

REVISION OF GRAMMAR

Nouns

A quick reminder:

When we talk or write about people or things, we need to name them. 'Naming' words are called **nouns**.

Here are some examples:

Once upon a **time** there was a **house** with a **mouse**.

The **mouse** ate the **cheese**. The **mouse** ate the **bread**.

The **mouse** ate **everything** it could find.

Finally, the **lady** of the **house**, **Mrs Brown** said,

"Enough! The **mouse** must go. **George**, get me a **mouse exterminator**."

(From The Exterminator, Comedy stories, Ziptales)

All the words highlighted are nouns.

TYPES OF NOUNS

There are different types of nouns.

1 Common nouns

Common nouns are names given to things that don't require a capital letter, like **mouse**, **cheese**, **lady** and **house**. Most common nouns are 'concrete' - meaning someone or something you can see and touch.

Common nouns only use a capital letter if it is at the *beginning* of a sentence.

2 Abstract nouns

Abstract nouns are names of things we cannot see or touch like **love**, **fear**, **morning** and **health**. They are often feelings and things to do with time. *(The word 'time' is the most*



3 Collective nouns

Collective nouns are names for a group of things like a **flock** of birds, a **pack** of dogs and a **herd** of elephants. We do **not** use a capital, unless the noun is at the beginning of a sentence.

4 Proper nouns (names of people) eg Mrs Brown, George

These are the words for people, places and other 'official' names:

Names of people	Jack, Emily, Harry Potter, Superman
Titles	Mr, Mrs, Doctor (Dr), Professor, Prime Minister
Places	Australia, England, Sydney, Melbourne, Queensland
Institutions	Red Cross, United Nations, Australian Government
Religious names	Bible, Koran, Christian, Hinduism, Islam
Events	Christmas, New Year's Eve, Olympic Games
Days and months	Monday, Saturday, January, December

Proper nouns are *always* capitalised!

HINT: You can usually tell a noun if it has 'a', 'an' or 'the' in front of it.

a cat

the cat

an elephant

the elephant



Except for proper nouns.

They are always written on their own - because every person or place is unique.

EXERCISE 1

Here are some sentences from the story *The Exterminator*. Write if the noun in bold type is **concrete** or **abstract**.

1. Mrs Brown's husband looked in the phone book. _____
2. "Can you get rid of our mouse?" he asked. _____
3. "No worries, sir," said the voice on the other end of the phone. _____

4. Minutes later a van drove up. _____
5. The cat left hairs on all their furniture. _____
6. The cat howled every night until dawn. _____
7. The dog barked every night until dawn. _____
8. The lion slept on their bed every night. _____
9. The elephant ruined their garden. _____
10. It frightened the neighbours. _____
11. The exterminator was carrying a tiny box. _____
12. Minutes later, the elephant had fled in terror. _____

EXERCISE 2

Choose a collective noun to finish the sentences below.

troup	bunch	swarm	choir
band	army	gang	crowd
team	galaxy	crew	stack

1. Mum told us to stay away from the _____ of bees.
2. An _____ of soldiers prepared for battle.
3. The _____ of musicians rehearsed their performance.
4. There was a huge _____ of people at the concert.
5. I helped Dad choose a nice _____ of grapes at the food market.
6. A large _____ of sailors boarded the ship.
7. My aunty joined the _____ of singers.
8. Dad is a member of the local _____ of soccer players.
9. The _____ of thieves broke into the jewellery shop.

Challenge

Research what animal groups these unusual collective nouns are describing.

A gaggle of _____ A crash of _____

A pride of _____ A dazzle of _____

A parliament of _____ A wisdom of _____

A murder of _____ A school of _____

A flutter of _____ A pounce of _____

A clutch of _____ A cloud of _____

A bloat of _____ A smack of _____

A mob of _____ A bed of _____