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1)

What is Grammar?

Here's an old children's rhyme about the eight parts of speech of English grammar. It gives you an idea of what grammar is about. Read and remember it.



Adjective

Every name is called a **noun**,

As field and fountain, street and town.

Pronoun

Adverb

Interjection

In place of noun the **pronoun** stands,

As he and she can clap their hands.

The adjective describes a thing,

As magic wand or bridal ring.

Most verbs mean action, something done,

To read and write, to jump and run.

How things are done the adverbs tell,

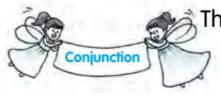
As quickly, slowly, badly, well.

The preposition shows relation,

As *in* the street or *at* the station.

Conjunctions join, in many ways,

Sentences, words, or phrase and phrase.



The **interjection** cries out, "Heed!

An exclamation point must follow me!"



2

The Capital Letter

The **capital letter** is also called a **big letter** or **uppercase** letter, or sometimes just a **capital**.

ABCDEFGHIJKLM

NOPQRSTUVWXYZ

When do you use a capital letter?

Use a capital letter for the first letter in a sentence:

The dog is barking.

Come here!

Always use a capital letter for the word I:

I am eight years old.

Tom and I are good friends.

Use a capital letter for the names of people:

Alice, Tom, James, Kim, Snow White

Use a capital letter for the names of places: National Museum, Bronx Zoo, London, Sacramento

Use a capital letter for festivals, holidays, days of the week, months of the year:

New Year's Day, Christmas, Labor Day, Mother's Day, Sunday, Monday, Friday, January, May, July, October





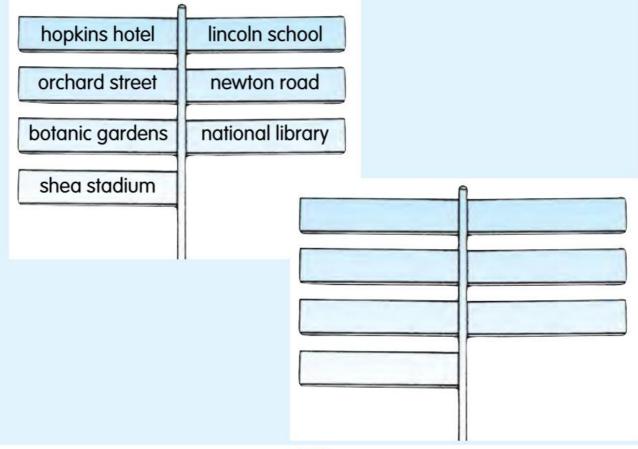
Exercise 1

Circle the letters that should be CAPITALS. Then write the correct letter in the space above them.

- 1 peter and i are good friends.
- 2 we are going to chicago during our summer vacation.
- 3 there is an interesting football game on sunday.
- 4 jason lives on thomson avenue.
- 5 january is the first month of the year.

Exercise 2

Look at the signs on the left. Can you find the mistakes? Write the names correctly.



3 Nouns

Common Nouns

Nouns are divided into **common nouns** and **proper nouns**. **Common nouns** are words for people, animals, places, or things.

These are words for people. They are common nouns.



artist

Word File

Here are more words for people:

actor lawyer

aunt judge

baby man

baker nurse

cook police officer

dentist singer

doctor soldier

giant teacher



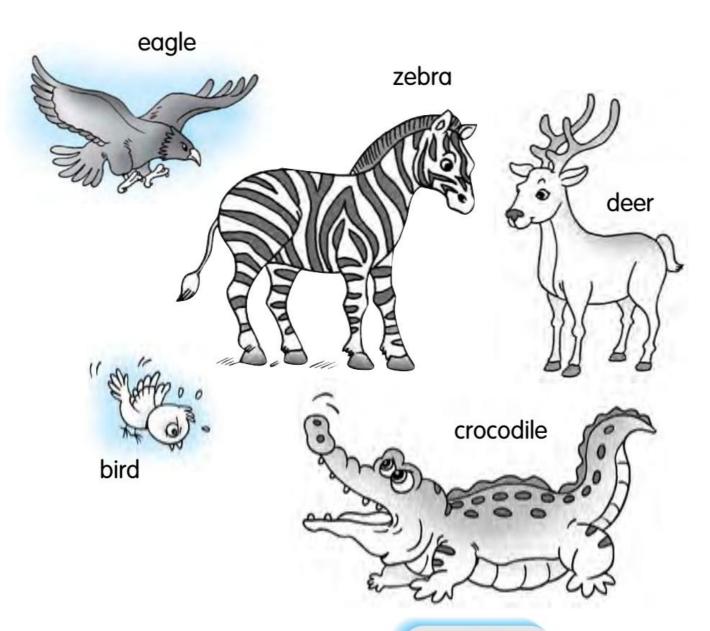
astronaut



Another word for **astronaut** is **spaceman** or **spacewoman**.



These are words for animals. They are common nouns.





Word File

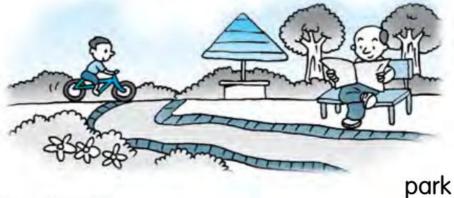
Here are more words for animals:

cat goose
cow hen
dog horse
dolphin mouse
duck parrot
fish shark
goat whale

These are words for places. They are common nouns.



beach





shop



Word File

Here are more words for places:

airport market

cave mountain

church playground farm restaurant

hill school

hospital seashore

hotel stadium

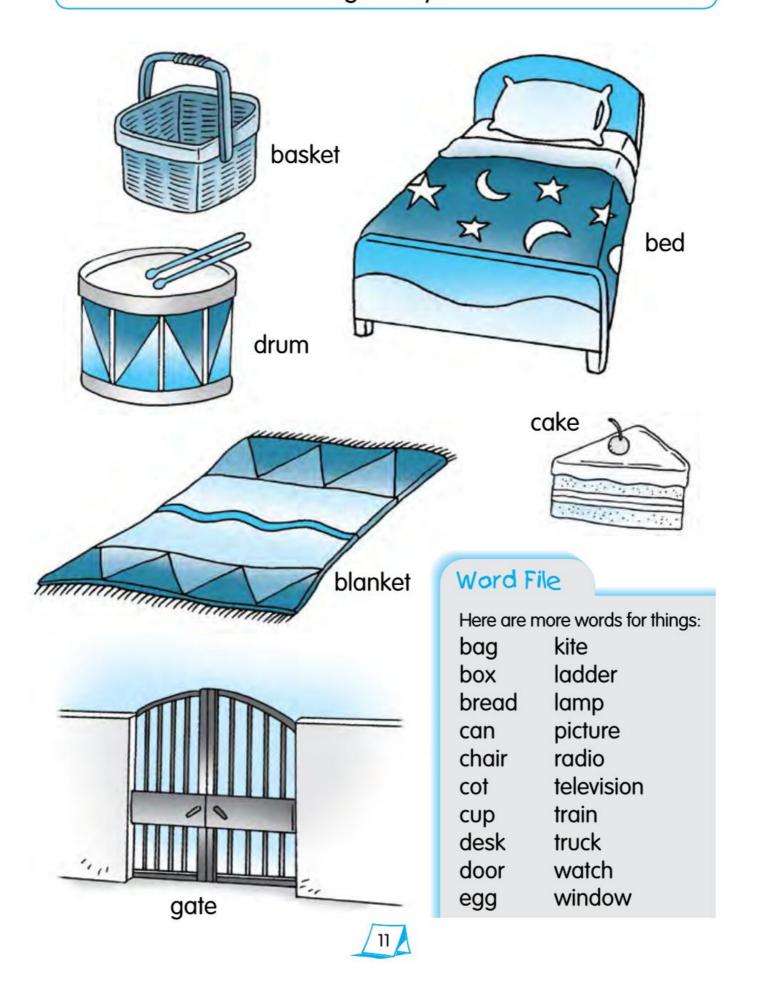
house supermarket

island temple

mall zoo



These are words for things. They are common nouns.



Exercise 1

Underline the common nouns in these sentences.

- 1 There's a little bird in the garden.
- 2 Who is your teacher?
- 3 Don't eat that rotten apple.
- 4 Kate has a lovely doll.
- 5 I like reading stories.
- 6 My father is a doctor.
- 7 Every child has a dictionary.
- 8 Rudy hates bananas.
- 9 The phone is ringing.
- 10 Here's a book for you.

Exercise 2

Here's a mixed bag of words. Put each word under its correct heading.

swimmer letters mountain granny	snail flag fox taxi	fire engine river hotel gardener	clown barber parrot camel
People	Animals	Places	Things
			* <u>-</u>
	 	·	
			· ·

Proper Nouns

Proper nouns are names for particular people, places or things. They always begin with a capital letter.





Word File

Here are some more names of people:

Ali Baba

Florence Nightingale

Derek Jeter

Pauline

Johnny Depp

Patrick

Harry Potter

Pinocchio

Robin Hood





Your own name and the names of your friends are proper nouns too.

