

Assessing Language: Grade 8

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The Look of a Noun

A **noun** is the name of a person, a place, a thing, an idea, or a quality.

EXAMPLES: boy town boat democracy strength

A **proper noun** is the name of a particular person, place, or thing. It is **always** capitalized and often contains more than one word.

EXAMPLES: Toledo Pacific Ocean Mrs. Jane O'Brien Lincoln Memorial

A **common noun** is a noun that does not name a particular person, place or thing, and it is not capitalized.

EXAMPLES: boy monument city lake

Nouns may be **concrete** or **abstract**. A **concrete noun** names an object that can be seen, touched, or heard. An **abstract noun** names a quality, a state of mind, or an idea.

EXAMPLES: **concrete nouns**—pencil boy boat noise
abstract nouns—courage hate beauty

Nouns may also be **collective**. A **collective noun** names a group.

EXAMPLES: herd class mob

NOUNS	PROPER	COMMON	CONCRETE	ABSTRACT	COLLECTIVE

On a separate sheet of paper, create a chart like the one above. Write each noun in the sentences below in the first column. Then place a check in each column that accurately classifies that noun. (Hint: There are 22 nouns in these sentences.)

1. My Uncle George recently visited the Grand Canyon.
2. All the employees heard the explosion and ran into the street.
3. Fred has more ability than any other player on the team.
4. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his courage and bravery.
5. The crowd dispersed quietly when Mayor Greene finished his speech.
6. An accident occurred on the corner.
7. Jane wrapped the package neatly and gave it to Mary.
8. Here is a map of South America.

Nouns and Their Work

Common nouns often have words in front of them to help clarify them. These words are called **determiners**. Determiners can be articles such as **a**, **an**, **the**, or **some**. Determiners can also be adjectives.

EXAMPLES: a boy an apple the book some money cloudy day many girls

Proper nouns and common nouns and their determiners (determiners + noun) are called **noun phrases**.

I. Read the following noun phrases carefully. Identify each one as a proper noun or as a determiner + noun. If the phrase is a determiner + noun, tell if the determiner is an article or an adjective. Two have been done for you.

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------|-------|
| 1. Judy Ann Smith | <u>prop. noun</u> | _____ | 6. Miami Beach | _____ | _____ |
| 2. awkward boy | <u>det. + noun</u> | <u>adj.</u> | 7. seven children | _____ | _____ |
| 3. the house | _____ | _____ | 8. Fort Wood | _____ | _____ |
| 4. beautiful baby | _____ | _____ | 9. some people | _____ | _____ |
| 5. an award | _____ | _____ | 10. <i>Lassie</i> | _____ | _____ |

Nouns can function as the subject of a sentence, as the direct object, as the indirect object, as the object of a preposition, or as a subject complement after a linking verb.

Examples: Subject—Mary reads well. Direct Object—The baby hit Mary.
 Indirect Object—I gave Mary a book. Object of a Preposition—I gave the money to Mary.
 Complement after a linking verb—The winner was Mary.

II. Read the following sentences. Write each underlined phrase on a separate sheet of paper. After each phrase, identify it as a proper noun or as a determiner + noun. Then tell how it functions in the sentence.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <u>Some children</u> ate buttered popcorn. | 9. His blood is <u>a rare type</u> . |
| 2. The water flowed into <u>the pool</u> . | 10. <u>St. Paul</u> is the capital of Minnesota. |
| 3. We planted <u>several bushes</u> in our yard. | 11. Fred took his car to <u>the garage</u> . |
| 4. The students gave <u>Ms. Brown</u> a present. | 12. <u>John Smith</u> ran a good race. |
| 5. Sorrow is <u>an unwelcome visitor</u> . | 13. <u>The enthusiastic boy</u> joined the team. |
| 6. Darcy answered <u>the difficult question</u> . | 14. Mr. Dressel is <u>an inspiring teacher</u> . |
| 7. Chicago is <u>my favorite city</u> . | 15. In the doorway stood <u>a huge man</u> . |
| 8. Aunt Martha brought Jane <u>a souvenir</u> . | 16. The pilot flew above <u>the clouds</u> . |

Pronouns

A **pronoun** is a word used in place of a noun. It may stand for a person, a place, a thing, or an idea.

EXAMPLE: Billy lost his lunch. He left it on the bus. The pronouns his and he take the place of the noun, Billy. The pronoun it takes the place of the noun, lunch.

Personal pronouns refer directly to a person, an animal, or an object. Pronouns can be used in sentences in the same ways that nouns can. Most pronouns change their forms to show different uses in sentences.

PERSONAL PRONOUNS

SUBJECTIVE PRONOUN	I	you	he	she	we	they	it
OBJECTIVE PRONOUN	me	you	him	her	us	them	it
POSSESSIVE PRONOUN	my mine	your yours	his	her hers	our ours	their theirs	its

The **subjective** form of a pronoun is used when the pronoun functions as the subject of a sentence or as a complement after a linking verb. He hit the ball. That is she.

The **objective** form is used when the pronoun functions as the direct object, the indirect object, or the object of a preposition. Jane hit him. Tom gave him the ball.
Tom gave the ball to him.

The **possessive** form of a pronoun is used as an adjective. His glasses were broken.

Indefinite pronouns do not indicate the identity of the person(s) to whom they refer.

SINGULAR

PLURAL

any	another	everything	nobody	one	all	many
anyone	each	either	somebody		both	several
anybody	everyone	neither	someone		few	some
anything	everybody	no one	something			

Underline each pronoun in the following sentences. Then, number from 1 to 10 on a separate sheet of paper. After each number, write the pronoun you have underlined, and tell how the pronoun functions in that sentence.

- I must have been talking too softly.
- The small black dog buried its bone.
- The boys brought us some candy.
- That is he.
- The teacher gave the prize to him.
- Jane heard something in the backyard.
- Both of the boys were absent.
- Bill sent a nice valentine to everyone in the class.
- Nobody said a word during the program.
- The teacher gave everybody an extra assignment.