Unit 2: Nouns

Nouns: Proper and Common

A **noun** names a person, place, thing, or idea.

When a word names a specific person, place, thing, or idea, it is a **proper noun**.

The first word and all other important words in proper nouns are capitalized.

When a word names any other person, place, thing or idea, it is a **common noun**. Common nouns are not capitalized.

PERSON PLACE THING IDEA

Proper Noun: Barack Obama Canada Bill of Rights Buddhism

Common Noun: man country document religion

*Exercise 1: Underline each common noun and circle each proper noun. Which words/letters need to be capitalized?*

1. Dr. martin luther king Jr. was the highly respected African American who led the civil rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s.
2. A baby named martin luther king jr. was born in atlanta, Georgia.
3. His family lived in a two-story house on Auburn avenue.
4. His father, martin Luther King sr., was a minister and the son of a sharecropper.
5. His mother, Alberta williams king, was a teacher.
6. King skipped two grades at booker T. Washington high school.
7. King graduated from morehouse College when he was still a teenager.
8. King first thought of becoming a doctor or a lawyer, but he decided to go into the ministry.
9. While still at morehouse, king was ordained in the church of his father.
10. King was elected co-pastor at the church upon his graduation from college.
11. King was intelligent, and an avid reader.
12. King won a fellowship to go to any university for his doctorate, and he chose boston university.
13. King also took philosophy courses at Harvard.

Nouns: Concrete and Abstract

**Concrete nouns** name things that can be experienced with any of the 5 senses (touch, sight, hearing, smell and taste).

**Abstract nouns** name ideas, qualities, or feelings that cannot be experienced by the 5 senses.

Abstract: sadness truth freedom intelligence justice

Concrete: frown book rain library judge

*Exercise: Underline each concrete noun and circle each abstract noun.*

1. A commercial pilot must have a lot of flying experience.
2. My uncle, aunt, and cousin live in a large trailer.
3. The judge reminded the witness to tell the truth.
4. The inventor had an idea that would help the auto industry improve safety.
5. The playful beagle liked to chase its tail.
6. The hardworking farmer was disappointed with the weather.
7. The walls and ceiling of the room were black with age and dirt.
8. Clouds covered the sun and sky.
9. Many people voted in the elections last fall.
10. The veterinarian spent time and energy examining horses.
11. My cat gets great pleasure by sitting on the window on a sunny day.
12. During the holidays, the malls are bursting with people.
13. The museum held paintings and sculptures of great beauty.
14. The girl’s bravery during the disaster did not go unnoticed.
15. As huge waves crashed onto the shore, the beachcombers fled in fear.
16. The college students lived in a quiet dormitory.

Nouns: Compounds, Plurals, and Possessives.

**Compound nouns** are nouns that are made up of two or more words.

Compound nouns can be one word (*football*) or more than one word (*rocking chair*).

Other compound nouns can be joined by hyphens (*hand-me-down*).

To form the plural of most compound nouns, you add –s or –es.

To form the plural of hyphenated compound nouns, make the most important part of the noun plural.

ONE WORD: snowmobile**s**, baseball**s**, grandfather**s**

HYPHENATED: father**s**-in-law, baby-sitter**s**, and runner**s**-up

MORE THAN ONE WORD: home run**s**, music boxe**s**, quarter horse**s**, surgeon**s** general

A **possessive noun** names who or what has something. Possessive nouns can be common, proper, singular, plural or compound.

To form the plural of possessive nouns (not ending in s), add an apostrophe and –s.

To form the plural of possessive nouns (ending in s), add an apostrophe.

*Exercise: write in the black the plural form of each compound noun*

1. jelly bean \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. fund-raiser \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. attorney-at-law \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. nutcracker \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. stomachache \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. funny bone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. sweatshirt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. motor home \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
9. sergeant at arms \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
10. beehive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
11. color guard \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
12. steam iron \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
13. farmhand \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
14. workshop \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
15. stepfather \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
16. mailbox \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
17. bill of health \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
18. minute hand \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
19. drawstring \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
20. field trip \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Exercise 2: complete each sentence by correct possessive form of the noun in parentheses.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hands felt cold and clammy. (Marietta)
2. The young sailor sounded the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ horn. (ship)
3. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ performance during the big game was not good enough to win. (players)
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ test scores improved dramatically. (Dennis)
5. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were sharp as razors. (bobcat)
6. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ vacation was relaxing and fun. (Ramoses)
7. I can do a lot of my homework on my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ computer. (parents)
8. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ loud and persistent chirping caused Cole to wake up. (birds)
9. The teacher enjoyed the sound of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ laughter. (children)
10. During autumn, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ colors change. (leaves)
11. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ weight is more than one ton. (Liberty Bell)
12. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ movement began to gain momentum. (women)
13. After the touchdown, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cheering was deafening. (fans)
14. The hook caught in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mouth. (fish)
15. In the sunlight, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ leaves grew wildly. (plant)
16. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ soup was piping hot and delicious. (cook)
17. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ largest city is Chicago. (Illinois)
18. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ route never changed. (bus)
19. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ reign was one of the longest in Great Britain’s history. (Queen Victoria)

Distinguishing Plurals, Possessives, and Contractions

A **contraction** is a word made by combining two words into one and leaving out letters from the two words. An apostrophe shows where the letters have been omitted.

Can + not = can’t singer + is = singer’s

Most plural and possessive nouns and certain contractions end with –s. as a result, they sound alike, but their spelling and meanings are different.

The singers wrote the song (plural noun)

The singers’ song is enjoyable (plural possessive noun)

We heard the singer’s song (singular possessive noun)

The singer’s the songwriter (contraction)

*Exercise 1: write PL above each plural noun, POSS above each possessive noun, and CON above each contraction.*

1. Ernest Hemingway’s one of the most influential writers of the 20th century.
2. Hemingway’s won two prestigious awards – the Nobel and Pulitzer Prize.
3. Hemingway’s birthplace was Illinois.
4. As a boy, Hemingway spent many a summer’s day in Michigan.
5. Hemingway’s family owned a cottage on Waloon Lake.
6. Hemingway made many friends there.
7. Native Americans of the region were among his group of friends.
8. Some of his friends’ adventures appeared in his books and stories.
9. Hemingway’s writing career began in Kansas City.
10. Hemingway was one of many reporters for the newspaper, the *Kansas City Star.*
11. Kansas City’s one of many cities Hemingway visited.
12. At age eighteen, the young man’s thoughts wandered overseas.