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Chapter Nouns 1

A word that names a person, place, or thing is called a **noun**. A noun is one of the eight parts of speech that make up the whole English language. The word *teacher* is a noun. The word *students* is a noun. Your name is a noun, and so is the name of your city. The word *city* is itself a noun.

Do you see the animal-shaped clouds in the picture? The word *cloud* is a noun. *Lightning*, *sandcastles*, and *swallows*: All these words for things are nouns too. We use a noun to name even a thing that is an idea, such as *curiosity* or *freedom*.

Noun

A noun is a part of speech.

It names a person, place, or thing.

A noun names a quality or an idea.

A noun is a part of speech.

It names a person, place, or thing.

A noun may be singular (*clap*) or plural (*clap, clap, clap*). (Repeat.)



Poem to Enjoy

Nouns



Under the Tent of the Sky

Rowena Bastin Bennett (1896–1981)

animal-clouds:
clouds shaped like
animals

The wind cracked his whip,
The storm flashed a gun,
And the animal-clouds marched one by one
Under the tent of the sky.

prancing: lively
stepping
mares: female horses

There were elephants, blue,
And shaggy white bears,
And dozens and dozens of prancing gray mares
With their beautiful heads held high.

wallowed: rolled
about

There were soft-footed panthers
And ostriches, fluffy,
And a great hippopotamus, purple and puffy,
Who wallowed in mud-colored mist.

There were small curly dogs
And camels with humps
And a wrinkled rhinoceros, all over bumps,
With a horn as big as your fist.

bedecked: decorated
mane: long hair
around the neck of an
animal
sigh: long, slow
breath

There was even a lion
Bedecked with a mane
Who growled so loud that he turned into rain
And tumbled to earth with a sigh.

The wind cracked his whip
And out came the sun
And the animal-clouds passed one by one
Out of the tent of the sky.¹

1. Rowena Bastin Bennett, "Under the Tent of the Sky," in *Around a Toadstool Table: A Child's Book of Verse* (Thomas S. Rockwell Company, 1930), 17–18.

Have you ever gazed at puffy white clouds in the sky that look like animal shapes, such as giant elephants or fluffy ostriches? The poet Rowena Bastin Bennett imagines the clouds are shaped like circus animals parading across the sky one by one. In “Under the Tent of the Sky,” she uses a variety of nouns to name what the clouds look like. Do you see the animal names in the poem? All those names are nouns. The wind is like a ringmaster, cracking a whip to keep the animals (the clouds) moving.

ringmaster:
person in charge
of performances in
a ring, such as of a
circus

Questions to Ponder

1. What kind of weather is described in this poem about clouds?
2. What kind of tent does the poet mean by “tent of the sky”?
3. What happens to the lion?



Lesson to Learn A1

Nouns



Noun Fact: A noun is a part of speech. It names a person, place, or thing.

The word *cloud* is a noun because it names a thing. Draw a cloud that is shaped like an animal. Then, complete the sentence below by writing what kind of animal it is.



My cloud is shaped like a _____.

The word *cloud* is a singular noun because it names just one thing.



Lesson to Learn A2

Nouns

Noun Fact: Nouns can be singular. Singular means only one.

Complete the following sentences with **singular** nouns. Read the poem “Under the Tent of the Sky” to look for clues.

1. A great _____ was purple and fluffy in the mud-colored mist. The word I wrote is a singular noun because it names only one thing.
2. A wrinkled _____ had a horn as big as your fist. The word I wrote is a singular noun because it names only one thing.
3. A _____ growls and turns into rain. The word I wrote is a singular noun because it names only one thing.



The animal I like best is a _____.

Lesson to Learn A3

Nouns



Noun Fact: Nouns can be plural. Plural means more than one.

In the poem “Under the Tent of the Sky,” there are several singular and **plural** nouns. Change the following singular nouns to plural nouns. Usually, the letter *s* is added to the end of a singular noun to make it plural.

wind _____
storm _____
whip _____

Change the following plural nouns to singular nouns. Usually, the letter *s* is dropped from the end of a plural noun to make it singular.

elephants _____
bears _____
camels _____





Sentences to Analyze A4

Nouns

What Is a Sentence?

Analyze the sentence below. Say the words inside quotation marks out loud with your teacher and classmates.

Leo watched the animal-clouds march across the sky.

- (First, read the sentence aloud together.) “Leo watched the animal-clouds march across the sky.”
- “This is a sentence because it is a group of words that expresses a complete thought.”
- “A sentence begins with a capital letter and has an end mark.” (When you say “capital letter,” point to it at beginning of the sentence, and when you say “end mark,” point to it at the end of the sentence. (*Clap* at the end.)

Analyze the following sentences in the same way.

1. The wind cracked his whip like a circus master.
2. Cleo thought she saw gray circus horses racing.
3. The animal-clouds filed out one by one from the sky tent.
4. The twins laughed at the circus parade in the sky.

What *person* thought she saw gray horses racing?

The name of the person is _____ .

Fun on the Beach

Alice Wilkins (1861–1915)

pails: buckets

We have much sand along our beach.
Lee and Tom and Mary and Top
Come over with spoons and dishes and pails
To make some cakes for our bakery-shop.

freight: loads of
things to be delivered

Sometimes we make a railroad track—
We make the tunnels and signals too,
So the passenger trains and those with freight
Can have the chance to go right through.

piers and docks:
platforms built out
from the shore

Sometimes we make a great big lake.
We build great piers and smaller docks.
The boats we have are large and small.
The large ones sometimes hit the rocks!

humps: arches

Sometimes we all work hard and dig.
We bury Tom in a great big hole.
He humps his back and then comes out,
To get washed off when the big waves roll!²



2. Alice Wilkins, "Fun on the Beach" in *The Golden Flute: An Anthology of Poetry for Young Children*, eds. Alice Hubbard and Adeline Babbit (John Day Company, 1932), 6–7, <http://capress.link/wolf0102>.

Have you been to a beach with rolling waves and lots and lots of sand? Have you dug a small lake with an old spoon and used a pail to fill it with water? Or have you ever dug a hole so big that someone can climb in and be covered with sand? Such summer memories are what the poem “Fun on the Beach” by Alice Wilkins describes. Read it and imagine all the things you could do on a beach.

Questions to Ponder

1. In the poem, who plays on the beach? What are their names?
2. What from the beach do you think they use to make trains?
3. How does Tom get all the sand off his body?



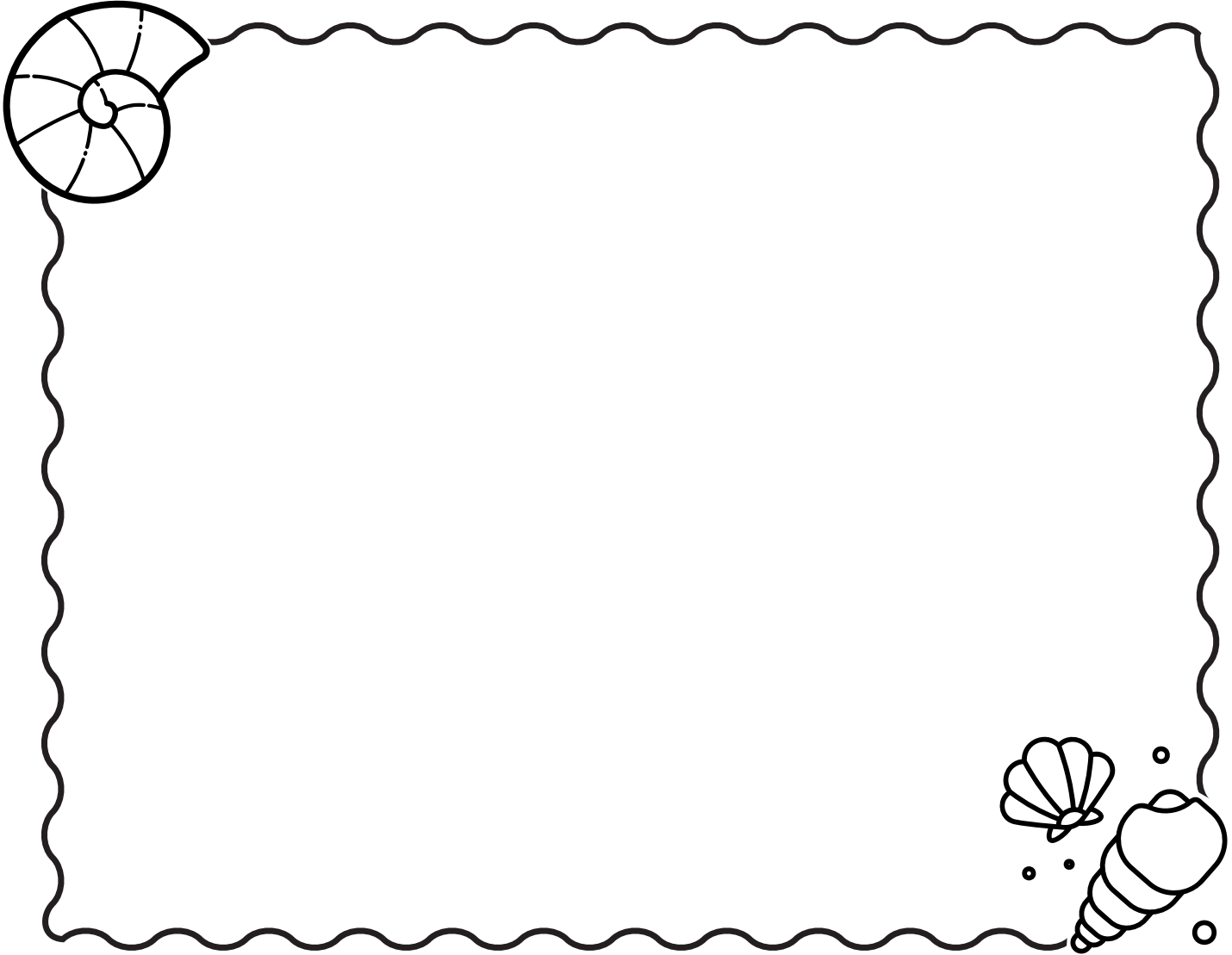
Lesson to Learn B1

Nouns

B

Noun Fact: A noun is a part of speech. Nouns name people like me.

Draw a picture of you playing on the beach with friends.



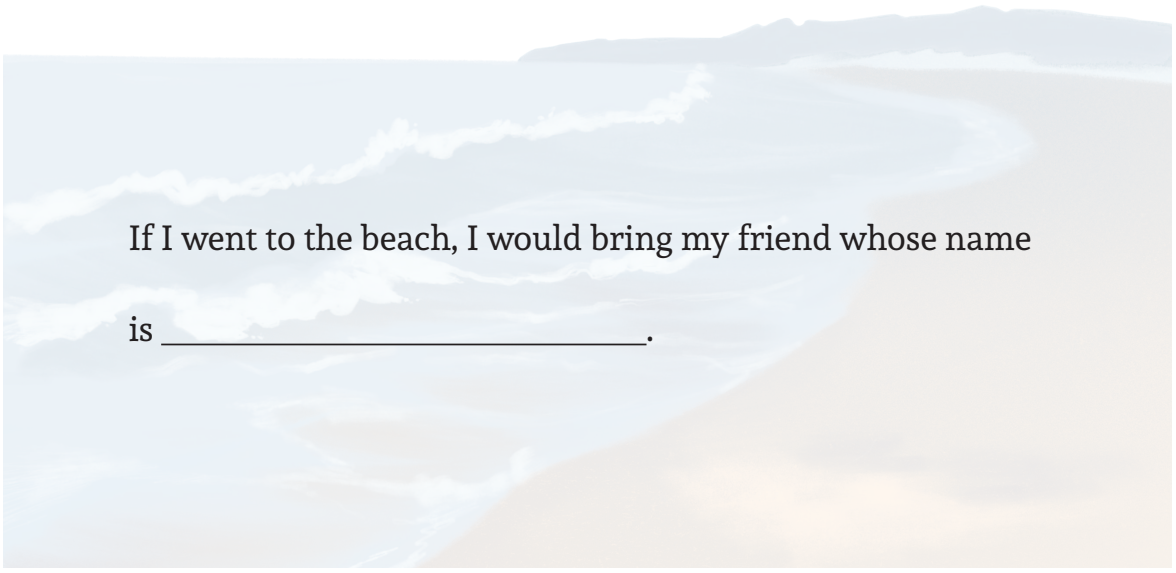
My first name is _____ .

My name is a noun because it names a person (me!).

Noun Fact: Nouns can be proper. A proper noun names a particular person, place, or thing.

Complete each of the following sentences with a **proper noun**. Read the poem “Fun on the Beach” to look for clues.

1. _____ is the first person to come over to “our beach.” The word I wrote is a proper noun because it names a particular person.
2. _____ is the third person to come over. The word I wrote is a proper noun because it names a particular person.
3. _____ is the one who is buried in the sand. The word I wrote is a proper noun because it names a particular person.



If I went to the beach, I would bring my friend whose name is _____.

Lesson to Learn B3

Nouns

B

Noun Fact: Proper nouns name particular places, such as where I live.

Complete the following sentences with nouns that name a place.

If I had a beach in my backyard, the beach would be in the city
of _____.

If that beach were in my state, it would be in the state of
_____. These words
are proper nouns because they name a particular city and state.

My address is:

How many words are capitalized in my address? _____



What Is a Sentence?

Analyze the sentence below. Say the words inside quotation marks out loud with your teacher and classmates.

The twins brought pails and shovels to the beach.

- a. (First, read the sentence aloud together.) “The twins brought pails and shovels to the beach.”
- b. “This is a sentence because it is a group of words that expresses a complete thought.”
- c. “A sentence begins with a capital letter and has an end mark.”
(Point to the capital letter and point to the end mark as you recite. *Clap clap* at the end.)

Analyze the following sentences aloud in the same way.

1. Cleo pretended to make sand cakes for the bakery.
2. Leo dug a lake and built docks for boats.
3. The twins made a small sandcastle at Nokomis Beach.
4. A giant wave came and washed it away.

At what *place* did the twins make a sandcastle?

The name of the place is _____.

Poem to Enjoy

Nouns



Swift Things Are Beautiful

Elizabeth Coatsworth (1893–1986)

swift: very fast
swallows: small, fast-flying birds
bright-veined: having thin, shiny lines like veins
strong-withered: strong at the shoulders

Swift things are beautiful:
Swallows and deer,
And lightning that falls
Bright-veined and clear,
Rivers and meteors,
Wind in the wheat,
The strong-withered horse,
The runner's sure feet.

closing of day: sunset

And slow things are beautiful:
The closing of day,
The pause of the wave
That curves downward to spray,
The ember that crumbles,
The opening flower,
And the ox that moves on
In the quiet of power.³

ember: burning coal



3. Elizabeth Coatsworth, "Poem of Praise," *New Yorker*, July 28, 1934, <http://capress.link/wolf0104>.

Did you ever stop and notice all the beautiful things that surround you? Have you ever seen a white-tailed deer in the forest or the sunset in the evening sky? If you take a photograph, the beauty seems frozen in time, but many beautiful things are really in motion. In the poem “Swift Things Are Beautiful,” Elizabeth Coatsworth describes things that move quickly and things that move very, very slowly. Which things do you think are more beautiful?

Questions to Ponder

1. What swift things in the poem are beautiful?
2. What slow things in the poem are beautiful?
3. Which words rhyme in the poem?



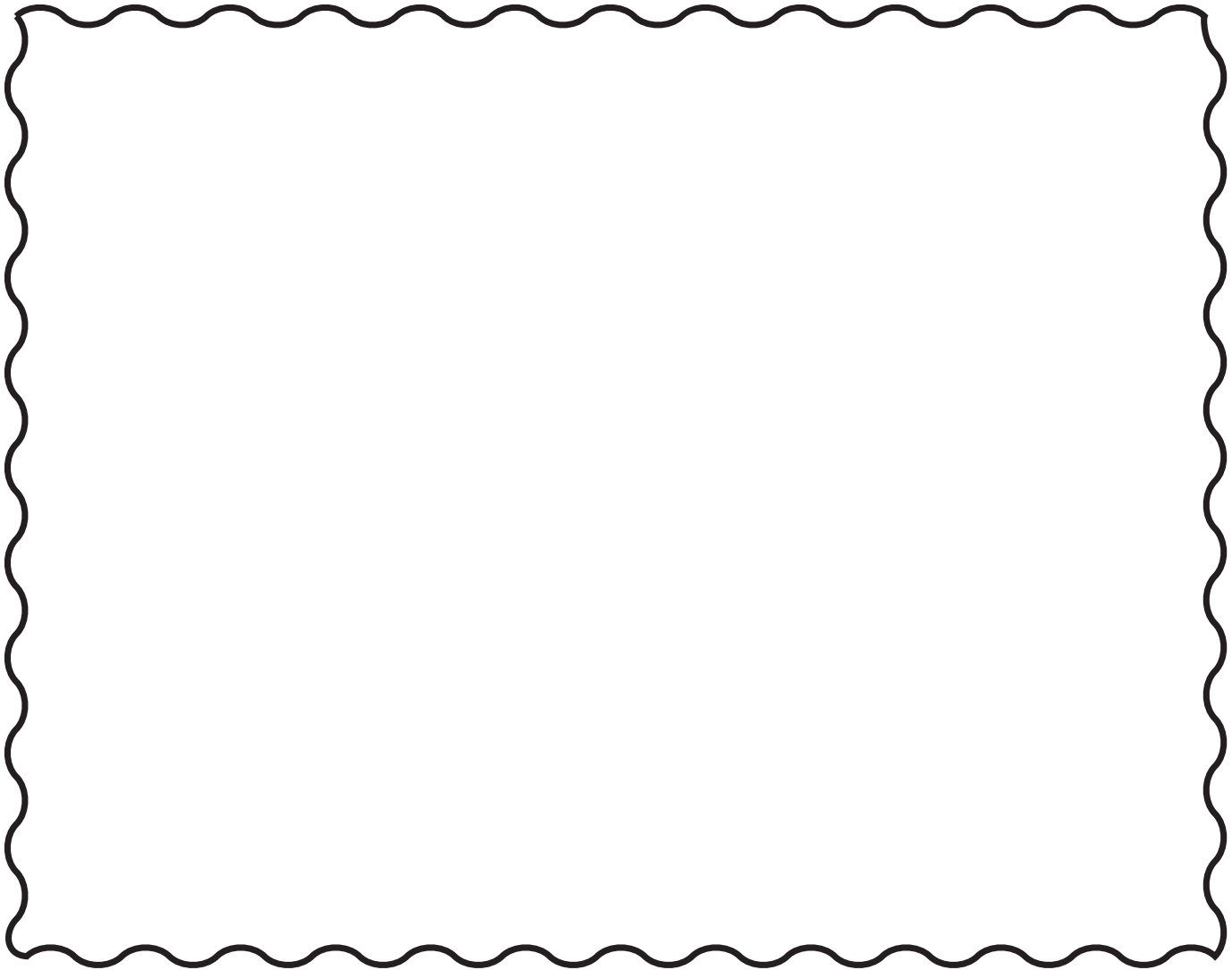
Lesson to Learn C1

Nouns



Noun Fact: Common nouns name common things, such as things that are swift or slow.

Draw a picture of something swift and a picture of something slow.



I drew a _____ and a _____.

Each of these words is a **common noun** because it names a thing, but not a particular thing.

C

Lesson to Learn C2

Nouns

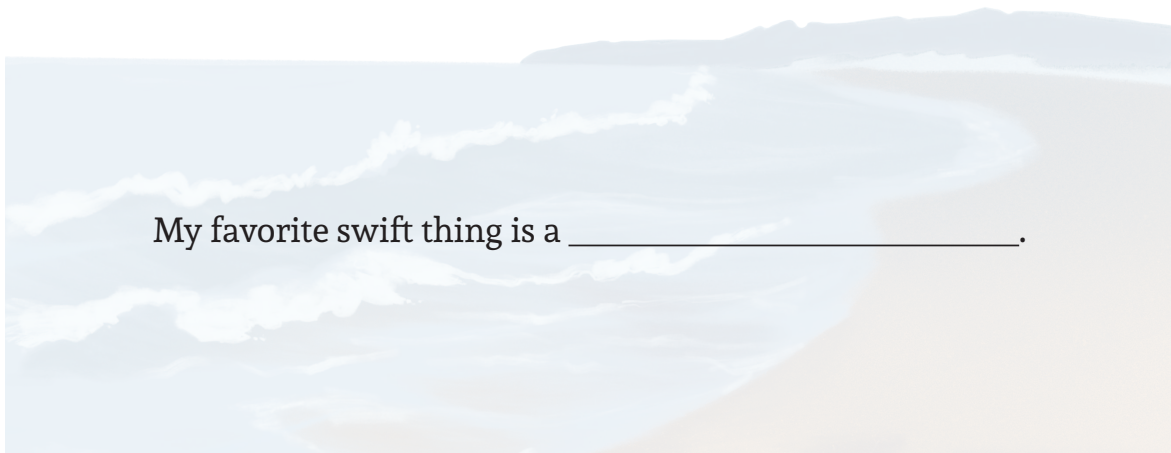
Noun Fact: Nouns can name common things. A common noun can name any person, place, or thing.

Complete the following sentences with common nouns from the poem “Swift Things Are Beautiful.” Read the poem again to look for clues.

1. The _____ falls swiftly, bright-veined,
and clear. The word I wrote is a common noun because it names a
thing, but not a particular thing.

2. The _____ moves swiftly in the wheat.
The word I wrote is a common noun because it names a thing, but
not a particular thing.

3. The _____ of a runner are sure and swift.
The word I wrote is a common noun because it names things, but
not particular things.



Lesson to Learn C3

Nouns



Noun Fact: Common nouns name both singular and plural things.

“Swift Things Are Beautiful” by Elizabeth Coatsworth is the inspiration for the poem below. Look for six singular nouns that end with the letter *s*, *sh*, *x*, *z*, or *ch* as you read it.

Odd Things Are Curious

Tammy Peters

Odd things are curious:

A blue-hound bus,

One twitching eyelash,

And a winged octopus.

Spinning like a top,

The fox in the dale

Thought the waltz on the beach

Was with Miss Quail.

Did you find all six singular nouns ending in those letters? You should have found *bus*, *eyelash*, *octopus*, *fox*, *waltz*, and *beach*. Now, to make them plural, add an *es* at the end of the word. Change the following common nouns from singular to plural.

bus	_____
eyelash	_____
octopus	_____
fox	_____
waltz	_____
beach	_____



Sentences to Analyze C4

Nouns

What Is a Sentence?

Analyze the sentence below. Say the words inside quotation marks out loud with your teacher and classmates.

Ivy and Cleo drew pictures of autumn trees.

- a. (First, read the sentence aloud together.) “Ivy and Cleo drew pictures of autumn trees.”
- b. “This is a sentence because it is a group of words that expresses a complete thought.”
- c. “A sentence begins with a capital letter and has an end mark.” (Point to the capital letter and point to the end mark as you recite. *Clap clap* at the end.)

Analyze the following sentences aloud in the same way.

1. Cleo colored a squirrel in an oak tree.
2. Ivy used her new orange, red, and yellow pencils.
3. An acorn is the seed of an oak tree.
4. The two girls wondered why acorns wore hats.

What *things* do squirrels like to eat in the fall?

Squirrels like to eat _____ in the fall.

Fable to Enjoy

Nouns

Sometimes the most unlikely one in a race ends up being the champion. In this fable by Aesop, a slow tortoise has no doubt that he can beat a fast hare in a contest. Who do you think will win?

The Hare and the Tortoise

ca.: an abbreviation that means “about”

Aesop (ca. 620–564 BC)

hare: an animal like a rabbit

tortoise: a land turtle

mocking: making fun of

A hare was making fun of the tortoise one day for being so slow.

“Do you ever get anywhere?” he asked with a mocking laugh.

“Yes,” replied the tortoise, “and I get there sooner than you think. I’ll run you a race and prove it.”

consented: agreed

The hare was much amused at the idea of running a race with the tortoise, but for the fun of the thing he agreed. So the fox, who had consented to act as judge, marked the distance and started the runners off.

ridiculous: silly

course: a route or path

The hare was soon far out of sight, and to make the tortoise feel very deeply how ridiculous it was for him to try a race with a hare, he lay down beside the course to take a nap until the tortoise should catch up.

overtake: pass

The tortoise meanwhile kept going slowly but steadily, and, after a time, passed the place where the hare was sleeping. But the hare slept on very peacefully; and when at last he did wake up, the tortoise was near the goal. The hare now ran his swiftest, but he could not overtake the tortoise in time.

Moral: The race is not always to the swift.⁴

4. Aesop, “The Hare and the Tortoise,” in *The Aesop for Children*, with pictures by Milo Winter (Checkerboard Press, 1919), 96–97, <http://capress.link/wolf0103>.

Sentences to Analyze—Fable

Nouns

What Is a Sentence?

Analyze the sentence below. Say the words inside quotation marks out loud with your teacher and classmates.

A hare is making fun of the tortoise.

- a. (First, read the sentence aloud together.) “A hare is making fun of the tortoise.”
- b. “This is a sentence because it is a group of words that expresses a complete thought.”
- c. “A sentence begins with a capital letter and has an end mark.”
(Point to the capital letter and point to the end mark as you recite. *Clap clap* at the end.)

Analyze the following sentences aloud in the same way.

1. Maybe the tortoise can be swifter than the hare.
2. A fox is the judge and marks the distance.
3. The hare runs quickly over the hill, and then he takes a rest.
4. Slow and steady wins the race.

What names would you give to the tortoise and the hare?

I would name the tortoise and hare _____
and _____.

Facts to Remember

Nouns

What do you remember?

Fill in the missing words from the word bank below.

1. A noun is a part of speech. It names a _____,
_____,
or _____.

2. Nouns can be singular or plural.

_____ means only one.

_____ means more than one.

3. Nouns can be proper or common.

_____ nouns name particular people, places, or things.

_____ nouns name any person, place, or thing.

Word Bank

thing • proper • place • singular • plural • common • person



Facts to Remember

Nouns

What do you say when you analyze a sentence?

Fill in the missing words from the word bank below.

1. This is a sentence because it is a group of _____
that expresses a complete _____.
2. A sentence begins with a capital _____
and has an _____.

Word Bank

thought • letter • sentence • words • end mark

