English 4: Grammar 1.1 Parts of Speech

Part 1: Nouns: Singular, Plural, Possessive, Concrete, and Abstract

A noun names a person, place, thing, or idea.

A singular noun names one person, place, thing, or idea. A plural noun names more than one.

| Person: | poet, sister | poets, sisters |
| Place:  | hill, biology lab | hills, biology labs |
| Thing:  | wind, hairbrush | winds, hairbrushes |
| Idea:   | love, belief | loves, beliefs |

The possessive form of a noun shows possession, ownership, or the relationship between two nouns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SINGULAR POSSESSIVE</th>
<th>PLURAL POSSESSIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Possession:</td>
<td>writer’s story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ownership:</td>
<td>Samantha Winthrop’s car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship:</td>
<td>the cat’s color</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exercise 1** Write S above each singular noun, P above each plural noun, and poss. above each possessive noun.

The breezes carried the nightingale’s song.

1. Kamaria’s family gave me a tour of their house yesterday.

2. Bill fulfilled his obligations to the charity through his generous donations.

3. When will Martha’s mom find out whether the doctor recommends an operation?

4. Brad is studying to be a legal assistant, while Beth’s plans include a career as a nurse.

5. Lightning and thunder don’t frighten me as they did during my childhood.

A concrete noun names an object that occupies space or that can be recognized by any of the senses.

- ocean
- lightning
- monk
- pecan
- pie
- star
- aroma

An abstract noun names an idea, quality, or characteristic.

- truth
- honor
- beauty
- justice
- wisdom

**Exercise 2** Write con. for concrete or abst. for abstract above each italicized noun.

The splendor of the ruins inspired me to write a short poem.

1. All free people should cherish their liberty.

2. Tiffany explicitly believed everything the advertisement claimed for its product.

3. Priscilla said that it will take an eternity for us to finish this job.
4. Jimmy's dad has kept a close watch on his health ever since the heart attack.

5. The limpid stream winds through the dark forest for many miles.

Part 2: Nouns: Proper, Common, and Collective

A proper noun names a specific person, place, or thing. Capitalize proper nouns. A common noun refers to people, places, or things in general.

PROPER NOUNS                  COMMON NOUNS
Person:  Douglas MacArthur           general
Place:   Maryland               state
Thing:   Rover                dog
Idea:    Scholasticism          philosophy

A collective noun names a group. A collective noun is singular if it refers to the group as a whole, and plural if it refers to individual members of a group.

The team is winning. The team pack up their equipment.

Exercise 1 Write prop. above each proper noun, com. above each common noun, and col. above each collective noun. Assume the collective nouns are also common nouns.

General Chow, my cat, rarely accepts newcomers into his exclusive fraternity of friends.

1. The milling crowd slowly dispersed after Sheriff Stone asked them to leave.

2. Mrs. Paulus told my mom that you have the chicken pox.

3. The crew on the boat relaxed after they anchored their vessel in the harbor.

4. Did you hear that the Thompsons are moving from Springfield to Indianapolis?

5. The entire community rejoiced to hear that the arsonist had at last been caught.