

# Proper, Common, Concrete, and Abstract Nouns

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A **proper noun** names a particular person, place, thing, or idea and is capitalized. A **common noun** names any one of a group of persons, places, things, or ideas and is generally not capitalized.

**PROPER NOUNS** Sandra Cisneros, Houston, Statue of Liberty, Islam

**COMMON NOUNS** author, city, monument, religion

A **concrete noun** names a person, place, or thing that can be perceived by one or more of the senses (sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell). An **abstract noun** names an idea, a feeling, a quality, or a characteristic.

**CONCRETE NOUNS** violin, onions, word processor, Eiffel Tower

**ABSTRACT NOUNS** peace, honor, self-control, Confucianism

**EXERCISE A** For each of the following sentences, draw one line under each common noun and two lines under each proper noun.

**Example** 1. Makenna, my friend, is a gifted violinist.

1. One of the fastest-growing sports in the United States is soccer.
2. *Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico* is one of the best-known photographs by Ansel Adams.
3. Climbers often speak of the mystical attraction they feel for Mount Everest.
4. Has Megan already invited you to her wedding?

5. His sister-in-law lives in Cedar Rapids.
6. Another name for Yom Kippur, which is a Jewish holiday, is Day of Atonement.
7. Bull sharks have been caught in the Mississippi River.
8. Enrico can play the trumpet, I believe.
9. Mount McKinley is also known as Denali.
10. The recipe calls for chopped jalapeños, doesn't it?

**EXERCISE B** On the line provided, identify each of the following nouns by writing C for *concrete noun* or A for *abstract noun*.

Example A 1. beauty

- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. peanuts
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. patriotism
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. totem pole
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. mountain
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. enthusiasm
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. truth
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. dragonfly
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. heritage
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. loyalty
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. Atlantic Ocean

Answer Keys:

1. One of the fastest-growing sports in the United States is soccer.
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|-------|-------|
| 11. C | 16. A |
| 12. A | 17. C |
| 13. C | 18. A |
| 14. C | 19. A |
| 15. A | 20. C |