

Grammar Lesson 1

Nouns

The noun is a word (or word group) that is used to name a person, place, thing, or idea.

Ex:

People:	women, team, Alice Walker, Dr. Lacy
Places:	forest, town, Canada, Grand Canyon
Things:	jewelry, rain, Toyota, Eiffel Tower
Ideas:	fairness, loyalty, love, beauty

A compound noun is a single noun that is made up of two or more words, as separate words, or as a hyphenated word

Ex:

One Word:	basketball, filmmaker, doghouse, Greenland
Separate Words:	fire drill, chain reaction, House of Representatives, Thomas A. Edison
Hyphenated Word:	self-control, eighteen-year-old, mother-in-law, president-elect

A common noun names a *generic* group of people, places, things or ideas.

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

Ex:

Common Nouns:	Proper Nouns:
country	Mexico, Germany, United States of America
athlete	Joe Montana, Michael Jordan
river	Mississippi River, Ohio River
day	Friday, Thanksgiving, Independence Day
organization	Girl Scouts of America, Federal Bureau of Investigation

A concrete noun is a noun that *can* be perceived by one or more senses (you can see it, taste it, touch it, hear it, or smell it).

An abstract noun is a noun that *cannot* be perceived by one or more of the senses (you cannot see it, taste it, touch it, hear it, or smell it).

Ex:

Concrete Nouns:	hummingbird, telephone, teacher, popcorn, ocean, Golden Gate Bridge, Abraham Lincoln
Abstract Nouns:	knowledge, patriotism, love, humor, self-confidence, beauty, religion, Christianity

Identifying Nouns

Directions: Circle all of the nouns in each sentence. Be sure to include all types of nouns, as sentences will include compound nouns, common and proper nouns, as well as concrete and abstract nouns. The number of nouns per sentence is in parentheses following each sentence. The line separating numbers 10 and 11 is there only to mark a change in the reading passage.

1. Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce was a wise leader. (3)
2. He was an educated man; he wrote that his people believed in speaking only the truth. (3)
3. In one photograph, Satanta, a Kiowa chief, wears a silver medal with the profile of President James Buchanan on it. (6)
4. Satanta wore the medal during a famous council for peace at Medicine Lodge Creek in Kansas. (6)
5. In a moving speech, Satanta described the love that his people had for the Great Plains and the buffalo. (6)
6. *The Autobiography of Black Hawk* is an interesting book by the Sauk chief who fought for land in the Mississippi Valley. (5)
7. Sitting Bull and his warriors soundly defeated General George Custer and his troops at the Battle of Little Bighorn. (5)
8. After years of leading the Sioux in war, Sitting Bull toured with Buffalo Bill and his Wild West Show. (6)
9. Red Cloud of the Ogala Souix and Dull Knife of the Cheyennes were other powerful leaders. (5)
10. Chief Washakie received praise for his leadership of the Shoshones, and he was also a noted singer and craftsman. (6)

11. Each day huge crowds visit the Lincoln Memorial, which is in Washington, D.C. (4)
12. The memorial is in a beautiful setting not far from two other presidential monuments and the capitol. (4)
13. The Lincoln Memorial is separated from the Jefferson Memorial by the Tidal Basin. (3)
14. Between the memorial and the Washington Monument are two long, shallow pools. (3)
15. The Lincoln Memorial was designed by a noted architect of the time, Henry Bacon. (4)
16. The memorial is styled to look like a Greek temple and has thirty-six columns, one for each state in the union at the time of the death of Lincoln. (8)
17. The inside of the Lincoln Memorial is a large marble hall.(3)
18. The gigantic statue of Lincoln, designed by the sculptor Daniel Chester French, was carved from blocks of white marble. (6)
19. The statue of Lincoln depicts him sitting in a large armchair as if in deep meditation. (4)
20. In the lower lobby of the memorial, a set of murals by Jules Guerin shows allegories of Emancipation and Reunion. (7)