

Unit 2: Nouns

Lesson 7

Nouns: Proper and Common

A **noun** names a person, place, thing, or idea. A **singular noun** names one person, place, thing, or idea. A **plural noun** names more than one. Plural nouns are usually formed by adding *-s* or *-es* to the singular noun.

SINGULAR:	student	bench	hotel	truth
PLURAL:	students	benches	hotels	truths

A **proper noun** names a specific person, place, thing, or idea. A **common noun** names any person, place, thing, or idea.

PROPER:	Thomas Alvarez	Canada	Sears Tower	the Bronze Age
COMMON:	man	country	building	age

► **Exercise 1** Write *sing.* in the blank if the italicized word is a singular noun. Write *pl.* if it is plural.

- pl. Juanita suggested that my *boys* visit the circus.
- _____ 1. Circus Royale was the name of the circus that came to *town* last week.
- _____ 2. The opening *parade* was a great introduction to the event.
- _____ 3. The nine *elephants* were trained by a man named Zingarelli.
- _____ 4. One of the best acts was a family of *acrobats* from Paris.
- _____ 5. A *juggler* managed to juggle eight saucers at once.
- _____ 6. A band played *marches* by Sousa and rags by Joplin.
- _____ 7. The ringmaster's voice was loud enough to be heard without a *microphone*.
- _____ 8. When the wildcat *act* appeared, the audience applauded with glee.
- _____ 9. Besides lions and *tigers*, a cheetah and a panther were in the act.
- _____ 10. After the wildcat act, fourteen *clowns* emerged from a tiny car.
- _____ 11. Do you have any idea how all of them could fit into that tiny *car*?
- _____ 12. Although they used a *net*, the Flying Greiners were thrilling on the trapeze.
- _____ 13. My little *sister*, Nina, wants to learn to perform on the high wire.

_____ 14. However, my favorite act was the *magician*.

_____ 15. I would go to *circuses* every week if I had the chance.

► **Exercise 2** Draw one line under each common noun and two lines under each proper noun.

P.T. Barnum has a name that reminds many people of the circus.

1. He was born in Bethel, Connecticut, as Phineas Taylor Barnum.
2. In 1841, Barnum began to work in New York City, managing the American Museum.
3. Charles Dickens and Edward VII were among those who came to the museum.
4. Charles S. Stratton probably brought in the most money.
5. Only 25 inches tall, Stratton called himself "General Tom Thumb."
6. In 1871, William Cameron Coup joined Barnum to take the circus on the road.
7. They called it "The Greatest Show on Earth."
8. The two showmen amazed many government leaders, including Abraham Lincoln and Queen Victoria.
9. During the run of the circus, Barnum served a term as mayor of Bridgeport, Connecticut.
10. After some time in politics, Barnum visited the London Zoo.
11. There, he acquired a large African elephant.
12. The elephant, named Jumbo, weighed over six tons!
13. James A. Bailey, a later partner of Barnum, helped to improve the circus.
14. Before his death in 1891, Barnum hosted many famous people, including Mark Twain.
15. In 1907, after Bailey died, the Ringling Brothers bought the show.

► **Writing Link** Write two or three sentences about what job you would like to have in a circus. Include both common and proper nouns.

Lesson 8

Nouns: Concrete, Abstract, and Collective

Concrete nouns name things that you can recognize with your senses.

Abstract nouns name ideas; qualities, or feelings.

A **collective noun** gives a single name to a group of individuals. When referring to a group as a unit, the noun is singular. When referring to the individual members of the group, the noun is plural.

The **mob** was waiting at the door for the store to open. (a unit, singular)

The **panel** are discussing the issues with each other. (individual members, plural)

CONCRETE:

inventor

city

calendar

jazz

ABSTRACT:

idea

progress

time

culture

COLLECTIVE:

crowd

committee

family

team

► **Exercise 1** Write in the blank *concrete* or *abstract* to identify the type of noun in italics.

abstractThe boys had great *sympathy* for Juan's situation._____ 1. Why did Sharon begin playing the *tuba*?_____ 2. The entire house was decorated with excellent *taste*._____ 3. Barry's adoration for his grandmother brought her much *joy*._____ 4. The hissing of the *radiator* distracted him._____ 5. The barbershop quartet rehearsed in the *cafeteria*._____ 6. The spectators saw the entire production on a huge *monitor*._____ 7. *Cleanliness* is important to my mother._____ 8. If anyone has a better *idea*, I'll support it._____ 9. Dad enjoyed listening to *music* on his new car CD player._____ 10. My friend brought some *oranges* back from Florida._____ 11. The *success* of the recycling program depended on everyone's cooperation.

- _____ 12. Margit's new *bedspread* is very colorful.
- _____ 13. It took *courage* to sing the solo in front of so many people.
- _____ 14. Aside from one *baby*, the audience was extremely quiet.
- _____ 15. Bella showed great *ability* for solving logic problems.

► **Exercise 2 Draw two lines under the verb that agrees with the collective noun subject.**

The band (is, are) polishing their instruments before the competition.

1. A new committee (has been, have been) formed to plan the field trip.
2. The team (selects, select) their officers by secret ballot.
3. The Audubon Society (promote, promotes) the conservation of wild birds.
4. The audience (is, are) aware that they were lucky to get tickets.
5. Because it is fed only once daily, the flock (eats, eat) very fast.
6. The trio (performs, perform) at many local festivities.
7. My family (begin, begins) the holiday at six o'clock.
8. The jury (is, are) all members of the community.
9. The team (has, have) an awards banquet at the end of the regular season.
10. A panel of judges (presides, preside) over the Supreme Court.
11. Although it is small, our orchestra (is, are) well rehearsed.
12. The school club (provides, provide) assistance to local charities.
13. The committee (disagrees, disagree) with each other about proper procedure.
14. Outside my bedroom window, the swarm of bees (buzzes, buzz) loudly.
15. The matinee audience (is, are) usually smaller than the evening crowd.

► **Writing Link Write a short paragraph about selecting officers for a club to which you belong. Use examples of concrete, abstract, and collective nouns.**

Lesson 9**Nouns: Compound and Possessive**

Compound nouns are nouns that are made up of two or more words. To form a plural of a compound noun written as one word, add *-s* or *-es*. Add *-es* to words ending in *ch*, *sh*, *s*, *x*, and *z*. When the compound noun is hyphenated or written as more than one word, make the most important part of the noun plural.

doorknobs mailboxes great-grandmothers dining rooms sisters-in-law

A **possessive** noun names who or what owns or has something. To form the possessive for all singular nouns and for plural nouns not ending in *-s*, add an apostrophe and an *-s*. To form the possessive of all plural nouns already ending in *-s*, add only an apostrophe.

a girl's coat Hans's job children's voices boys' shoes bakeries' cakes

► **Exercise 1** Write in the blank the correct plural form of the compound noun in parentheses.

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| _____

_____ | grandmothers During the holidays, we visit both of my (grandmother).
1. The (teardrop) fell from her cheek as she sobbed.
2. (Moonbeam) cut through the trees of the forest.
3. After school, we hurled (snowball) at our friends.
4. (Earthworm) improve the soil in our garden.
5. At the end of the contest, the (runner-up) collected their awards.
6. This Olympics is filled with (record holder).
7. My Aunt Minya collects (nutcracker).
8. Before bedtime, Carla's father reads her two (nursery rhyme).
9. Our family tradition calls for all (mother-in-law) to bake a pie at Thanksgiving.
10. Just before sunrise, the (morning star) twinkle beautifully.
11. (Lighthouse) protect the coastline of Maine.
12. The (lifeguard) at the amusement park do a noble job. |
|--|---|

_____ 13. The city is repairing several (overpass).

_____ 14. Old houses have (keyhole) that you can look through.

_____ 15. My little sister has a whole collection of (music box).

► **Exercise 2** Write in the blank the possessive form of the noun in *italics*.

Ann's

Ann calculator was missing from her bookbag.

_____ 1. George *Washington* troops crossed the Delaware River.

_____ 2. Sonja was surprised by her *son* interests.

_____ 3. Charles new bike sparkled in the sun.

_____ 4. The *class* projects exceeded the teacher's expectations.

_____ 5. My part-time job fits most *students* needs.

_____ 6. Her science *project* name was "Food Production Without Soil."

7. For the poster, we clipped words and pictures from my *mother* magazines.

8. Fresh *vegetables* flavor often exceeds that of canned ones.

_____ 9. Many *countries* goals include less crime.

_____ 10. The *animals* habitats are quickly being destroyed.

_____ 11. A *crop* yield can supply hundreds with food.

_____ 12. *Marta Evans* hobbies include skiing and dancing.

_____ 13. Some believe that the *atmosphere* ozone layer is disappearing.

_____ 14. The two *teachers* classes all followed the same theme.

_____ 15. The football *team* hopes were dashed in the playoffs.

► Writing Link Write a short paragraph about a favorite leisure activity. Be sure to include compound and possessive nouns (both singular and plural).

Lesson 10

Nouns: Distinguishing Plurals, Possessives, and Contractions

Some plural nouns and possessive nouns sound alike, but their spellings and meanings differ.

The **farmers** harvested the corn. (plural noun)

The **farmers'** harvests were plentiful. (plural possessive noun)

The **farmer's** harvest is finished. (singular possessive noun)

A **contraction** is a word made by combining two words into one by leaving out one or more letters and adding an apostrophe.

Katarina's homework is perfect. (possessive)

Katarina's preparing for the test. (contraction of *Katarina is*)

► **Exercise 1** Write *possessive*, *contraction*, or *plural* to identify the type of noun in italics.

possessive

The Old *West's* method of delivering mail was the Pony Express.

- _____ 1. The Pony *Express's* name comes from the mail carriers riding ponies.
- _____ 2. The *service's* route stretched between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California.
- _____ 3. The Pony Express was around in the early *1860s*.
- _____ 4. *Senator William H. Russell's* freighting firm funded the Pony Express.
- _____ 5. *Russell's* better known than Senator Willam Gwin, the man who helped him.
- _____ 6. The mail *prices* once cost five dollars for a one-half-ounce letter.
- _____ 7. However, the *costs* soon dropped to only one dollar.
- _____ 8. The *rider's* equipment included a special mailbag and sometimes a weapon.
- _____ 9. Some famous Pony Express *riders* included historical figures like "Buffalo Bill" Cody.
- _____ 10. Another of the *Express's* famous riders was "Pony Bob" Haslam.
- _____ 11. It was amazing the way the *riders* could change horses so quickly.

- _____ 12. As a result, the Pony *Express's* average speed was two hundred miles per day.
- _____ 13. Although they faced many *troubles*, few riders were seriously hurt.
- _____ 14. After the transcontinental telegraph opened, the Pony Express shut down in two *days*.
- _____ 15. The Pony Express—*that's* the basis for the modern American postal system.

► **Exercise 2 Underline the noun in parentheses that best completes each sentence.**

(Telephones, telephone's) have changed greatly over the past few years.

1. Speaker (phones, phone's) are already commonplace in some American homes.
2. The cellular (phones, phone's) mobility is very convenient.
3. Many (satellites, satellite's) have replaced familiar phone lines.
4. Satellite communication eliminates many (delays, delay's).
5. New (horizons, horizon's) are upon us as we enter the twenty-first century.
6. Telephones that include video (images, image's) are already being perfected.
7. These (videophones, videophone's) may soon become standard communication.
8. Many (computers, computer's) regulate the phone lines.
9. Business (executives, executives') travels are simplified with this technology.
10. Can you imagine the (problems, problem's) people used to have with the old phones?
11. Now salespeople can show their (products, products') on television.
12. Then, (payments, payment's) can be completed over the phone.
13. A regular telephone (visits, visit's) a good cure for loneliness.
14. Taking place over phone lines, online data (services, service's) connect people across the world.
15. Soon, most people will have access to all (types, type's) of communication.
16. A (persons, person's) going to be amazed at all the new possibilities.

Lesson 11**Appositives**

An **appositive** is a noun placed next to another noun to identify it or add information about it.

My brother, **Jean**, will accompany me to the boat.

An **appositive phrase** is a group of words that includes an appositive and other words that describe the appositive. Many appositives are set off by commas.

Raji Pabijan, **a distinguished geologist**, will speak at the Science Club meeting.

► **Exercise 1 Underline each appositive or appositive phrase.**

Connie, my neighbor, waters her yard every day.

1. Trucks, large and small cargo carriers, come in all colors.
2. A toy poodle, the smallest house dog, makes an excellent pet.
3. Jerry, my uncle from Wisconsin, took me to the Packers' game.
4. Macy's, a large department store, is centered in New York.
5. In that movie I had a job as an extra, an actor in a group scene.
6. The bald eagle, our national bird, soared above the trees.
7. Flying a Spitfire, a plane used in World War II, was once my grandfather's job.
8. Benito Grasselli, a friend of mine, is a professional artist.
9. Ken and Joyce, Ken's wife, are business partners.
10. Min, the leader of our club, had the final decision.
11. I finished the hole with a birdie, only two strokes.
12. Michelle, the more experienced of the two, was promoted over Janil.
13. I would love a bright red Porsche, a sports car.
14. The car, a battered green sedan, was parked in the driveway.
15. I invited Dale, my friend from Washington, to have breakfast.
16. Camelot was defended by King Arthur's court, the knights of the Round Table.
17. The pyramid of Khufu, the Great Pyramid, loomed over the explorers.

18. Carla and Ramón, the writers of the school play, came on stage to take a bow.
19. The Special Olympics, an international program, supports physical fitness for mentally or physically challenged athletes.
20. An excellent librarian, my grandma worked in a library all her life.

► **Exercise 2 Underline each appositive or appositive phrase. Add commas.**

Kayley, my dog, is a mixture of German shepherd and collie.

1. Alice visited Dave her second cousin.
2. That car the green Ford belongs to my grandmother.
3. The oak a slow-growing tree is highly prized for lumber.
4. The nylon tent a new model sleeps six.
5. She drives a foreign car a Japanese model.
6. He saw Jack Miller the well-known painter before he came home.
7. Mrs. Hernandez our principal is new to our school.
8. Jogging a vigorous exercise is good for one's circulation.
9. Carl's son, Tomás, is nine years old.
10. Penicillin an antibiotic is used to treat bacterial infections.
11. Annette the tallest girl in school plays center on the basketball team.
12. The chainsaw an old one broke.
13. Have you met Mrs. Fernandez our substitute teacher?
14. Kareem the new boy at school sings very well.
15. We always look forward to Thanksgiving dinner a wonderful meal.
16. The house a log cabin had a green door.
17. Vegetables the leafy kind make excellent contributions to the diet.
18. Trigger a palomino was Roy Rogers' horse.
19. Bill Peschak my trumpet teacher plays with the symphony.
20. A talented man my father was often asked to play the piano at parties.



Unit 2 Review

► **Exercise 1** Write in the blank *plural, possessive, contraction, or appositive* to identify the word in *italics*.

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| <p>_____ appositive _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> | <p>Herve, the <i>server</i>, deserved a large tip.</p> <p>1. The children laughed at the <i>monkeys</i> in the cage.</p> <p>2. The <i>Newmans'</i> vacation was last month.</p> <p>3. <i>Sheila's</i> on her way to the skating rink.</p> <p>4. Molly, my <i>friend</i>, wants to borrow my bicycle.</p> <p>5. After the dance, <i>Helmut's</i> leaving for Rome.</p> <p>6. Do you know if the <i>cat's</i> come back?</p> <p>7. <i>Conestogas</i> were the famous wagons of the western trails.</p> <p>8. Give it to Jake, the <i>butler</i>.</p> <p>9. All the <i>mechanic's</i> tools were missing.</p> <p>10. John lost his baseball, a <i>souvenir</i>.</p> <p>11. Rosita married my cousin <i>Harry</i>.</p> <p>12. <i>Jimmy's</i> not home.</p> <p>13. The scene was crowded with <i>ambulances</i> and workers.</p> <p>14. <i>Rover's</i> not the smartest dog who ever lived.</p> <p>15. The bright <i>lights</i> of the midway attracted every child in town.</p> <p>16. Is there a <i>beginner's</i> position available?</p> <p>17. His <i>father's</i> name is Amahl.</p> <p>18. Marta, a petite <i>woman</i>, could wear her daughter's clothes.</p> <p>19. The waves from the large <i>boats</i> disturbed the swimmers.</p> <p>20. Can you see this from a <i>teacher's</i> point of view?</p> |
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Cumulative Review: Units 1–2

► **Exercise 1** Draw a vertical line between the complete subject and the complete predicate. Underline the nouns in the complete subject and circle the nouns in the complete predicate.

Jason and his friend | ran to the theater.

1. Kim liked John's picture of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.
2. The class toured the new factory.
3. The kitchen, filled with pots and pans, sparkled.
4. At the campground, the counselors split the children into four groups.
5. The computer in my father's office can do some amazing tricks.
6. My boss asked the employees to work extra hours.
7. The writer of the play is a complete genius.
8. The uncomfortable family waited patiently in the lobby.
9. Who is going to the theater with us?
10. Andy removed the magazine from the office.
11. The Lin family enjoyed a holiday at the Grand Canyon.
12. The history test is on Thursday.
13. Grandma was shocked to be in the Queen's ceremony.
14. Honda has plants all over the world.
15. Uncle Miller's prize pig won the contest at the fair.
16. The store is on the corner of Pearl Street and Maple Lane.
17. *Air Force One* is reserved for the president.
18. Those radishes are as large as turnips!
19. The actors argued with the director over the scene.
20. Luis bought a new set of paintbrushes from the hobby shop.