

1.1 Nouns

A noun is the name of a person, place, thing, or idea:

- People* farmer, mechanic, father, Professor Haskins, editors, Marcia
- Places* ocean, Canada, porch, Spain, classroom
- Things* scissors, giraffe, pen, smiles, tugboat, skateboard, braces, drill
- Ideas* love, inspiration, courage, anxiety, eagerness, happiness

All nouns are either common or proper nouns:

A **common noun** names any person, place, or thing. Examples are *basketball*, *video*, *wizard*, *coin*, *woman*, and *coach*.

A **proper noun** names a particular person, place, or thing and begins with a capital letter. Examples are *Winston Churchill*, *Babe Ruth*, *Mr. Richard Turner*, and *Chicago*.

Know the difference between a common and a proper noun:


<i>Common Nouns</i>	<i>Proper Nouns</i>
hospital	Mercy General Hospital
woman	Martha Washington
school	Sayville Middle School
newspaper	<i>The New York Times</i>

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Here are some specific types of nouns:

A **collective noun** names a group of people or things. Examples of collective nouns are *jury*, *herd*, *flock*, *family*, *fleet*, *club*, *class*, and *group*.

A **compound noun** is a noun consisting of more than a single word. It could be separate words such as *social studies*, *physical education*, and *dining room*. It could be two words joined by a hyphen such as *merry-go-round*, *thirty-three*, *sister-in-law*, and *great-grandmother*. It could be a combined word such as *schoolteacher*, *bookkeeper*, *landlord*, and *headmaster*.

 **WRITING TIP** Use a dictionary or a thesaurus for help in choosing the most precise noun for your purpose.

1.1A

Plus a Quotation (Nouns)

Underline each noun in the following sentences. Then write the first letter of each noun on the line next to the sentence. If your answers are correct, you will spell out the words of a quotation and the name of the famous American who said the quotation. Write the quotation and its author's name on the lines below sentence 15.

1. _____ Wendy located her housekeeper.
2. _____ Some answers on this test are about electricity.
3. _____ Her violin and easel were missing.
4. _____ Their rabbit that left the yard was returned by the officer.
5. _____ He used this umbrella in Alabama.
6. _____ After the rain, the electrician checked the box.
7. _____ The end of the afternoon arrived quickly.
8. _____ This group is funny.
9. _____ The ostrich and the orangutan are interesting.
10. _____ My doctor and my orthodontist are neighbors.
11. _____ In the evening, Archie likes to go boating.
12. _____ Unfortunately, he had a rash and an allergy.
13. _____ Her height and agility helped her win the match.
14. _____ Linda cared for the infant throughout the night.
15. _____ The garbage carton near the oven had licorice and noodles in it.

The quotation and its author:

1.2 Pronouns

A **pronoun** is a word used in place of one or more nouns.

We use pronouns to:

- ▶ Refer to a noun (called its antecedent) that usually comes before the pronoun
- ▶ Make our writing clearer, smoother, and less awkward

In the sentence, "Roberto feels that he can win the race," *he* is the pronoun, and *Roberto* is the antecedent.

In the sentence, "Terry and Jim know that they are best friends," *they* is the pronoun, and *Terry* and *Jim* are the noun antecedents.

There are several types of pronouns.

Personal pronouns refer to people and things. They are divided into three categories called *first person* (referring to the person who is speaking: *I* went to the mall), *second person* (referring to the person spoken to: Joey, can *you* see the bus?), and *third person* (referring to anyone or anything else: Bob saw *us* do this assignment). The pronouns in the two example sentences above are personal pronouns.

The following list shows these three categories of personal pronouns:

	Singular	Plural
First person (the person speaking)	I, my, mine, me	we, our, ours, us
Second person (the person spoken to)	you, your, yours	you, your, yours
Third person (some other person or thing)	he, his, him, she, her, hers, it, its	they, their, theirs, them

1.2

Pronouns (Continued)

In addition to personal pronouns, there are several other types of pronouns: *reflexive pronouns*, *relative pronouns*, *interrogative pronouns*, *demonstrative pronouns*, and *indefinite pronouns*.

A **reflexive pronoun** is formed by adding *-self* or *-selves* to certain personal pronouns. Examples of reflexive pronouns are *myself*, *himself*, *herself*, *itself*, *ourselves*, *themselves*, *yourself*, and *yourselves*. The sentence, "I found it myself," contains the personal pronoun *I* and the reflexive pronoun *myself*.

Hissself and *theirselves* are NOT real words.


An **interrogative pronoun** is used to ask a question. These pronouns are *which*, *what*, *whom*, and *whose*.

A **demonstrative pronoun** is used to point out a specific person or thing. These pronouns include *this*, *that*, *these*, and *those*. In the sentence, "Theresa, is this yours?" *this* is the demonstrative pronoun, and *yours* is the personal pronoun.

An **indefinite pronoun** often does not refer to a specific or definite person or thing. It usually does not have a definite or specific antecedent as a personal pronoun does. In the sentence, "*Everybody* will select *another* to help with *everything*," the three italicized words are all indefinite pronouns since they take the place of a noun and do not refer to a specific or definite person or thing.

These are all indefinite pronouns:

all	each	more	one
another	either	most	other
any	everybody	much	several
anybody	everyone	neither	some
anyone	everything	nobody	somebody
anything	few	none	someone
both	many	no one	

 **WRITING TIP** Make sure that your pronouns are clear so that readers will not be confused. In the sentence, "John told Fred that he had been invited to Lucy's party," do we know who he is? Not really! Set up the situation preceding that sentence so that it is clear who he is.

1.2A Two at a Time (Pronouns)

Underline the two pronouns found in each sentence. Above each pronoun label its type using these abbreviations: personal (PER), reflexive (REF), demonstrative (DEM), interrogative (INT), or indefinite (IND) pronoun.

1. This is the way to do it.
2. He hurt himself during gym class.
3. Can you and they finish the cleaning by three o'clock?
4. Who is the person with her?
5. I held the door for them.
6. Please tell him that we said hello.
7. Ours is older than theirs.
8. Neither of them is the clear winner of the race as of now.
9. Will she watch someone while Sarah goes shopping?
10. Those are the best ones to buy.
11. Please bring yours to us.
12. After Jerry spotted the giraffe, he photographed it.
13. Everything has gone well for us.
14. Will they be able to move the belongings by themselves?
15. All of the students know both.

1.2B Naming the Pronouns

1. Name four three-letter pronouns:

2. Name four pronouns that start with the letter *t*:

3. Name six indefinite pronouns:

4. Name three pronouns that end with *-elves*:

5. Name four pronouns that end with *-self*:

6. Name four interrogative pronouns:

7. Circle ten different pronouns in this paragraph. For the total of ten pronouns, if a pronoun appears more than once within the paragraph, count it only once.

I could not fall asleep last night. It felt as if somebody kept knocking on the window keeping me up most of the night. This is pretty unusual. So I tried to calm myself down and think about other things besides being unable to sleep. All of my work paid off when I finally fell asleep.