

Nouns



Nouns are words that **name** things. **Common nouns** are the words that we use every day to talk about objects, animals, places and people. They name different kinds of things.

For example: table pencil dog rabbit school park girl man

Proper nouns are the special names we give to a **particular** person, animal or place.

For example: Rachel Lee Tiddles Champion Manchester

1. Write a **common noun** in each box to complete these sentences. Your sentences can be sensible or funny. The first sentence has been completed for you, in two different ways.

- a) The cat sat on the wall . Or The elephant sat on the hat .
- b) A jumped over the .
- c) My threw the into the .
- d) The was waiting for a .
- e) Asleep on the there was a great big .

2. Think of a **proper noun** (a special name) for each of these **common nouns**. Remember to use a capital letter at the start of the name.

- a) Cuddles the cat d) _____ the dog
- b) _____ the fish e) _____ the snake
- c) _____ the hamster f) _____ the lizard

Did you know...

The idea of proper nouns, or special names, was invented hundreds of years ago when people realised that sometimes an ordinary common noun was not enough. For example, as long as there was only one town in the area, then the word *town* was fine – everyone knew which place it referred to. But as soon as there was more than one town nearby, people needed a way of knowing which town was which. So each town was given its own special name and place names were invented.

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When you are writing, common nouns are sometimes not very useful. Some common nouns cover lots of different sorts of things.

For example, if you use the words a man he might be... a farmer... a policeman... a pop star.

When you are writing, you need to be precise. Choose nouns carefully. Some nouns don't give the reader a clear picture.

For example: The man ran out of the building.

What sort of man was he? What was the building like?

The reader gets a much clearer picture if you write:

The **fire-fighter** ran out of the **tower block**.

or
The **robber** ran out of the **bank**.

3. Add some more **precise** nouns that you could use in place of these everyday nouns.

Cake chocolate éclair	Dog husky	Building supermarket
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4. Change the common nouns in these sentences for more interesting choices.

- a) The elephant stole the fruit.
elephant bananas
- b) The dog ran into the shop.
- c) The lady stood in the middle of the room.
- d) The man put on his clothes.
- e) The group of people came out of the building.