

Proper, Common, Concrete, and Abstract Nouns

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:

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11. **C**
12. **A**
13. **C**
14. **C**
15. **A**
16. **A**
17. **C**
18. **A**
19. **A**
20. **C**