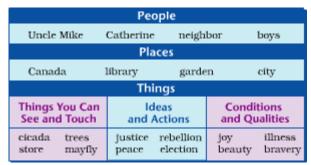
#### Unit 1

#### **NOUNS**

A **noun** is a word that names a person, place, or thing. Nouns name things that can be seen and touched as well as those that cannot be seen and touched.

Notice in the chart below that among the things nouns can name are ideas, actions, conditions, and qualities.



**Note About Collective Nouns:** Nouns that name *groups* of people or things are known as *collective nouns*.

**EXAMPLES:** swarm crowd group committee family herd



**Identifying Nouns as People, Places, or Things** Write the two nouns in each group, and label each as a *person*, *place*, or *thing*.

1. scientist	thorax	eat	
2. insect	flutter	identification	
3. smelled	scent	laboratory	
4. color	botanist	bright	
5. immature	appearance	swamp	
6. clear	nest	grocer	
7. butterfly	growth	near	
8. forest	undergo	abdomen	
9. shell	country	exhausting	
10. technician	belief	direct	

### **Compound Nouns**

Nouns may not always be just one word. A name such as Uncle Mike is a noun. So, too, are other words that must stand together to name a person, place, or thing.



A **compound noun** is a noun that is made up of more than one word.

As the following chart shows, *compound nouns* are written in several different ways.

TYPES OF COMPOUND NOUNS				
Separated	Hyphenated	Combined		
bubble bath station wagon	daughter-in-law hand-me-down	shipwreck handstand		

Historically, most compound nouns begin as separate words. Over a long period of time, more and more people start to hyphenate the words. Finally, many compound nouns come to be written as one word. If you are not sure how to spell a compound noun, check a dictionary. If the compound noun you are looking for is not entered in the dictionary, you can safely spell it as separate words.



**Recognizing Compound Nouns** List the ten compound nouns you find in the following paragraph.

**EXAMPLE:** Last weekend, Jane collected insects with her grandparents.

**ANSWER:** weekend; grandparents

Insects are fascinating animals. Each one has something unique about it. Any notebook belonging to a bug collector is full of interesting facts. Here are a few: The *Chrysiridia madagascarensis*, a moth, is full of vibrant colors. A railroad worm, the larval form of a beetle found in South America, makes its own light. A flea has a broad jump of over 33 centimeters. Honeybees do a dance to communicate where a specific flower is located, and the queen bee of bumblebees gives birth to every bee that lives in her beehive!

## **Common and Proper Nouns**

All nouns can be divided into two groups: common nouns and proper nouns.



A **common noun** names any one of a class of people, places, or things. A **proper noun** names a specific person, place, or thing.

As you can see in the following chart, proper nouns always begin with a capital letter.

Common Nouns	Proper Nouns
writer	Mark Twain, Emily Dickinson
order	Odonata, Neuroptera
building	White House, Monticello

# Exercise 3

**Distinguishing Between Common and Proper Nouns** Write the one proper noun in each group, adding the necessary capitalization.

**EXAMPLE:** planet neptune star

**ANSWER:** Neptune

1. insect bumblebee north america

2. reptile india ocean3. thorax professor monday

4. wings antennae professor jones

5. venus plant fly

6. tarantula chicago condition

7. jurassic period dinosaurs jaw

8. syrphus fly food national bug week

9. dandelion mothers' day mothers 10. june autumn month

#### **GRAMMAR EXERCISES 4–10**

# Exercise 4

**Identifying Nouns** Write the nouns in the following sentences.

- 1. Many insects die when winter comes.
- 2. However, some manage to survive by migration or hibernation.
- 3. Some hibernate as adults in a warm place, such as a barn or house.
- 4. Other insects hibernate in eggs, in cocoons, or as larvae.
- 5. The monarch is a kind of butterfly that migrates.

## Exercise 5

**Identifying Compound Nouns** Write the compound nouns from the following sentences.

- 1. The life span of insects is different for each species.
- 2. An adult male mayfly never lives to see his offspring; he lives only a few hours.
- 3. A queen termite can live up to 50 years, although her lifestyle consists of populating the hive.
- 4. An individual dragonfly does not live long, but this species has survived about 250 million years.
- 5. The American cockroach survives because of its adaptability to change.

### Exercise 6

**Spelling Compound Nouns Correctly** Use a dictionary to help you write compound nouns. On your paper, write the correct spelling from each of the following sets.

1. lifetime life time life-time

2. lifesize	life-size	life size
3. swandive	swan-dive	swan dive
4. often times	oftentimes	often-times
5. stonefly	stone-fly	stone fly

# Exercise 7

**Recognizing and Writing Proper and Common Nouns** Copy each sentence. Capitalize proper nouns, and underline common nouns.

- 1. During class, professor dominguez lectured about the order orthoptera.
- 2. Tree crickets are a species in this order.
- 3. Dragonflies and mayflies have noticeable wings, natasha pointed out.
- 4. We visited the beane museum to get a closer look at insect mouthparts.
- 5. Professor dominguez told us that beetles and grasshoppers have chewing mouthparts