

## Common and Proper Nouns

A *common noun* names any one of a group of persons, places, things, or ideas and is generally not capitalized. A *proper noun* names a particular person, place, thing, or idea and begins with a capital letter.

**COMMON** pilot, book    **PROPER** Willa Brown, *The Once and Future King*

**EXERCISE A** Underline each common noun once and each proper noun twice in the sentences below.

**Example 1.** My favorite book, *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, was written by Jules Verne.

- Jules Verne must have loved adventure.
- Born in France, he worked on a ship when he was a boy.
- Later he studied law in Paris, but he preferred a career in literature.
- He wrote a popular play, which provided only a little income.
- Verne found a job as a stockbroker, but he also pursued his literary dreams.
- He wrote books about imaginary adventures, such as *A Journey to the Center of the Earth*.
- The public loved these stories and eagerly awaited each new novel.
- Many of his books, including *Around the World in Eighty Days*, have been made into movies.
- These novels by Verne influenced another famous writer, H. G. Wells.
- Wells wrote over one hundred books, including *The War of the Worlds*.

**EXERCISE B** Revise the following sentences by substituting a proper noun for each common noun. You might have to change some other words in each sentence. You may make up proper names.

**Example 1.** That parrot belongs to my sister. Oscar belongs to Lucinda.

- Don't forget to take this book to your next class. \_\_\_\_\_
- I would love to travel to two other countries. \_\_\_\_\_
- To get to that city, you need to get on a highway. \_\_\_\_\_
- Before we go to the theater, I should tell my uncle where we'll be. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am learning to speak two more languages. \_\_\_\_\_

## Noun or Adjective?

Many words that can stand alone as nouns can also be used as adjectives modifying nouns or pronouns.

**NOUN** school, summer      **ADJECTIVE** school bus, summer vacation

**EXERCISE A** Decide whether the underlined word in each of the following sentences is used as a noun or an adjective. Above each write *N* for *noun* or *A* for *adjective*.

**Example 1.** Please place your <sup>A</sup>lunch boxes on the shelf.

1. This town needs a good dress shop.
2. Allison bought a white dress for the dance.
3. The glass top on that table is difficult to clean.
4. This glass is still dirty.
5. Tomorrow is my birthday.
6. Ramona mailed a birthday card to her grandmother.
7. Put some of this good Texas barbecue sauce on your sandwich.
8. Sam Houston was the president of Texas before it became a state.
9. Many attended the holiday festival.
10. I received many cards during the holiday.

**EXERCISE B** Use each of the following words in two sentences. In the first sentence, use the word as a noun. In the second sentence, use the word as an adjective.

**Example 1.** apple Would you like an apple in your lunch?

I would prefer apple juice.

11. silver \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. paper \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. mouse \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. hat \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_