

Nouns

3

Warm-up

Read this conversation. Circle the proper nouns with a red crayon and common nouns with a blue crayon.

Riya: You have been at home all day! What were you doing?

Rehan: I was reading a very interesting book. It is written by Enid Blyton.

Riya: I have heard of her. She is a very well-known author. Which book were you reading?

Rehan: I was reading *The Mystery of the Burnt Cottage*. It is one of a series of mystery books written by the author.

Riya: What are the books about?

Rehan: Oh! They are very interesting. There are five children—Fatty, Larry, Daisy, Pip and Bets. They have a dog named Buster. They live in the village of Peterswood, close to Buckinghamshire. The children solve a mystery during their vacation. They always solve the mystery before Mr Goon does.

Riya: Who is Mr Goon?

Rehan: He is the village policeman. He is not very nice to them.

Riya: This sounds very interesting. I must read one of these books to find out.



A **noun** is the name of a person, place, thing or animal. **Proper nouns** are words that name a particular person, place, animal or thing. Proper nouns begin with capital letters. For example, Enid Blyton, Buster, Peterswood.

Common nouns are general names for people, animals, places and things. For example, policeman, book, home, dog.

A. Here are some common nouns. Give two proper nouns for each of them.

1. books _____
2. cartoon characters _____
3. animals _____
4. planets _____
5. writers _____
6. states _____
7. oceans _____
8. mountains _____

B. Rewrite these sentences using capital letters where required.

1. sanjay and rajesh went to see a film on sunday.
Sanjay and Rajesh went to see a film on Sunday.
2. mohan's father bought a toy car for him from a toy shop.
3. at the annual function, the boys and girls danced to the music of a r rehman.
4. for the birthday party, seven large pizzas were purchased from the olive pizza shop.
5. virat kohli and rohit sharma batted very well at eden gardens.
6. aunt anu and uncle amit bought a gift for radha from the bookworm shop.
7. st andrews school, patna, took their students to singapore.
8. ruskin bond read poems and stories from his books to the children at one of the book stores.



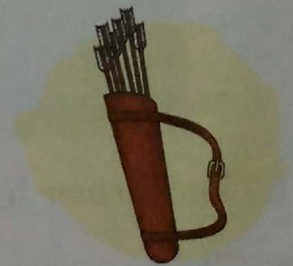
Look at the pictures and read the phrases.



a flock of pigeons



a belt of asteroids



a quiver of arrows



a **litter** of puppies



a **troop** of monkeys



a **troupe** of actors



The highlighted words are **collective nouns**. They stand for a group or a collection of people, animals or things.

Here is a list of some **collective nouns**.

- herd**—of elephants/deer/cattle/zebras/giraffes/antelopes/whales
- flock**—of sheep/birds
- pack**—of wolves/cards/hounds/dogs/thieves
- company**—of parrots
- army**—of soldiers/ants/frogs
- school**—of fish/sharks/whales
- swarm**—of bees/flies/insects/rats
- nest**—of rabbits/snakes/mice/crocodiles
- troupe**—of dancers/acrobats
- bunch**—of grapes/flowers/keys/bananas
- pride**—of lions
- litter**—of puppies/kittens
- shoal**—of fish
- brood**—of chickens
- choir**—of singers
- flight**—of stairs
- string**—of pearls



C. Fill in the blanks with the correct **collective nouns** from the box.

class	pack	crowd	herd	set
fleet	swarm	bouquet	litter	bunch
brood	gang	cluster	shoal	choir

- The farmer led his _____ of cattle into the meadow.
- The carpenter was looking for his _____ of tools.

3. My uncle bought a _____ of cards and showed us a few tricks.
4. The _____ of thieves looted money from the bank.
5. A large _____ gathered in front of the gate.
6. The Indian Navy has a very large _____ of warships.
7. The whole _____ was punished for making a noise.
8. The children were frightened when they saw a _____ of bees.
9. Father bought a _____ of grapes for us.
10. We saw a _____ of bright stars shining in the sky.
11. A _____ of chickens was running all over the farm.
12. I saw a _____ of kittens in my backyard.
13. I gave a _____ of flowers to my mother on Mother's Day.
14. The fishermen caught a huge _____ of fish in their fishing nets.
15. The _____ from Mizoram sang beautiful Christmas carols.



Read these words.

beauty jealousy hate joy fear
 pleasure liberty pain comfort trust

Can you touch, taste, see or hear them? Yes or No? _____



Nouns that name ideas, experiences, thoughts, qualities and feelings are called **abstract nouns**. They refer to objects that we cannot experience with our five senses.

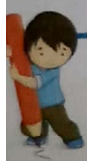
D. Circle the nouns we cannot touch, taste, see or hear.

ring	stage	happiness	vegetable	truth	talent
pain	depth	curtain	plug	bed	trust
love	tea	water	money	beauty	country
bravery	politeness	house	honesty	ball	sorrow
anger	tiredness	kindness	tree	fear	knowledge

book darkness pride kettle radio rainbow
breeze ice cube interest joy rain star

E. Circle the abstract nouns in these sentences.

1. She was in great despair when she lost her wallet.
2. The soldiers displayed their bravery on the battlefield.
3. Laughter is the best medicine.
4. There was great happiness in the crowd when the team won the match.
5. He spoke with great enthusiasm.
6. The little bird craved freedom.
7. I was surprised at his honesty.
8. We have a lot of hope that we will win.
9. To my delight, I found a puppy in the basket.
10. It gives me great pleasure to introduce the chief guest.



By adding a letter or a set of letters, we can change adjectives, verbs and common nouns to abstract nouns. Such letters are called **suffixes**.

We can change many adjectives to abstract nouns. For example,

Adjective	Abstract Noun	Adjective	Abstract Noun
kind	kindness	possible	possibility
smart	smartness	scarce	scarcity
independent	independence	loyal	loyalty
silent	silence	strong	strength
brave	bravery	angry	anger
intelligent	intelligence	curious	curiosity
free	freedom	complex	complexity

We can change many verbs to abstract nouns. For example,

Verb	Abstract Noun	Verb	Abstract Noun
improve	improvement	appear	appearance
arrange	arrangement	persevere	perseverance
hate	hatred	believe	belief
decide	decision	obey	obedience
reduce	reduction	defend	defence
laugh	laughter	discover	discovery
serve	service	depart	departure

We can change many common nouns to abstract nouns. For example,

Common Noun	Abstract Noun	Common Noun	Abstract Noun
friend	friendship	child	childhood
slave	slavery	boy	boyhood

F. Add suitable suffixes to change these words to abstract nouns. You may have to change the spelling slightly in some.

1. act _____

3. weak _____

5. free _____

7. wise _____

9. cruel _____

11. neighbour _____

13. kind _____

15. appoint _____

2. fit _____

4. human _____

6. good _____

8. young _____

10. relation _____

12. silent _____

14. inform _____

16. describe _____

G. Fill in the blanks with the abstract nouns given in the box.

disappointment
collection

destruction
importance

politeness
happiness

admiration
wickedness

freedom
beauty

1. There was great _____ when the team lost the match.
2. She has a wonderful _____ of stamps.
3. Many tourists visit India to experience its _____.
4. My eyes filled with tears to see the _____ caused by the bomb.
5. She is loved by one and all because of her _____.
6. We understood the _____ of peace after we saw some photographs of the war.
7. He was overjoyed. You could see the _____ on his face.
8. Even animals like _____. They do not like to be caged.
9. He is not liked by many people because of his _____.
10. Everyone was filled with _____ for the boy in the wheelchair after he won the contest.

