

LESSON 1 — SIX KINDS OF NOUNS

NOUNS

A **noun** is a word that names a person, place, thing or idea. **Nouns** make up a large part of our English vocabulary! Here are some examples of different kinds of **nouns**:

- Persons: Romans, mother, teacher
- Places: Egypt, city, room, store
- Things: book, artifact, toy
- Ideas: happiness, honesty, peace

There are also at least six different *kinds* of nouns: **concrete** and **abstract**, **common** and **proper**, **singular** and **plural**. These can be grouped in three categories of opposite kinds: **concrete** and **abstract nouns**, **common** and **proper nouns**, and **singular** and **plural nouns**.

CONCRETE AND ABSTRACT NOUNS

- A **concrete noun** is a *noun that you can touch, taste, hear, see, or smell*.
- An **abstract noun** is a *noun that refers to an idea, emotion, quality or state*. **Abstract nouns** are the opposite of **concrete nouns** because you cannot touch, taste, hear, see, or smell them.

Example	Notes
Ruth gleaned ears of grain in the field.	<i>In this sentence, "Ruth," "ears," "grain", and "field" are concrete nouns because you can see or touch them.</i>
Naomi appreciated Ruth's love for her.	<i>"Love" is an abstract nouns because it is an emotion.</i>

COMMON AND PROPER NOUNS

- ❑ A **common noun** does not name a particular or specific person, place, thing, or idea
- ❑ A **proper noun** does name a particular or specific person, place, thing or idea. There are several things to remember about using **proper nouns**.
 - ❑ A **proper noun** is capitalized no matter where it is in the **sentence**. For example, the **proper nouns** "Egypt," "Rome," and "Nile River" will always be capitalized.
 - ❑ Names are **proper nouns** and should always be capitalized. Some words, like mother or father, when used as a name should be capitalized. For example: "Father asked Mother to help him."
 - ❑ When words like aunt or uncle appear before a name, it should be capitalized along with the name. For example: "We will visit Granny Toler this summer."
 - ❑ You should capitalize "north," "south," "east," and "west" when they designate name regions or are a part of a **proper name**, but you should not capitalize them when they merely indicate **direction** or general location. For example: Northern and Southern Israel are north and east of Egypt.

Let's look at some example **sentences** with **common and proper nouns**. In the examples below, **common nouns** are in **bold** while **proper nouns** are underlined.

Example	Notes
<u>Nehemiah</u> served wine to the king .	<i>In this example, Nehemiah refers to a specific person while "wine" and "king" are not referring to specific things.</i>
<u>Nehemiah</u> journeyed to the city of <u>Jerusalem</u> .	<i>Nehemiah is a specific person and "Jerusalem is a specific place being referred to, but "city" is not.</i>

SINGULAR AND PLURAL NOUNS

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

Look at the following examples. **Singular nouns** are **bold** and **plural nouns** are underlined.

Example	Notes
"My son give me your heart and let your <u>eyes</u> observe my <u>ways</u> " (Proverbs 23:26, ESV).	<i>This sentence is referring to more than one "eye" and "way," which means these are plural nouns. However, there is only one "son" and one "heart", so these are singular nouns.</i>
"A man of many <u>companions</u> may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother " (Proverbs 18:24, ESV).	<i>In this sentence, there is only one "man", "friend", and "brother", which means they are singular nouns. However, it is referring to more than one "companion", so "companions" is plural.</i>

Do you notice a pattern in the examples above? All the **plural nouns** have an "s" on the end. You can make most words **plural** by adding an "s" to the end of the word. However, some **nouns** have a different **plural form**. For example, to make "man" **plural**, it becomes "men," as in "The pharaoh was one **man**, but the Egyptian people included many men." As you learn about and practice with **nouns**, watch out for these different **plural nouns**!