

## NOUNS

A name a person, place, or thing. There are two types of nouns: **common** and **proper**. Proper nouns name specific persons, places, or things. Proper nouns are capitalized.

<b>Common</b>	<b>Proper</b>
<i>continent</i>	<i>Africa</i>
<i>country</i>	<i>Zimbabwe</i>
<i>religion</i>	<i>Islam</i>
<i>desert</i>	<i>Kalahari</i>
<i>island</i>	<i>Madagascar</i>
<i>ocean</i>	<i>Indian Ocean</i>

### Concrete vs. Abstract Nouns

Concrete nouns name things we can see, hear, smell, feel, and taste. Abstract nouns name ideas, emotions, and subjects.

<b>Concrete nouns</b>				<b>Abstract nouns</b>			
<i>computer</i>	<i>desk</i>	<i>giraffe</i>	<i>house</i>	<i>difficulty</i>	<i>beauty</i>	<i>history</i>	<i>honestly</i>
<i>kitchen</i>	<i>lumber</i>	<i>mother</i>	<i>river</i>	<i>hate</i>	<i>idea</i>	<i>jealousy</i>	<i>love</i>
<i>tree</i>	<i>umbrella</i>	<i>window</i>	<i>zoo</i>	<i>romance</i>	<i>religion</i>	<i>sorrow</i>	<i>weakness</i>

### Gerunds: Nouns That Show Activity

are nouns that end in *-ing* and that show activities, such as *asking*, *driving*, *living*, *moving*, *reading*, *seeking*, and *writing*.

### The Functions of Nouns in a Sentence

Nouns act as subjects and objects. A subject is the person, place, or thing that does an action or that the sentence is describing. An object is a person, place, or thing that receives an action.

**Subject:** *The **speaker** gave an interesting lecture.*  
*The **speaker** was well prepared.*

**Object:** *The audience applauded the **speaker**.*

**CAUTION:** To be complete, a sentence does not need an object, but it must have a subject. For example, *The speaker was well prepared* has no object, but it is a complete sentence.

### Sample Quiz questions:

1. Identify the noun(s) in the following sentence.  
The stapler is broken.

- a. The
- b. stapler
- c. broken

Answer: b. stapler

2. Identify the noun(s) in the following sentence.  
Mathematics can be difficult.
- a. Mathematics
  - b. can
  - c. difficult

Answer: a. Mathematics