Unit 2: Nouns
Lesson 7
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 person, place, thing, or idea, it is a common noun. Common nouns are not capitalized.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERSON</th>
<th>PLACE</th>
<th>THING</th>
<th>IDEA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proper Noun:</td>
<td>Sinia Yakov</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Bill of Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Noun:</td>
<td>man</td>
<td>country</td>
<td>document</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was the highly respected African American who led the civil rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s.

1. A baby named Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia.
2. His family lived in a two-story house on Auburn avenue.
3. His father, Martin Luther King Sr., was a minister and the son of a sharecropper.
4. His mother, Alberta Williams King, was a teacher.
5. King skipped two grades at Booker T. Washington high school.
6. Still a teenager, King graduated from Morehouse College.
7. King first thought of becoming a doctor or a lawyer but finally decided to go into the ministry.
8. While still at Morehouse, King was ordained in the church of his father.
9. King was elected co-pastor at the church upon his graduation from college.
10. The hardworking young man went on to graduate school at Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania.

11. King was very intelligent and an avid reader.

12. King studied the ideas of people such as Martin Luther, Mohandas Gandhi, Jesus of Nazareth, Aristotle, Plato, and Adam Smith.

13. King earned the degree of bachelor of divinity at Crozer.

14. King won a fellowship to go to the university of his choice for his doctorate.

15. King chose to go to Boston University.

16. King also took courses in philosophy at Harvard.

17. While at Boston University, King met an intelligent and beautiful woman named Coretta Scott.

18. Coretta Scott was a soprano, studying voice at the New England Conservatory of Music.

19. King and Scott married a few years after their first encounter.

20. Coretta and Martin Luther King Jr. had four children: Yolanda Denise, Martin Luther III, Dexter, and Bernice Albertine.

21. While still working on his doctoral degree, King received a letter from a church in Montgomery, Alabama.

22. The letter stated that the church would be happy to have King preach.

23. The church was located on Dexter Avenue and was called the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

24. The church was close to the impressive Alabama State Capitol, where the legislature meets.

25. Ironically, Jefferson Davis had been sworn in as the new president of the Confederacy on the steps of that same building.
Lesson 8
Nouns: Concrete and Abstract

Concrete nouns name things that can be experienced with any of the five senses—touch, sight, hearing, smell, and taste. Abstract nouns name ideas, qualities, or feelings that cannot be experienced with any of the five senses.

Abstract Nouns: sadness truth freedom intelligence justice
Concrete Nouns: frown book rain library music

Exercise 1 Underline each concrete noun once and each abstract noun twice.

My dad tells me cleanliness is important.

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 on the windowsill on a sunny day.
12. During the holiday season, 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.
17. The florist made a bouquet of roses for their anniversary.
18. The teacher at the preschool showed much patience.
19. Small children like to play with blocks.
20. The tennis player hit the ball with accuracy and determination.
21. At the traffic light, the driver pressed the brake.
22. The long-legged spider spun a web under the stairs in the basement.
23. The newspaper had a big article about the economy.
24. The black crow sat on the fence and stared at the scarecrow.
25. Using coupons is a good way for shoppers to cut costs.
26. The triathlete collapsed with exhaustion after reaching the finish line.
27. While taking the test, the student frowned in concentration.
28. Tourists watched in fascination as the volcano oozed lava.
29. The leek is a type of onion that blooms in the spring.
30. The bird in the tree held the interest of the cat.
31. The painter looked at the canvas in satisfaction.
32. After listening to the patient, the psychologist fell deep into thought.
33. Late into the evening, the chemist worked in the laboratory.
34. The children took great care to be gentle when holding the hamster.
35. The bodybuilder lifted the heavy barbell with ease.
36. Unable to find the toy, the baby cried in frustration.
37. The athlete possessed raw talent and ability.
38. A conference to deal with hunger and starvation was held in a hotel.
39. A well-balanced diet helps to maintain good health.
40. Scientists have found that many industrial processes are not good for the environment.

**Writing Link:** Write a paragraph that describes your city or town and what you like or dislike about it. Use both concrete and abstract nouns.
Lesson 9
Nouns: Compounds, Plurals, and Possessives

**Compound nouns** are nouns that are made up of two or more words. Compound nouns can be one word, like the word *football*, or more than one word, like *rocking chair*. Other compound nouns have two or more words that are joined by hyphens, such as *hand-me-down*.

To form the plural of most compound nouns written as one word, add *-s* or *-es*. To form the plural of compound nouns that are hyphenated or written as more than one word, make the most important part of the noun plural.

**ONE WORD**
snowmobiles, baseballs, grandfathers

**HYPHENATED**
fathers-in-law  baby-sitters  runners-up

**MORE THAN ONE WORD**
home runs  music boxes  quarter horses  surgeons general

A **possessive noun** names who or what has something. Possessive nouns can be common or proper nouns, singular or plural, compound or not. To form the possessive of all singular nouns and of plural nouns not ending in *-s*, add an apostrophe and *-s*. To form the possessive of plural nouns already ending in *-s*, add only an apostrophe.

boy's  boss's  Luis's  women's  puppies'

**Exercise 1** Write in the blank the plural form of each compound noun.

1. fund-raiser ________________
2. attorney-at-law ________________
3. sister-in-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 ________________
Complete each sentence by writing the correct possessive form of the noun in parentheses.

1. The young sailor sounded the _________horn. (ship)
2. The _________performance during the big game was not good enough to win. (players)
3. _________test scores improved dramatically. (Dennis)
4. The _________teeth were sharp as razors. (bobcat)
5. The _________vacation was relaxing and fun. (Ramoses)
6. I can do a lot of my homework on my _________computer. (parents)
7. The _________loud and persistent chirping caused Cole to wake up. (birds)
8. The teacher enjoyed the sound of the _________laughter. (children)
9. During autumn, the _________colors change. (leaves)
10. The _________weight is more than one ton. (Liberty Bell)
11. The _________movement began to gain momentum. (women)
12. After the touchdown, the _________cheering was deafening. (fans)
13. The hook caught in the _________mouth. (fish)
14. In the sunlight, the _________leaves grew wildly. (plant)
15. The _________soup was piping hot and delicious. (cook)
16. _________largest city is Chicago. (Illinois)
17. The _________route never changed. (bus)
18. _________reign was one of the longest in Great Britain’s history. (Queen Victoria)
Lesson 10
Nouns: Collective

A collective noun names a group that is made up of individuals. The family struggled through the crowd to see the band.

COLLECTIVE NOUNS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>class</th>
<th>family</th>
<th>herd</th>
<th>audience</th>
<th>orchestra</th>
<th>panel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>staff</td>
<td>team</td>
<td>swarm</td>
<td>jury</td>
<td>flock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Collective nouns can have either a singular or a plural meaning. When referring to the group as a unit, the noun has a singular meaning and takes a singular verb. When referring to the individual members of the group, the noun has a plural meaning and takes a plural verb.

The **team works** on its defensive plays.
The **team go** to their individual lockers.

Exercise 1
Underline the verb form in parentheses that best completes each sentence.

The audience (leaves, leave) their seats.

1. The book club (discusses, discuss) their personal opinions of the plot.
2. The class (is, are) going on a bus to the art museum.
3. The choir from East High School (sings, sing) the loudest.
4. The elephant herd (makes, make) a thundering noise during a stampede.
5. The baseball team (boasts, boast) an excellent batting average.
6. The budget committee (reaches, reach) a final decision.
7. The entire class (takes, take) a trip to Washington, D.C.
8. The theater troupe (comes, come) out separately at the end of the play.
9. The bee swarm (buzzes, buzz) around the hive.
10. The jury (argues, argue) among themselves over the verdict.
11. The debating team (wins, win) almost every time.
12. The band (puts, put) their instruments away after practice.
13. The barbershop quartet (knows, know) their individual parts.
14. The audience (gives, give) the singer a standing ovation.
15. The class (reports, report) on their chosen topics.
16. The math department (decides, decide) which classes they will teach.
17. Boy Scout Troop 10 (raises, raise) money for a camping trip.
18. The Supreme Court (rules, rule) on many of its cases each year.
19. The wolf pack (decreases, decrease) in size after a hard winter.
20. City council (goes, go) to their respective seats before the meeting begins.
21. The flock (flies, fly) in a southerly direction.
22. The restaurant staff (shares, share) their tips with each other.
23. The army platoon (marches, march) on the military base.
24. The U.S. Congress (consists, consist) of members from all fifty states.
25. College athletics (seems, seem) to be a profession in some cases.
26. The crowd (stirs, stir) as the politician takes the platform.
27. The family (sleeps, sleep) soundly in their rooms.
28. The orchestra (draws, draw) a big crowd.
29. The track team (runs, run) well as a whole.
30. The subcommittee (calls, call) for a meeting with the entire committee.
31. The band (appeals, appeal) to people of all ages.
32. The school board (presents, present) its proposal to the superintendent.
33. The volleyball team (practices, practice) their serving techniques.
34. The Music Club (listens, listen) to operas together every Tuesday.
35. The public (supports, support) its mayor.
36. The herd (roams, roam) the countryside aimlessly.
37. The jury (submits, submit) its verdict to the judge.
38. The mob of protestors (is, are) getting out of hand.
39. The Senate (contains, contain) fewer members than the House of Representatives.
40. The choir (knows, know) their individual parts.
Lesson 11

Distinguishing Plurals, Possessives, and Contractions

A **contraction** is a word made by combining two words into one and leaving out one or more 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 the letter -s. As a result, they sound alike, but their spellings and meanings are different.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plural Noun</th>
<th>Plural Possessive Noun</th>
<th>Singular Possessive Noun</th>
<th>Contraction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The singers wrote the song.</td>
<td>The singers’ song is enjoyable.</td>
<td>We heard the singer’s song.</td>
<td>The singer’s the songwriter.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exercise 1**

Write **pl.** above each plural noun (not including plural possessives), **poss.** above each possessive noun, and **con.** above each contraction.

- Ernest Hemingway’s one of the most influential American writers of the twentieth century.

1. Hemingway’s won two prestigious awards—the Nobel Prize and the Pulitzer Prize.
2. Hemingway’s birthplace was Oak Park, Illinois.
3. As a boy and youth, Hemingway spent many a summer’s day in northern Michigan.
4. Hemingway’s family owned a cottage on Waloon Lake.
5. Hemingway made many friends there.
6. Native Americans of the region were among his group of friends.
7. Some of his friends’ adventures appeared in his books and short stories.
8. The young Hemingway’s writing career began in Kansas City.
9. Hemingway was one of many reporters for the city’s newspaper, the *Kansas City Star*.
10. Kansas City’s one of many cities Hemingway visited.
11. At age eighteen, the young man’s thoughts wandered overseas.
12. Hemingway traveled to Milan, Italy, on the first of his transatlantic flights.
13. World War I's battles were still raging.
14. Hemingway's job was ambulance deputy with an American field service unit.
15. The day that Hemingway arrived, a factory full of munitions blew up.
16. After a few months' time, Hemingway was badly wounded in both legs.
17. These wartime experiences provided many of the details for Hemingway's novel about World War I, called *A Farewell to Arms*.
18. Several of his short stories' details can also be traced back to Hemingway's time spent in Milan.
19. After the war, Hemingway took trips to many different cities and countries.
20. Hemingway's known for discovering places that would later become tourist attractions.

**Exercise 2** Underline the word in parentheses that best completes the sentence.

One of (Hemingway's, Hemingways') adventures was an African safari.

1. Hemingway made (preparation's, preparations) for the trip.
2. Some of Hemingway's finest (story's, stories) were written as a result of the safari.
3. The (writers', writer's) imagination was also captured by Spain.
4. (Hemingways, Hemingway's) first exposure to a bullfight overwhelmed the writer.
5. Many of his (stories, stories') themes are about bullfighting.
6. Hemingway also journeyed to (Switzerland's, Switzerland's') cities.
7. The writer made several (trips, trip's) to Switzerland as a reporter for the *Toronto Star*.
8. Hemingway wrote stories about the (countries', country's) winter sports.
9. (Readers', Readers') admiration for Hemingway's writing was strong.
10. Hemingway lived in the (United States', United States) for much of his adult life.
11. Hemingway put his (roots, root's) down in Key West, Florida, in the 1920s and 1930s.
12. Key West was a source for a great deal of Hemingway's (writings, writing's).
13. The themes of these stories are as diverse as the (writers, writer's) life.
14. (Boats', Boats) always appealed to Hemingway.
Lesson 12
Appositives

An appositive is a noun that is placed next to, or in apposition to, another noun to identify it or add information to it.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt's wife, Eleanor, was a famous humanitarian.

An appositive phrase is a group of words that includes an appositive and other words that describe the appositive.

Roosevelt, our thirty-second president, was the only U.S. president to be elected to the presidency four times.

An appositive phrase that is not essential to the meaning of the sentence is set off from the rest of the sentence by commas. However, if the appositive is essential to the meaning of the sentence, commas are not used.

Exercise 1
Underline each appositive or appositive phrase, and circle the noun it identifies.

George Washington, commander of the Continental Army, led troops during the Revolutionary War.

1. Washington's picture is on a coin, the quarter.
2. John Adams succeeded the president, George Washington, as president of the United States.
3. Adams's wife, Abigail, was well-read and outspoken.
4. Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of a historic document, the Declaration of Independence.
5. Jefferson designed Monticello, his thirty-two room house.
6. Dolly Madison, wife of James Madison, rescued important government documents from the White House before fire could destroy them.
7. James Monroe was said to have nursed the wounds of the famous French soldier the Marquis de Lafayette.
8. Monroe was president when the United States acquired Florida, a populous territory.
9. John Quincy Adams, the son of the second president, served only one term.
10. A former governor of New York, Martin Van Buren capitalized on the popularity of his predecessor, Andrew Jackson.


12. Harrison's successor, John Tyler, was the first person to become president because of the death of the current president.

13. The "dark horse" candidate, James K. Polk, was backed by the Democratic party.

14. Polk wished to acquire California, a Mexican Territory.

15. Zachary Taylor, "Old Rough and Ready," achieved much popularity as a general in the Mexican War.

16. Taylor, the twelfth president, died after only a year in office.

17. Franklin Pierce's good friend Nathaniel Hawthorne helped to promote his presidential candidacy.

18. The Supreme Court case *Dred Scott v. Sanford* was decided during James Buchanan's presidency.

19. Buchanan was defeated by the Republican candidate Abraham Lincoln.

20. Lincoln, one of our greatest presidents, had to lead the country during a bloody civil war.

21. Lincoln earned the nickname the "Great Emancipator."

22. The assassin John Wilkes Booth shot and killed Lincoln one month after he began his second term.

23. The vice president, Andrew Jackson, was sworn in as president after Lincoln's death.

24. The celebrated Civil War general Ulysses S. Grant became the eighteenth president of the United States in 1869.

25. Rutherford B. Hayes's wife, Lucy, was the first wife of a president to hold a college degree.

26. The United States battleship *Maine* blew up in Cuba's harbor during William McKinley's presidency.