

## Parts of Speech    Common Nouns

**Definition:** A **common noun** is an idea, person, place, or thing. It can be acted upon and is capitalized only at the start of a sentence. A common noun can be a single word, a group of words, or a hyphenated word.

Examples: It takes <i>self-control</i>	idea
for a <i>teenager</i>	person
to drive to <i>school</i>	place
in a <i>sports car</i> .	thing

### Practice

Sort the following common nouns as an idea, person, place, or thing in the correct columns: mountain, friendship, teacher, neighborhood, food, self-image, freedom, toy, fire-fighter, cousin, rock, country, lamp stand, football stadium, police officer, self-confidence, grandfather clock, family room, brother-in-law, world peace

IDEA	PERSON	PLACE	THING
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

### Application

Write four sentences, using a common noun from each category. Use none of the common nouns listed on this worksheet. Be as specific as possible.

idea \_\_\_\_\_

person \_\_\_\_\_

place \_\_\_\_\_

thing \_\_\_\_\_

## Parts of Speech Proper Nouns

**Definition:** A **proper noun** is the name of a person, place, or thing. It can be acted upon and is capitalized. A proper noun may be a single word, a group of words (with or without abbreviations), or a hyphenated word.

Examples: *Josh* was honored                      person  
                  at *U.S. Memorial Auditorium*            place  
                  with the *Smith-Lee Award*.                    thing

### Writing Hints

Capitalize all words that make up proper nouns, except articles (*a, an, and the*), prepositions, such as *of, to, and from*, and conjunctions, such as *and, or, and but*.

### Practice

Circle the proper nouns in the following story. Make sure to circle all words belonging to each proper noun.

John Francis left his home in Beatrice, Nebraska in 1941, shortly before the start of World War II. Traveling first by bus to Chicago, he then boarded the *Southwestern Chief* to ride to Los Angeles. At Grand Central Station, John met his sister, Jane, and immediately began looking for part-time work and an apartment. He found employment at Blix Hardware on Western Avenue and a room to rent in nearby South Hollywood.

When war was declared, John enlisted in the army and was stationed at Fort Ord. He played trumpet in the Army Band and was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. The United States was fortunate to have so many young men, like John, serving their country.

After the war in 1945, John enrolled in the University of Southern California, paying his tuition with money from the G.I. Bill. Graduating Cum Laude with degrees in Business and Social Science, he continued to play trumpet in clubs all over Southern California. Upon marrying Janice Jones, he took a job at California Federal Savings and Loan and was promoted to Senior Vice-President. He and his wife raised two children, who both graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles. John retired in 1980 to travel and play his trumpet.

### Application

Write your own sentence with person, place, and thing proper nouns.

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## Parts of Speech Pronouns

**Definition:** A **pronoun** is a word used in place of a proper noun or common noun.

Examples: Hello. This is *she*.

Is it *her* basket?

### Writing Hints

Pronouns are used in the *first person*, *second person*, or *third person* point of view. The *first person* pronoun stands for the one speaking; the *second person* pronoun stands for the one spoken to, and the *third person* pronoun stands for the one spoken about. Avoid *first* and *second person* pronouns in essays designed to inform or convince your reader.

The following chart shows how pronouns are grammatically organized:

Number/ Point of View	Subject	Object	Possessive (before a noun)	Possessive (with no noun)	Reflexive and Intensive
<b>SINGULAR</b> First Person Second Person Third Person	I you he, she, it	me you him, her, it	my your his, her, its	mine yours his, hers	myself yourself himself, herself, itself
<b>PLURAL</b> First Person Second Person Third Person	we you they	us you them	our your their	ours yours theirs	ourselves yourselves themselves

**Practice:** Circle the pronouns in the following spooky story.

I woke up in the middle of the night to find you standing by my bed, shining your flashlight. It shone down on me, illuminating faces full of fear, both mine and yours. We clearly heard their voices downstairs. They had come for us and what was rightfully ours.

John, himself, had seen them yesterday, down by the river. She was creeping along with him, wearing that black hat of hers to hide her stringy, long hair, while he hid his hideous face with a scarf. John saw a campsite of theirs, its campfire still smoldering. Suddenly...

### Application

Finish the rest of this spooky story, using as many pronouns as possible.

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## Parts of Speech Adjectives

**Definition:** An **adjective** describes a proper noun, a common noun, or a pronoun with *how many*, *which one*, or *what kind*.

Examples: The *five* teammates  
took *that* bus  
to the *old* arena across town.

How Many?  
Which One?  
What Kind?

### Writing Hints

Adjectives usually are placed before nouns and pronouns. Don't use descriptive adjectives instead of well-chosen nouns and verbs. Especially avoid using adjectives that do not add meaning to a sentence. For example, adjectives such as *interesting*, *beautiful*, *nice*, and *exciting* do not help your reader understand the nouns or pronouns any better. Be specific as possible with your adjectives. The *sympathetic* man is better than the *nice* man.

### Practice

Sort the following *italicized* adjectives into the correct columns:

*twenty-story* building, *most* sports, *juicier* hamburgers, *these* games, *that* bright color, a *dozen* flowers, the *muddy* Missouri River, *few* announcements, *this* idea, *those* desserts, *navel* orange, *thousands* of islands, *spicy* pizza, *certain* groups, *loud* rap music

How Many?	Which One?	What Kind?
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

### Application

Write three sentences using an adjective from each category. Use none of the adjectives listed on this worksheet. Be as specific as possible.

How Many? \_\_\_\_\_

Which One? \_\_\_\_\_

What Kind? \_\_\_\_\_

## Parts of Speech Verbs

**Definition:** A **verb** shows a physical or mental action or it describes a state of being.

Examples: She *works* long hours,                      physical action  
                 but *knows* that                                      mental action  
                 there *is* more to life than work.                      state of being

Linking verbs connect a subject with a noun (He *looks* like the man), pronoun (She *is* the one), or predicate adjective (They *are* nice). Those that show either physical or mental actions include the following: *appear, become, feel, grow, keep, look, remain, seem, smell, sound, seem, stay, and taste*. Other linking verbs that describe a state of being include the “to be” verbs: *is, am, are, was, were, be, being, and been*.

Helping verbs help a verb and are placed in front of the verb (*I had heard it*). Helping verbs include the “to be” verbs, the “to do” verbs: *do, does, did*, the “to have” verbs: *has, have, had*, as well as *can, could, may, might, must, shall, should, will, and would*.

### Practice

Match the four verb forms to the examples by placing the capital letters in the spaces provided.

- A. base                      \_\_\_ need                      \_\_\_ was needing                      \_\_\_ needed                      \_\_\_ had helped  
B. present participle  
C. past                      \_\_\_ had eaten                      \_\_\_ watches                      \_\_\_ am looking                      \_\_\_ touched  
D. past participle  
                                 \_\_\_ loved                      \_\_\_ were talking                      \_\_\_ had asked                      \_\_\_ believe

### Application

Compose your own sentence with at least two verb forms.

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