

Lesson 8: Common and Proper Nouns

LEARN

- A **noun** is a word that names a person, place, or thing. A **common noun** names any person, place, or thing. The **girl** visited the **fountain** in the **park**.
- A **proper noun** names a specific person, place, or thing. It can be one word or more than one word. **Julia** visited **Bethesda Fountain** in **Central Park**.
- Each important word in a proper noun begins with a capital letter.

	Common	Proper
Person	teacher	Ms. Jones
Place	city	Los Angeles
Thing	statue	Statue of Liberty



Bethesda Fountain in Central Park

- Ideas such as *fear* and *greed* are called **abstract nouns**. You can't see or touch them, but they are still nouns. Abstract nouns are always common nouns. **Greed** was his undoing.

PRACTICE

A Match each common noun with a proper noun. Write the letter of the proper noun on the line.

Common Nouns

- b 1. month
- a 2. country

Proper Nouns

- a. Mexico
- b. October

PRACTICE A *continued*

d 3. holiday

c 4. planet

e 5. building

h 6. state

f 7. continent

i 8. day of the week

j 9. lake

g 10. president

c. Venus

d. Fourth of July

e. White House

f. Asia

g. Abraham Lincoln

h. Nebraska

i. Monday

j. Lake Charles

B Read each sentence. Write *common* if the noun in **boldface** is a common noun. Write *proper* if it is a proper noun.

1. Dora visited **Yellowstone National Park** last summer. proper
2. The **park** lies mainly in Wyoming. common
3. Is it the largest national park in the **United States**? proper
4. The park's geysers attract many **visitors**. common
5. Water from inside the earth shoots out of a **geyser**. common
6. **Old Faithful** is the most famous geyser. proper
7. Spectators feel great **excitement** when this geyser erupts. common
8. People visit the **Mammoth Hot Springs**, too. proper
9. **Dora** hiked up to Yellowstone Lake. proper
10. Her **love** of Yellowstone is apparent. common

Remember



Each important word in a proper noun begins with a capital letter.

C Dora wrote this letter to her grandmother. She made twelve mistakes when writing common and proper nouns. Look for the mistakes and fix them. Use the proofreading marks in the box.

Dear Grandma,

Can you imagine a Canyon 18 miles wide and a mile deep? Well, if you were here in Grand Canyon national Park in arizona, you wouldn't have to. You could be hiking in it with us!

The Trip is not all hiking, though. On tuesday we rafted down the Colorado river for about 10 Miles! We only got wet twice, and we got to see some Sheep. We might take a mule Trip tomorrow to a place called Phantom ranch. That sounds scary, but I still want to go.

We will be home by september 1st, and I will see you at our picnic on Labor day. I can't wait to tell you more about the trip!

Love,

Dora

Proofreading Marks

- ^ Add
- Period
- ✓ Take out
- ≡ Capital letter
- / Small letter



Did you correct twelve mistakes?



Sometimes your sentences might have nouns that are not clear or specific.

Our train travels along the **river**.

We can see **boats** on the water.

You can replace these nouns with nouns that are more descriptive.

The words you choose can be either common or proper nouns.

Our train travels along the **Hudson River**.

We can see **sailboats** on the water.

D In each sentence below change the word or words in **boldface** to a more descriptive noun. Use either a common noun or a proper noun. Write the new sentence on the line.

Answers may vary. Sample answers are given.

1. I would like to visit **a city** some day.

I would like to visit **San Francisco** some day.

2. There is a really famous **thing** there.

There is a really famous **bridge** there.

3. I will probably invite **a friend** to go with me.

I will probably invite **Paul** to go with me.

4. We could pack **food** for lunch.

We could pack **sandwiches** for lunch.

5. We will bring some **fruit** for snacktime, too.

We will bring some **apples** for snacktime, too.

6. We would send postcards to **a teacher**.

We would send postcards to **Ms. Wilson**.

7. During the trip home we would play **a game**.

During the trip home we would play **checkers**.



Go back to the sentences you wrote.
Circle the more descriptive nouns you used.