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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.



Every name is called a **noun**,
As *field* and *fountain*, *street* and *town*.
In place of noun the **pronoun** stands,
As *he* and *she* can clap their hands.

Pronoun



Adjective

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*.



Verb

How things are done the **adverbs** tell,
As *quickly*, *slowly*, *badly*, *well*.



Preposition

The **preposition** shows relation,
As *in* the street or *at* the station.



Adverb

Conjunctions join, in many ways,
Sentences, words, *or* phrase *and* phrase.



Conjunction

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

An exclamation point must
follow me!"



Interjection

2

The Capital Letter

The **capital letter** is also called a **big letter** or **upper-case** letter, or sometimes just a **capital**.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

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



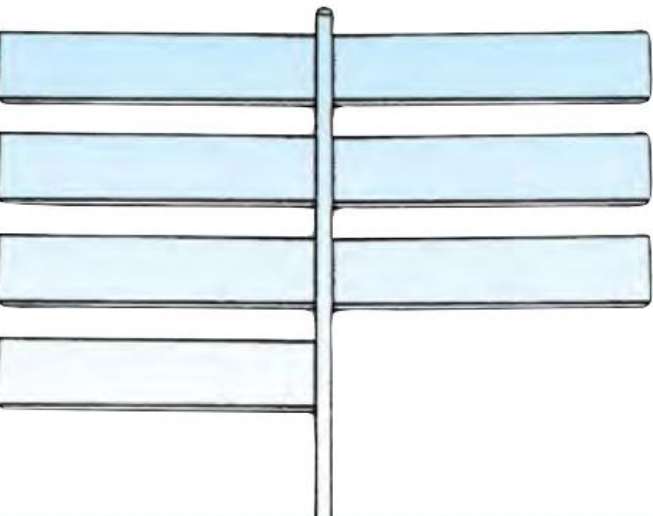
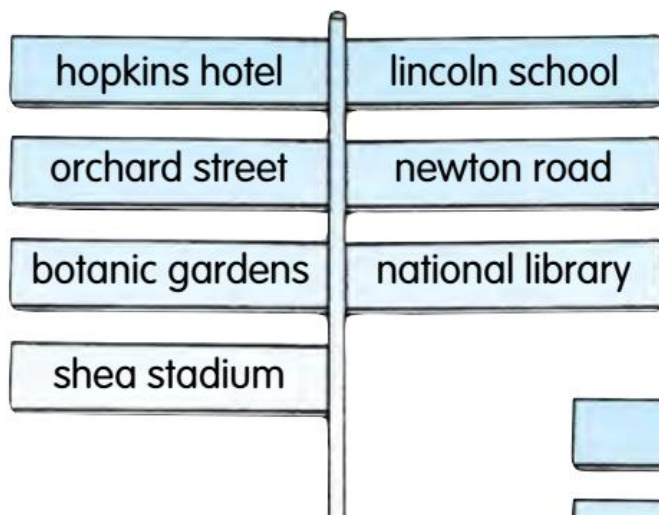
Exercise 1

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

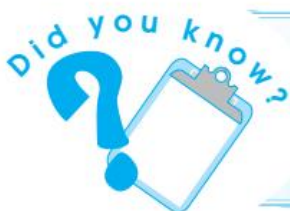


clown



acrobat

astronaut



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



These are words for animals. They are common nouns.

eagle



zebra

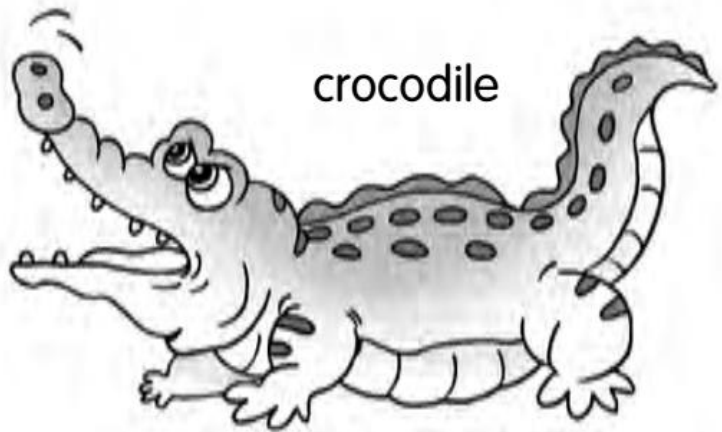


deer



bird

crocodile



bear



Word File

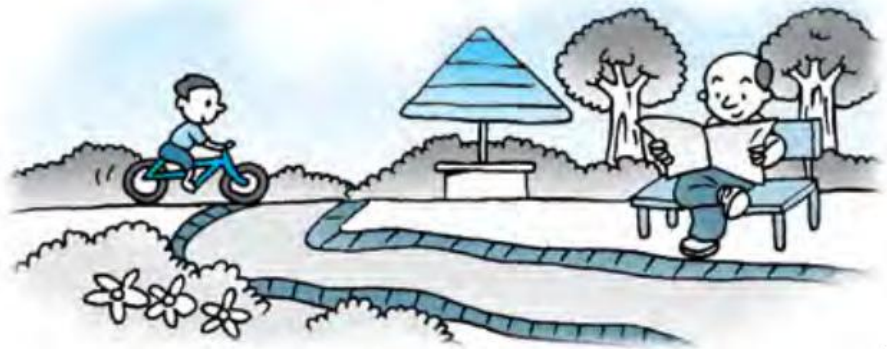
Here are more words for animals:

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

These are words for places. They are common nouns.



beach



park



library

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.



basket

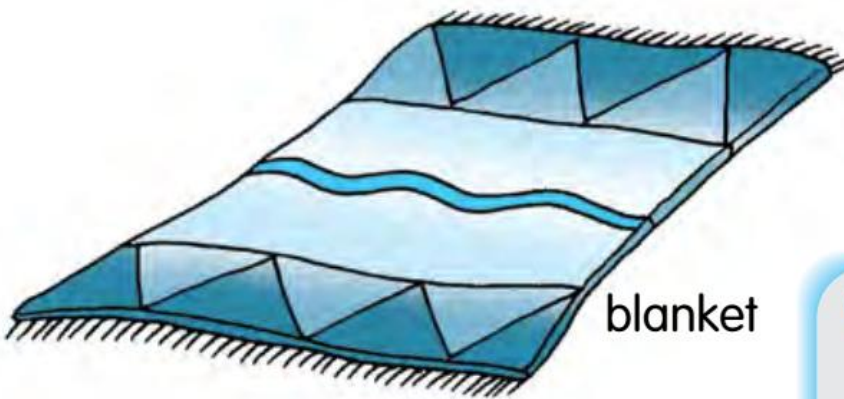
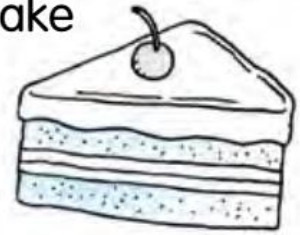


bed



drum

cake



blanket



gate

Word File

Here are more words for things:

bag	kite
box	ladder
bread	lamp
can	picture
chair	radio
cot	television
cup	train
desk	truck
door	watch
egg	window

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

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Proper Nouns

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



Beethoven

Word File

Here are some more names of people:

Ali Baba

Florence Nightingale

Derek Jeter

Pauline

Johnny Depp

Patrick

Harry Potter

Pinocchio

Robin Hood



Lisa

Santa Claus



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

