

Concrete Nouns, Abstract Nouns, and Collective Nouns

A **concrete noun** names a person, place, or thing that can be perceived by one or more of the senses (sight, hearing, taste, touch, smell). An **abstract noun** names an idea, a feeling, a quality, or a characteristic.

CONCRETE	song	ABSTRACT	loyalty
	hubcap		dishonor
	dog		trust

A **collective noun** is a word that, even when it is singular, names a group.

COLLECTIVE audience, family, batch, herd, class

EXERCISE A Decide whether each of the following nouns is concrete or abstract. Identify each one by writing **CON** for *concrete* or **ABS** for *abstract*.

Examples CON 1. locker

ABS 2. enthusiasm

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|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| _____ 1. humor | _____ 6. bridge |
| _____ 2. Brazil | _____ 7. dishonesty |
| _____ 3. computer | _____ 8. Jupiter |
| _____ 4. sympathy | _____ 9. procrastination |
| _____ 5. Great Barrier Reef | _____ 10. Queen Elizabeth II |

EXERCISE B Underline each collective noun in the following sentences.

Example 1. The choir practiced in the new auditorium.

- I sing tenor in a quartet.
- Everyone in the group received a door prize.
- The team arrived early and went to the locker room.
- As I watched, a flock of geese flew overhead.
- The jury filed into their seats and listened to the judge's instructions.
- During lunch today the committee will meet to plan fund-raising events.
- Can you find your way through this thick grove of trees?
- The cat and her litter found a home in my dog's abandoned doghouse.
- When Jared hit the beehive with a stick, a swarm of angry bees flew out.
- For this short flight, the plane needs a crew of only three.

Identifying Kinds of Nouns

A **common noun** names any one of a group of persons, places, things, or ideas and is generally not capitalized. A **proper noun** names a particular person, place, thing, or idea and begins with a capital letter.

COMMON city, monarch **PROPER** Boston, Queen Victoria

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CONCRETE hat, water, finger **ABSTRACT** shyness, fear, need

EXERCISE Identify each underlined noun in the following sentences by writing above it *COM* for *common* or *PRO* for *proper* and *CON* for *concrete* or *ABS* for *abstract*.

Example 1. Have you ever seen a ^{COM, CON} blindfish?

- Mrs. Perry was planning a field trip to Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico.
- Parts of Carlsbad Caverns are still unexplored.
- The giant formations produce feelings of awe in many visitors.
- She captured our interest by describing cave-dwelling animals and fish.
- Blindfish live in dark areas such as caves and underground streams.
- A distinguishing characteristic of these fish is blindness.
- They have nerves on their bodies that have a special sensitivity.
- When tiny animals such as amphipods move, the blindfish senses the movement.
- In this way, the fish can find and eat smaller animals without using sight.
- A blindfish may eat its own offspring if it senses their movement.
- These young fish stop moving when they feel something swimming nearby.
- Blindfish may be found in Mammoth Cave in Kentucky and in other caves across the U.S.
- Mammoth Cave is part of the longest known cave system in the world.
- As a result of our field trip to the caverns, I developed a desire to learn more.
- I learned that geologists study caves and the stalactites and stalagmites within.
- The Geology Department at Idaho State University has an interesting Web site.
- It contains photos, information, and links to other Web sites about geology.
- All of this fascinating information has increased my enthusiasm and curiosity.
- My cousin belongs to a group of cave explorers.
- Before I join, I will have to conquer my fear of the dark.