-large, hole-in-the-wall, treasure-house
- **Combined Words:** turtleneck, officeholder, onlooker, babysitter

### Collective Nouns

Nouns such as *team* and *orchestra*, name groups of people or things. These nouns are **collective nouns**.

Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>band</th>
<th>congregation</th>
<th>flock</th>
<th>orchestra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>class</td>
<td>crew</td>
<td>gang</td>
<td>swarm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>colony</td>
<td>crowd</td>
<td>herd</td>
<td>team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>committee</td>
<td>family</td>
<td>league</td>
<td>Troop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>millions</td>
<td>package</td>
<td>lot</td>
<td>group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>