Identifying Nouns 1

A proper noun names a particular person, place, thing, or idea and is always capitalized. A common noun does not name a particular person, place, thing, or idea and is not capitalized. Turn to 501.1-501.2 in Writers INC.

Circle all the proper nouns and underline all the common nouns in the following paragraph.

1 P. T. Barnum was already a successful businessman when he traveled to New York and purchased the American Museum in 1848. It was this building—promptly renamed Barnum’s American Museum—that would make him a world-famous showman.

5 Barnum set out to fill his museum with both culture and curiosities. He presented an enormous menagerie of animals and featured performers whose talents ranged from glassblowing to snakecharming. A tiny model of Paris, a dog operating a knitting machine—such wonders filled every room.

9 P. T. Barnum had an amazing talent for attracting crowds. One story says that he hired a man to walk around the intersection outside the museum and place a brick on every corner. Instructed by Barnum not to answer any questions, the man would silently stroll around the intersection, moving each brick to the next corner—and taking the last brick inside the museum.

14 Many people paid to follow the “brick man” inside, only to see him wait a few minutes before he took the brick back outside to begin his circuit all over again. A few people were angry, but most enjoyed the trickery by the master and spent the afternoon enjoying his museum.

Extend: Quite often, both a proper and a common noun can be used to label the same person, place, or idea. For example, “showman” is a common noun referring to the proper noun “P. T. Barnum.” See if you can come up with a proper noun for each of the following common nouns: building, museum, animals, and performers.
Identifying Nouns 2

The number of a noun indicates whether it's singular (one potato, one person) or plural (two potatoes, several people). A concrete noun names a thing that is tangible, while an abstract noun names an idea, a condition, or a feeling. Turn to 501.3, 501.4, and 502.1 in Writers INC.

Underline the words used as nouns below. Write S above each singular noun and P above each plural noun.

1. My school recently underwent some unusual construction.
2. Supervisors and workmen swarmed through the building.
3. Scaffolds surrounded the six floors of the building.
4. The old doors and windows that had been damaged in a storm had to be removed and replaced.
5. Workers hammered and ran power tools on scaffolds outside classroom windows.
6. Students and teachers found it hard not to watch the workers.

Underline the nouns below. Write A above each abstract noun and C above each concrete noun.

1. The winter weather complicated and prolonged the construction work.
2. Workers carefully negotiated the slippery scaffolds and struggled to maintain their balance in the freezing gusts of wind.
3. School staff and construction workers alike celebrated the installation of the final window.
4. Our principal invited the workers to the cafeteria for cake and coffee.
5. The construction team was just as happy as we were that the midyear project was over.

Extend: Write two sentences for each of these collective nouns: crowd, faculty, and group. In the first sentence, make the noun singular (it refers to the group as a unit). In the second sentence, make the noun plural (it refers to the individuals within the group).
Functions of Nouns

There are six different uses for nouns (see the chart below). Turn to the appropriate references in Writers INC for information.

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<td>object of preposition</td>
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<td>The other children gathered near the child.</td>
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Using the symbols from the chart above, label the function of the underlined nouns in the following sentences.

1. Cremation is the final arrangement for the dead in Buddhist and Hindu regions of the world and is becoming more common in the United States and Canada.

2. Some cultures have other methods for taking care of their dead; in Tibet, a water burial is customary.

3. The ancient Egyptians placed their dead in tombs with food, jewels, and other things.

4. They mummified the dead, as they believed the body’s spirit would return to it.

5. The tradition of burying the dead developed from a common belief in “coming back”—that the body is a seed to be planted in the earth to await rebirth.

6. Cemeteries provide people a special place to bury and memorialize the dead.

7. Arlington National Cemetery covers more than 600 acres in Arlington, Virginia.

8. It is probably the most famous cemetery in the United States.

9. The only presidents buried there are John Kennedy and William Taft.

10. Marked by an eternal flame, the grave of JFK is visited by thousands of people each year.
Nominative, Possessive, & Objective Cases of Nouns

In the nominative case, a noun is used as the subject or the predicate nominative. In the possessive case, the noun shows ownership or possession. In the objective case, the noun is used as the direct object, the indirect object, or the object of a preposition. Turn to 502.3 in Writers INC.

Indicate whether each underlined noun is in the nominative case (N), the possessive case (P), or the objective case (O).

1. Scientists have dreamed of many different designs for tomorrow's spacecraft.
   \( O \)

2. Some designs resemble the spacecraft used today that burn chemical fuel for propulsion.
   \( N \)

3. Other futuristic craft are powered by controlled nuclear explosions. (Those spaceships could take people to Mars in half the time!)
   \( P \)

4. One scientist's design beams power out to spacecraft using a high-powered laser that orbits Earth.
   \( N \)

5. A few concepts have spacecraft sailing on the "solar wind" of tiny particles expelled by the sun.
   \( N \)

6. But astronauts' journeys to other solar systems will still be incredibly long, so early interstellar travelers may have to travel frozen in suspended animation.
   \( N \)

Write sentences using each of the following nouns in the indicated cases.

1. Mars (nominative):

2. Earth (possessive):

3. aliens (objective):

4. space station (objective):

Extend: Rewrite each of your sentences using each of the listed nouns in a different case.
Using Nouns

Strong, specific nouns are essential for clear communication and lively writing. For example, you would probably be excited if you found out that you had won a car in a drawing! However, your excitement would increase if they told you that you had won a sports car—in fact, let's say it's a convertible! A specific noun makes a big difference. Turn to page 130 and 501.3-501.4 in Writers INC.

Write a sentence containing a noun that fits each description below. Circle this noun. Be as specific and vivid as possible!

1. plural, proper, thing: __________
   A recent ad campaign has boosted the __________
   popularity of Chihuahuas as family pets.

2. singular, concrete, thing: __________

3. collective, proper, people: __________

4. singular, abstract, idea: __________

5. singular, proper, place: __________

6. plural, concrete, thing: __________

7. singular, proper, person: __________

8. plural, common, thing: __________

9. singular, abstract, idea: __________