

The Noun

- 11a.** A **noun** is a word or word group that is used to name a person, place, thing, or idea.

EXAMPLES Charles Drew, officer, Perkins Middle School, town, pencil, holiday, democracy, guilt

EXERCISE A Underline all the nouns in the following sentences.

Example 1. Sumatra is a large island in Indonesia.

- Unusual plants and animals live in this part of the world.
- Orangutans live in Sumatra and Borneo.
- This area of Asia contains many jungles.
- The rafflesia is the largest flower in the world.
- The blossom may be as wide as a yard.
- The plants have huge flowers but no leaves or stems.
- This giant plant needs the hot climate of Indonesia.
- Aunt Pearl took a picture of a rafflesia.
- Each flower has five wide lobes.
- Most people think the rafflesia has a terrible smell.

EXERCISE B Supply nouns to fill in the blanks in the following sentences.

Example 1. Did the cat and the dog make this mess?

- _____ is the strongest _____ in our _____.
- He tries always to tell the _____.
- Are they visiting _____ or _____?
- _____ and _____ are both _____.
- Will you bring your _____ to the _____?

EXERCISE C The paragraph below contains twenty nouns. Underline each noun.

Example Delaware is a small state in the eastern United States.

During the summer, Mike visited his grandparents at Coin Beach in Delaware. The boy wondered about the name of the beach. A lifeguard provided an explanation: Apparently, coins often wash up on the shore of the Atlantic Ocean. People think the money comes from a sunken ship, the *Faithful Steward*, which is a ship that sank off the coast in the eighteenth century.

Pronouns and Antecedents

11b. A **pronoun** is a word that is used in place of one or more nouns or pronouns.

The word or word group that a pronoun stands for is called its *antecedent*. Sometimes the antecedent is not stated.

EXAMPLES After **he** hit the home run, **Joe Thundercloud** trotted around the bases and waved to the crowd. [*Joe Thundercloud* is the antecedent of the pronoun *he*.]

The doctor said **your** test results were all normal. [The pronoun *your* has no antecedent in this sentence.]

EXERCISE A Underline each of the pronouns in the following sentences.

Example 1. My paper blew away just before I could catch it.

1. When you finish your part of the project, proofread it carefully.
2. After she finished her homework, Jane read two chapters of a novel.
3. Did Manuel paint the set by himself?
4. The three of us always sit at the same table for lunch.
5. Replace the tape in its case when you finish listening to it.

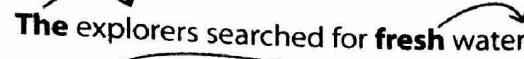

EXERCISE B Each of the following sentences contains an underlined pronoun. Circle the antecedent of each underlined pronoun.

Example 1. Ms. Griffith offers help when we need it.

6. Salmon are born in freshwater streams, but most salmon spend part of their lives in the ocean.
7. Mother called to the twins and told them dinner was on the table.
8. The ball flew by Mr. LaPorte and just missed him.
9. Kara tapped on the door, but nobody heard her.
10. Whales can't breathe underwater, so they must come to the surface for air.
11. How long has Angela been saving her money?
12. The sea horse wrapped its tail around a piece of seaweed.
13. The players were tired, but they had won the game.
14. Cora found a new lightbulb and installed it.
15. Rachel, please show me your painting.

The Adjective

11c. An **adjective** is a word that is used to modify a noun or a pronoun.


EXAMPLES 

Its blossoms are **pink** and **red**.

EXERCISE A Underline all the adjectives in the following sentences. Do not include *a*, *an*, or *the*.

Example 1. The climate of surrounding areas is affected by the huge body of water.

1. Lake Baikal is in southeast Siberia.
2. It is the deepest lake in the entire world.
3. It is also one of the oldest lakes on earth.
4. The lake freezes for five months of every year.
5. Many scientists study the unique plants and animals that live nearby.
6. Hundreds of animals are found only in Lake Baikal or the nearby area.
7. The lake is so large that the nearby area stays cool in the summer and warm in the winter.
8. Also in Russia is the Caspian Sea, which is the largest inland body of water in the world.
9. The Caspian Sea is a saltwater lake.
10. There are many lakes in Russia.

EXERCISE B In each of the following sentences, underline all the adjectives except *a*, *an*, and *the*. Then, draw an arrow from each adjective to the word that it modifies.

Example 1. 
The house was old but sturdy.

11. The flowers in the front yard are purple and yellow.
12. Twelve clowns squeezed into the tiny car.
13. Many fires are caused by careless campers.
14. Do not feed any bear in the park.
15. Several children played on the grassy slope.
16. The stinger on the scorpion is poisonous.
17. The puppy loved to chew leather shoes.
18. Bright lightning lit up the dark sky.
19. Weird noises filled the old house.
20. Fruits and vegetables contain many important vitamins.

Noun, Pronoun, or Adjective? A

The way a word is used in a sentence determines what part of speech it is.
The same word may be used as different parts of speech.

- NOUN** We get our water from a **well** in the backyard.
ADJECTIVE Aren't you feeling **well**?
PRONOUN **This** is the next book I want to read.
ADJECTIVE **This** book has received terrific reviews.

EXERCISE Identify the underlined word in each of the following sentences by writing above it *N* for noun, *PRO* for pronoun, or *ADJ* for adjective.

- Example 1.** That must be the ^{ADJ}tallest building in the city!
- Three tall trees shaded the backyard.
 - When are you going to visit your grandmother?
 - The last step is to trim those edges.
 - This is the best root beer I've tasted in a long time.
 - The crowd was quiet as the Australian flag was raised.
 - Another reason to do it that way is to save money.
 - Jason didn't see anyone that he knew.
 - That species is commonly found in Asia.
 - Both of the squirrels disappeared behind a tree.
 - The stars were bright and clear in the Nebraska sky.
 - He was hungry, so he asked for more.
 - Have you read Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens?
 - Those goats are very curious.
 - The flowers could use more rain.
 - The chicken coop is at the back of the garden.
 - Samantha had studied Buddhism.
 - Each wanted something different.
 - It drizzled all day, but my cousins and I managed to find something to do.
 - Roosters make great alarm clocks.
 - Chinese food is my favorite.

Review A: Nouns

EXERCISE A Underline all the nouns in each of the following sentences.

Example 1. Mother looks forward to the Sunday paper.

1. People in North America are usually eager for news.
2. Newspapers often cover the news in more detail than television does.
3. An early Chinese paper was printed from carved wooden blocks.
4. Some of the first newspapers were published in Germany.
5. One early paper was called the *Boston News-Letter*.
6. It was the first paper published regularly in the American colonies.
7. It was first published by John Campbell, the postmaster of Boston.
8. Today, large daily newspapers cover politics, sports, business, and many other topics.
9. They include editorial pages and regular columns.
10. Comics, puzzles, and humorous columns entertain readers.

EXERCISE B In each of the following sentences, underline each common noun and circle each proper noun.

Example 1. According to this article, Georgia is sometimes called the Peach State.

11. Peaches are tasty fruits.
12. Currently, the United States produces more peaches than any other country.
13. Actually, China was their original home.
14. It is still one of the leading producers of peaches, along with Italy, France, and Spain.
15. Some painters made portraits of the fruit.
16. The people in ancient Rome spread the trees throughout Europe.
17. Peaches could be found in Mexico as early as the seventeenth century.
18. Spanish explorers brought them to America.
19. Large orchards are generally located in areas with few late frosts.
20. Insects, diseases, and severe cold can damage the trees.

Review B: Pronouns

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, underline the pronoun and draw an arrow to its antecedent.

Example 1. Many visitors make a small donation as they enter the museum.

1. Most band members rent their instruments.
2. Mayor Martinez gave his speech before the Women's Club.
3. People filed into the hall, and soon most were seated.
4. The armadillo curled itself into a tiny ball.
5. That silly dog has hidden its bones under the couch!
6. Eating well is one way Lono keeps himself healthy.
7. A redbird built its nest in the maple tree.
8. Carmen said she was ready to begin.
9. People in the audience can help themselves to some popcorn.
10. Carrie and Jack asked if they could start a school newspaper.

EXERCISE B Underline all the pronouns in the following sentences.

Example 1. Would someone help me clean up this mess?

11. Everyone finished the test before the end of class.
12. These plants will not thrive if they are watered too often.
13. Can you imagine yourself as an astronaut?
14. Alma bought the red boots and returned those.
15. The president herself presented the award to me.
16. Who will play the lead in this year's play?
17. The announcer asked the question, but no one answered.
18. The batteries in my tape player are dead.
19. "Put these on next," said the costume designer.
20. She read the list of books and recognized several immediately.

Review C: Nouns, Pronouns, and Adjectives

EXERCISE A Underline the adjectives in each of the following sentences. Do not include *a*, *an*, or *the*. Then, draw an arrow from each underlined adjective to the word it modifies.

Example 1. These vegetarian burritos are delicious.

1. The old car may not make the long trip.
2. On the coldest day in winter, Grandmother built a fire.
3. This winter is supposed to be cold and damp.
4. That beautiful vase is made from Venetian glass.
5. The late movie was about Martian invaders.
6. We took an early train to avoid large crowds.
7. The hikers made it to the top of the mountain in two hours.
8. This movie should be funny.
9. The early settlers caught many terrible diseases.
10. Notice the beautiful collar made from delicate Belgian lace.

EXERCISE B For each of the following sentences, decide what part of speech the underlined word is. Above the word, write *N* for *noun*, *PRO* for *pronoun*, or *ADJ* for *adjective*.

Example 1. ^{ADJ} Several explorers visited the Indonesian islands.

11. They returned with many interesting stories.
12. Some explorers told about huge monsters they had seen.
13. What could these creatures be?
14. They were Komodo dragons.
15. These enormous reptiles are found on certain Indonesian islands.
16. These animals are giant lizards.
17. Each one can weigh more than three hundred pounds!
18. Komodo dragons are the largest lizards in the world.
19. These dangerous animals have long, sharp claws.
20. These unusual creatures are an endangered species.