

Kinds of Nouns

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

Examples: teacher, school, book, anger

A **common noun** names any person, place, thing, or idea. It begins with a lowercase letter.

Examples: writer, park, poem, joy

A **proper noun** names a particular person, place, thing, or idea. Each important word in a proper noun begins with a capital letter.

Examples: Oprah Winfrey, Chicago, Declaration of Independence, Federalism

A **concrete noun** names a thing that you can see and touch.

Examples: pizza, kitten, diamond, telephone

An **abstract noun** names something that you cannot see or touch, such as an idea, quality, or feeling.

Examples: opinion, beauty, happiness

A **collective noun** names a group of persons or things.

Examples: crowd, flock, family

Read each sentence. Add the kind of noun named in parentheses.

1. The (collective noun) applauded when (proper noun) appeared on (common noun).

2. (proper noun) is fascinating because it has (concrete noun).

3. The students like (proper noun) because she shows concern for everyone.

4. Some (common noun) could do a better job if they had more (abstract noun).

5. (proper noun) shows (abstract noun) to all the (common noun).

6. (proper noun) likes the (common noun) because of all its (abstract noun).

Singular and Plural Nouns

A **singular noun** names one person, place, thing, or idea.

Examples: musician, office, bracelet, right

A **plural noun** names more than one person, place, thing, or idea. Add an *-s* or *-es* to the end of a singular noun to form a regular plural.

Examples: musicians, offices, bracelets, rights

The underlined nouns in these sentences should be plural. Write each sentence using the correct plural forms.

1. After the concert, all the alto went out for taco.

2. There were three patio, but the singer couldn't decide where to sit.

3. Some sat beneath the overhanging branch of tree; other sat near the bush.

4. The waiter brought them fork and spoon.

5. Then he asked if the women wanted tomato and avocado with their taco.

6. Crab salad were served in cantaloupe.

7. "We should all come back with our family," said one woman.

8. Most Saturday, Margaret watches the orchestra play symphony.

Irregular Plural Nouns

To form some **irregular plural nouns**, add or change letters.

Examples: foot, feet child, children

For some irregular plural nouns, the plural is the same as the singular form.

Examples: sheep, sheep scissors, scissors

If you don't know the correct plural of a noun, look up the word in a dictionary. Plural forms are shown immediately after the main entry words.

Write the singular or plural form of each noun as indicated.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. one trout, two _____ | 11. two alumni, one _____ |
| 2. one deer, two _____ | 12. one calf, two _____ |
| 3. one ox, two _____ | 13. two passersby, one _____ |
| 4. two sheep, one _____ | 14. one tooth, two _____ |
| 5. one shellfish, two _____ | 15. two aspirin, one _____ |
| 6. one waltz, two _____ | 16. two mice, one _____ |
| 7. one father-in-law, two _____ | 17. two women, one _____ |
| 8. one species, two _____ | 18. one attorney-at-law, two _____ |
| 9. one capful, two _____ | 19. two dice, one _____ |
| 10. one hero, two _____ | 20. two men, one _____ |

The underlined nouns in these sentences should be plural. Write each sentence using the correct plural forms.

21. When the fox entered the barnyard, all the goose, chicken, and sheep panicked.

22. Before the child put an end to the turmoil, several crate of zucchini had been trampled.

23. My friend gave me three scarf for my birthday.

24. The editor-in-chief wrote the article about the computer glitch.

Possessive Nouns

A **possessive noun** shows ownership.

Example: the acting career of my friend *my friend's* acting career

Add an apostrophe (') and *s* to form the possessive of singular nouns.

Examples: person's, artist's, teacher's

If a singular noun ends in an *s*, add an apostrophe and an *s* to form the possessive.

Examples: Jonas's James's Dr. Seuss's

Add an apostrophe to form the possessive of most plural nouns ending in *s*.

Examples: persons', artists', teachers'

If a plural noun does not end in *s*, add an apostrophe and *s* to form the possessive.

Examples: mice's, women's, trout's

Rewrite the following as possessives, using the apostrophe correctly.

1. the music of a teenager _____
2. the music of teenagers _____
3. the dog of my neighbor _____
4. the yards of my neighbors _____
5. the dashboard in the car _____
6. the erasers on the pencils _____
7. the pool belonging to Molly _____
8. the history of Texas _____
9. the bikes of the brothers _____
10. the fish belonging to Agnes _____
11. the street where my stepsister lives _____
12. the two cats of Amanda Jones _____
13. the eyes of the students _____
14. the contribution made by Bess _____
15. the testimony of a witness _____

Personal Pronouns

A **personal pronoun** takes the place of a noun or nouns.

Examples: When *Bill McCoy* heard the news, *he* immediately called home.

(*He* takes the place of *Bill McCoy*.)

The *girls* giggled when *they* heard the silly joke.

(*They* takes the place of *girls*.)

Personal pronouns show number. That is, they are either singular or plural.

Examples: **Singular**

I, me, my, mine

you, your, yours

he, him, his, she, her, hers, it, its

Plural

we, us, our, ours

you, your, yours

they, them, their, theirs

Some personal pronouns also show gender. Gender refers to whether the pronoun is masculine, feminine, or neuter.

Examples: **Masculine**

he, him, his

Feminine

she, her, hers

Neuter

it, its

Write each personal pronoun from the following sentences. Then write the pronoun's number and, if the pronoun shows it, gender.

1. Simon and I entered the chess tournament after we had been in the Chess Club for six months.

2. Simon said it would be a good way to test our competence.

3. He is always looking for a challenge.

4. "Do you think it will be too hard for us?" I asked Simon.

5. "I think you will win a prize," he told me.

6. They gave out only three awards in each age group.

7. "You may all begin playing now," said the tournament director.

Pronouns and Antecedents

The nouns that personal pronouns replace are called **antecedents**. A personal pronoun must match the number (singular, plural) of its antecedent.

Examples: *Oliver* missed the bus this morning. *He* was late to school. (singular)
The *children* ran across the playground. *They* raced to the field. (plural)

A personal pronoun must match the gender (masculine, feminine, neuter) of its antecedent.

Examples: *Winston* had the most points. *He* was a star player. (masculine)
Chelsea asked a good question. *She* wanted to learn more. (feminine)
The *piano* is in the living room. *It* is too big for the dining room. (neuter)

In each sentence, underline the personal pronoun and its antecedent. Then write the number and gender of the pronoun.

1. Travelers throughout the world are familiar with youth hostels and enjoy staying in them.

2. American Youth Hostels, Inc., or AYH, began in 1934; it was organized to provide low-cost accommodations for travelers.

3. Members of the organization can stay in hostels when they travel.

4. Although hostels vary from country to country, they have basic features in common.

5. Miranda stayed in hostels during a recent trip, and she introduced friends to hosteling.

6. Miranda brought photographs to class and showed them to several friends.

7. Miranda wanted Miguel to see the pictures, but he seemed uninterested.

8. Octavio and Carlos said they saved money by staying in hostels.
