

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.

People					
Uncle Mike	Catherine	neighbor	boys		
Places					
Canada	library	garden	city		
Things					
Things You Can See and Touch		Ideas and Actions		Conditions and Qualities	
cicada	trees	justice	rebellion	joy	illness
store	mayfly	peace	election	beauty	bravery

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

EXAMPLES: swarm crowd group
 committee family herd

▶ Exercise 1

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.

KEY CONCEPT

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.

Exercise 2

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 *Chrysidia 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*.

KEY CONCEPT

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 order building	Mark Twain, Emily Dickinson Odonata, Neuroptera 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 | ocean |
| 3. 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

