Grammar

Common nouns name any person, place, thing, or idea. Proper nouns are the names of individual people, places, things, or ideas. Proper nouns should always be capitalized.

Examples:

Common	Proper	Common	Proper	
			Doctor Jefferson	
boy	James	doctor	Rockledge	
river	Mississippi River	town	Baby Ruth	
car	Ford	candy bar		

Hint:

Don't forget to capitalize all parts of proper nouns. Many people forget to capitalize words like *river* and *county* in proper nouns like ***Ohio River*** and ***Orange County***.

Practice What You've Learned

Directions:

Click on the nouns that are proper and should be capitalized. Some proper nouns are more than one word. Make sure to click all the words that need to be capitalized.

?1.

Car ... Toyota ... Truck ... Station Wagon ... Corolla ... Motorcycle

?2.

Dumbo ... Elephant ... Lion ... Tiger ... Simba ... Leo

?3.

City ... Orlando ... Town ... Village ... Naples ... New York

?4.

    Julie ... Student ... Character ... Greg ... Boy ... Mrs. Stimpson

?5.

    Star ... Mars ... Planet ... Asteroid ... Capricorn ... Polaris

?6.

    Shirt ... Levis ... Nikes ... Jeans ... Tennis Shoes ... Dress

Types of Nouns

There are several different types of **nouns** used to name people, animals, places, things, and ideas. Nouns are among the most important words in the English language. Every type of noun comes with its own rules.

Abstract Nouns

Abstract nouns are those referring to ideas, concepts, emotions, and other "things" you can't physically interact with. You can't see, taste, touch, smell, or hear something named with an abstract noun. Some abstract noun examples are included in the following sentences.

Success seems to come easily to certain people.

His **hatred** of people smoking indoors is legendary.

She has an incredible **love** for nature.

This is of great **importance**.

He received an award for his **bravery**.

Collective Nouns

When talking about types of noun, it's important to remember collective nouns. A collective noun is a word that refers to a group. It can be either singular or plural, but is usually used in the singular. Some collective noun examples are included in the following sentences.

Our **team** is enjoying an unbroken winning streak.

There's a **pack** of hyenas outside.

Watch out for that **swarm** of bees.

You haven't lived until you've seen a **herd** of wild horses.Our **class** graduates two years from now.

Common Nouns

Common nouns are used to refer to general things rather than specific examples. Common nouns are not normally capitalized unless they are used as part of a proper name or are placed at the beginning of a sentence. Some common noun examples are included in the following sentences.

Be sure to pick a top **university**.

Stack those **boxes** carefully.

Would you like a **cookie** with your **coffee**?

People are strange.

My **dog** won't stop barking.

Concrete Nouns

Concrete nouns are words used for actual things you can touch, see, taste, feel, and hear – things you interact with every day. Notice that concrete nouns can also be countable, uncountable, common, proper, and collective nouns. Some concrete noun examples are included in the following sentences.

Please remember to buy **oranges**.

Have a seat in that **chair**.

Suffixes to Know

Suffixes (word-endings) come at the end of a word. They show whether the word is a verb, noun, adjective, or adverb. Learning these word-endings can help you recognize a noun, adjective, verb, or adverb.

Noun Suffixes

These are common endings for nouns. If you see these endings on a word, then you know it must be a noun.

-dom	at the end of a word means:
	- state or condition
	- domain, position, rank
	- a group with position, office, or rank
wisdom(n)	wise+**dom** means the state of understanding what is good, right and lasting
kingdom(n)	king+**dom** means the domain or area belonging to a king.
-ity	at the end of a word means condition or quality of _____.
capability(n)	capable+**ity** means the condition of being capable.
flexibility(n)	flexible+**ity** means the quality of being flexible.
-ment	at the end of a word means act of _____; state of _____; result of _____.
contentment(n)	content+**ment** means the state of being satisfied (content).
-sion, -tion	at the end of a word means act of _____; state of _____.
celebration(n)	celebrate+**tion** means the act of celebrating

-ness **tough**ness(n)	**at the end of a word means state of _____.** **tough+ness means the state of being tough.**
-ance, -ence **assist**ance(n)	**at the end of a word means act of _____; state of _____; quality of _____.** **assist+ance means act of giving help.**
-er, -or **fight**er(n) **act**or(n)	**at the end of a word means one who _____; that which _____.** **fight+er means one who fights** **act+or means one who acts.**
-ist **violin**ist(n)	**at the end of a word also means one who _____; that which _____.** **violin+ist means one who plays the violin.**

Nouns ending in   -er, -or, and -ar

This ending is the most common. It's usually added to verbs to make nouns with the meaning 'a person or thing that does something',

for example: builder, farmer, sprinkler, or beeper

Nouns ending in -er

The -er ending can also be used to form nouns meaning:

• 'a person or thing that has a particular quality or form', for example: double-decker, two-wheeler, skyscraper
• 'a person belonging to a particular place or group', e.g. foreigner, prisoner
• 'a person concerned with a particular thing', e.g. jeweller, lawyer, treasurer, mariner

Nouns ending in -or

Like -er, the ending -or is added to verbs to make nouns meaning 'a person or thing that does something', e.g. investigator, decorator, escalator, ventilator.

There are no hard and fast rules as to when these nouns have an -or ending and when they are written -er, but what we can say is that there are fewer such words ending in -or! Here's a list of some of the most important:

Accelerator, councilor, investigator, projector, actor, counsellor, investor, calculator, radiator

There's a smaller group of nouns ending in -or that don't come from verbs:

Ambassador, chancellor, ancestor, major, doctor, tractor

Nouns ending in -ar

This ending is used in a few well-known words to mean 'a person who does something'. Some of these nouns are related to verbs (e.g. beggar, burglar, liar) but others are not (e.g. vicar, bursar, scholar).

The -ar ending is also found in some other common nouns:

Altar, grammar, guitar, calendar, dollar

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1395/ 8/ 20