

# 9.1 Kinds of Nouns

Look at the incomplete sentence below. Decide which of the words in the box that follows can complete the sentence.

The inventor created many new \_\_\_\_\_

- across
- processes
- dramatic
- the
- goes
- products
- things
- machines

The words *processes*, *products*, *things*, and *machines* can complete the sentence. These words are called nouns.

- A **noun** names a person, place, thing, or idea.
- There are two basic kinds of nouns: proper nouns and common nouns.
- A **proper noun** names a *specific* person, place, thing, or idea.
- A **common noun** names *any* person, place, thing, or idea.
- The first word and all other important words in proper nouns are capitalized.
- Nouns can be either concrete or abstract.
- **Concrete nouns** name things that you can see or touch.
- **Abstract nouns** name ideas, qualities, or characteristics.

PROPER NOUNS	COMMON NOUNS	
	Concrete	Abstract
Thomas Edison	inventor	idea
Jupiter, Florida	city	progress
Monday	calendar	time
African American	trumpet	culture

Nouns

**Exercise 1** Identifying Nouns, Capitalizing Proper Nouns

Write each noun that appears in the following sentences. Indicate whether each is a *common noun* or a *proper noun*. Remember to capitalize each proper noun.

1. Guglielmo marconi sent the first electronic signals through the air.
2. With his equipment, marconi sent the first signals across the atlantic ocean.
3. Reginald fessenden was the first person to transmit his voice on radio.
4. The radio was first used for communication between ships at sea.
5. Messages on the radio helped save many victims of disasters at sea.
6. Radios were used to help rescue survivors from the shipwrecked *titanic*.
7. The first musical broadcast occurred two years earlier.
8. The broadcast was from the metropolitan opera house in new york city.
9. The program starred enrico caruso, a famous singer from naples, italy.
10. A station in pittsburgh announced the results of the 1920 presidential elections.
11. The first commercial station was started in that same year.
12. Franklin roosevelt often spoke to the nation on the radio.
13. Radio was once the most popular entertainment in the united states.
14. Fred allen, jack benny, and bob hope had popular comedy shows on the radio.
15. A beam from a radio was able to guide a plane from cleveland to new york.
16. Later, radar helped locate planes or ships in dark or stormy weather.
17. Then police began to use radar to locate cars that were speeding.
18. Radios were first used by soldiers during world war II.
19. People can now call from a phone inside a car, a boat, or other places.
20. A personal pager, or "beeper," can tell a person to call the office or home.

**Exercise 2** Identifying Nouns

Write the nouns you find below in two lists: *concrete nouns* and *abstract nouns*.

1. People with imagination have been inventing things from the earliest time.
2. The first inventions were based on the need for food and protection.
3. Early tools were created from natural things—wood, bone, stone, and hide.
4. The discovery by early people that heated metal could be shaped was important.
5. Our entire industrial civilization grew out of this important knowledge.
6. With the improvement in vehicles, people began to travel to other lands.
7. These travelers traded goods and brought back knowledge of new inventions.
8. The creation of new inventions has not always been greeted with enthusiasm.
9. New inventions have often caused anger among workers in factories.
10. The workers had the great fear that machines might replace them.

Nouns

## WRITING PROMPT

Your social studies teacher has asked you to write about this topic:

**Explain why you would or would not want to live in a large city.**

Before you begin to write, think about living in a large city. Would you like or dislike it? **Why** do you think the way you do?

Now write an essay for your teacher about whether or not you would want to live in a large city. Give specific reasons explaining why you think the way you do.

## WRITER'S CHECKLIST

1. Look at the ideas in your response.

- Have you focused on one main idea?
- Have you used enough detail to explain yourself?
- Have you put your thoughts in order?
- Can others understand what you are saying?

2. Think about what you want others to know and feel after reading your paper.

- Will others understand how you think or feel about an idea?
- Will others feel angry, sad, happy, surprised, or some other way about your response? (Hint: Make your reader feel like you do about your paper's subject.)
- Do you have sentences of different lengths? (Hint: Be sure you have a variety of sentence lengths.)

Are your sentences alike? (Hint: Use different kinds of sentences.)

3. Look at the words you have used.

- Have you described things, places and people the way they are? (Hint: Use enough detail.)
- Are you the same person all the way through your paper? (Hint: Check your verbs and pronouns.)
- Have you used the right words in the right places?

4. Look at your handwriting.

- Can others read your handwriting with no trouble?

## 9.2 Compound Nouns

Some nouns consist of more than one word. The noun *hometown*, for instance, is made up of the two words *home* and *town*. These nouns are called compound nouns.

■ **Compound nouns** are nouns that are made up of two or more words.

Compound nouns can be written as one word—*hometown*—or as more than one word—*ice cream*. Other compound nouns are written as two or more words joined by hyphens—*mother-in-law*. If you're unsure of how to write a compound noun, check a dictionary.

Compound Nouns	
<b>One word</b>	doorknob, homeroom, strongbox, bookmark, fireplace
<b>Hyphenated</b>	age-group, runner-up, great-grandmother, kilowatt-hour
<b>More than one word</b>	dining room, motion picture, maid of honor, music box

Most nouns can be singular or plural. A singular noun names one person, place, thing, or idea. A plural noun names more than one. Most plural nouns are formed by adding *-s* or *-es* to the singular form of the noun.

To write the plural forms of some compound nouns, however, you need to know special rules.

Forming Plural Compound Nouns		
	To Make Plural	Examples
<b>One word</b>	Add <b>-s</b> to most words. Add <b>-es</b> to most words that end in <b>ch, sh, s,</b> or <b>x.</b>	fireplaces <b>s</b> , bookmarks <b>s</b> , strongboxes
<b>Hyphenated</b>	Make the most important part of the word plural.	runners <b>s</b> -up, mothers <b>s</b> -in-law, great-grandmothers <b>s</b>
<b>More than one word</b>	Make the most important part of the word plural.	music boxes <b>s</b> , dining rooms, maids of honor

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Day 3

### Exercise 3 Making Compound Nouns Plural

Write the plural form of each compound noun below.

- |                 |                       |                |                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. steam engine | 6. jack-of-all-trades | 11. chainsaw   | 16. baby-sitter   |
| 2. wheelbarrow  | 7. governor-general   | 12. dishwasher | 17. basketball    |
| 3. housekeeper  | 8. father-in-law      | 13. cotton gin | 18. public school |
| 4. ice skate    | 9. box seat           | 14. mailbox    | 19. great-aunt    |
| 5. headache     | 10. stepsister        | 15. home team  | 20. go-cart       |

### Exercise 4 Making Compound Nouns Plural

Write each sentence. Use the plural form of the compound noun in parentheses to complete each sentence.

- The newspaper gave all the reporters new \_\_\_\_\_. (personal computer)
- The reporters used \_\_\_\_\_ to interview their subjects. (tape recorder)
- Because of heavy use, the \_\_\_\_\_ kept breaking down. (copy machine)
- The paper's \_\_\_\_\_ never stopped running. (printing press)
- The city's major newspapers were invited to witness the launching of the two \_\_\_\_\_. (space probe)
- The four \_\_\_\_\_ decided to attend with their staffs. (editor in chief)
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of several countries were present. (vice president)
- All reporters carried \_\_\_\_\_ to keep in touch with the office during the blizzard. (cellular phone)
- Several local \_\_\_\_\_ predicted a record snowfall. (weather bureau)
- Half the town's \_\_\_\_\_ broke down during the storm. (snowplow)
- All the \_\_\_\_\_ at a nearby ski resort were even shut down. (ski lift)
- Both \_\_\_\_\_ opposed the mayor's reelection. (political action committee)
- The \_\_\_\_\_ were sealed before the votes were recounted. (ballot box)
- The new mayor presented the city with five new \_\_\_\_\_. (fire engine)
- Two \_\_\_\_\_ escaped injury when they interrupted a robbery. (attorney-at-law)
- Detectives went to \_\_\_\_\_ all over the city looking for one injured suspect. (emergency room)
- The other robbers were stopped at one of the \_\_\_\_\_ outside of town. (roadblock)
- Photographers were asked to make \_\_\_\_\_ of the ceremony. (videotape)
- Four retired \_\_\_\_\_ stood while the monument was dedicated. (sea captain)
- The general's two \_\_\_\_\_ also attended the ceremony. (great-granddaughter)

Nouns

## 8 Incredible Elephant Tales

by Scott Elder

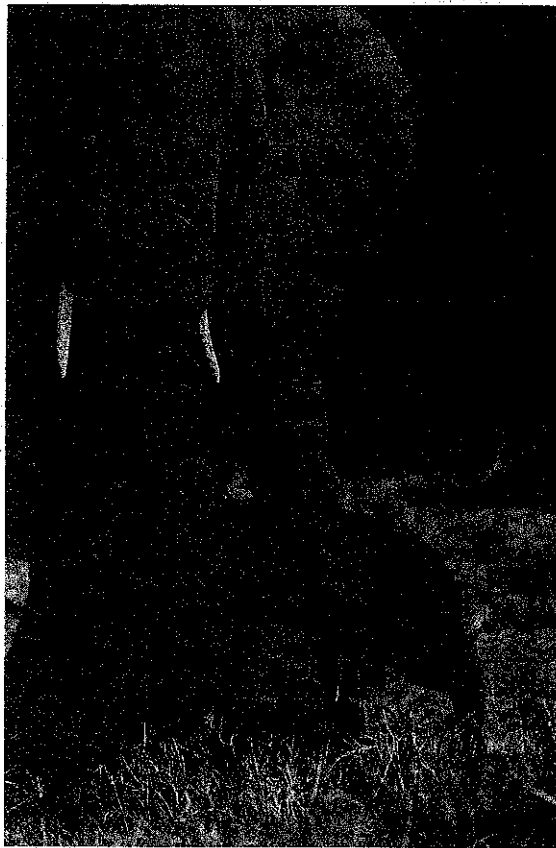
Photograph by Michael Nichols

African elephants are the biggest land animals on Earth. Standing as tall as 13 feet and sometimes weighing more than 6 tons, these jumbos aren't dumbos. Elephants have the largest brains of any land mammal, and that includes you! Of course, elephants aren't as smart as humans; our brains are bigger compared with the size of our bodies, and that relationship is one key to intelligence. Still, in the animal kingdom they're practically geniuses. Here's how elephants show their smarts in the wild.

1

### Elephants teach each other.

Not all of the humans that elephants encounter are friendly. The East African Maasai have a tradition of proving their bravery by spearing animals they consider dangerous, including elephants. Luckily, elephants can tell different human groups apart. In an experiment that proved this ability, elephants were presented with the clothing worn by two groups: the Maasai hunters and harmless local farmers. The elephants ran and hid when they saw or smelled the clothing worn by the Maasai, but reacted much more calmly to the farmers' clothes. Surprisingly, even elephants that had never been attacked responded in the same way. How did they know to run? "The elephants have learned over time and this kind of knowledge is passed down," says Joyce Poole, a biologist who studies elephants in Kenya with the organization Elephant Voices. "Just like humans: If your mother responds in a certain way, you learn from her by example."



2

**Elephants listen to their elders.**

Elephants rack up lots of birthdays. They live for about 60 years or more, which is one of the longest life spans among mammals. Elephants store all the knowledge they learn over the years in their big, powerful brains, and younger elephants trust the wisdom of their elders. Male elephants leave the family when they grow up, and the oldest female, called a matriarch, leads the group. All the adult females in the group help make decisions during calm times. "But if elephants are under threat, then everyone in the family looks to the matriarch for her strong and wise leadership," says Poole. "Families led by the oldest matriarchs tend to be dominant, survive droughts best, and have the most babies."

3

**Elephants really never forget.**

At one point, Poole made friends with a curious wild male named Vladimir. He would let Poole touch his trunk and tusks. After a separation of 12 years, Poole wondered how Vladimir would react to seeing her. "I called to him and he came over and let me touch him again," she says. "There was no doubt in my mind that he remembered me—I was the only one who ever had that kind of interaction with him." Elephants remember important things about their environment, too. A single elephant can devour hundreds of pounds of leaves and vegetation and guzzle 50 gallons of water every day. For the savannah elephants in the grasslands of East Africa, where trees are scattered and the land often becomes bone-dry, memorizing where to find distant food and water is a matter of survival. And even if an old watering hole appears dry, the clever elephants know to dig a well.

4

**Elephants figure out things with their trunks.**

Most people know that elephants use their trunks to trumpet loudly, to say things like "I'm happy" or "Leave me alone." But elephants' trunks, like our handy thumbs, also give them the ability to grab things and handle them carefully. Elephants use their trunks to stuff food into their mouths, fling stones, and sometimes get into mischief. "They outsmart humans all the time," says George Wittemyer, a biologist who studies elephants with the organization Save the Elephants. Elephants lift the lids on water tanks and suck them dry while people sleep, and they've figured out how to turn on a faucet to get a drink. "It's a testament to how intelligent they are," says Wittemyer. "Unfortunately they don't turn the faucet off—to the great annoyance of the people living there!"

DAY 4

4 Read this dictionary entry.

**tank**  
*n* 1 prison cell 2 armored vehicle used in combat 3 large container that holds liquid;  
*v* 4 to drop suddenly

Which definition from the dictionary entry matches the word tank as it is used in section 4?

- A definition 1
- B definition 2
- C definition 3
- D definition 4

5 According to the passage, elephants use their trunks in all of the following activities **except**

- A wrestling.
- B throwing.
- C gripping.
- D drinking.

6 What is the meaning of tranquelize as it is used in section 5?

- A to study by observation
- B to calm with medicine
- C to become confused
- D to welcome guests

7 Which behavior **best** shows how elephants rely on one another?

- A remembering events from the past
- B feeling sad upon finding elephant bones
- C visiting family members when they are sick
- D recognizing the call of many other elephants

8 In which area of the library would this passage **most likely** be found?

- A Fiction
- B Reference
- C Biography
- D Nonfiction



DAY 4

PART II

8

**Elephants adopt orphans.**

It's a sad fact that for many animal species, when a mother dies, her children do not have anyone to care for them and also die. Elephants are different. When a matriarch elephant named Tuskless died, her baby calf was orphaned. Tuskless's adult daughter Tulip already had a young calf of her own, but she adopted the orphan anyway. "Because they have such close bonds and close friendships, it's just natural that they would adopt and look after calves," says Poole. What surprised her, though, was when she saw Tulip nursing a third calf—another orphan—that wasn't even part of her extended family. "They're so caring about other elephants," she says. "They're kind of able to put themselves in another's shoes, so to speak . . . which is definitely a sign of higher intelligence."

1 According to the passage, which relationship shows that humans are smarter than elephants?

- A eye size compared to head size
- B eye size compared to brain size
- C head size compared to body size
- D brain size compared to body size

2 According to the passage, elephants can learn from

- A avoiding human behavior.
- B observing other elephants.
- C practicing several times.
- D fighting other animals.

3 Which of the following best explains why elephant families split up into smaller groups when searching for food?

- A Food is scarce and spread over a large area.
- B Too big a group will fight over patches of plants.
- C Young elephants could be injured in a large herd.
- D Each group brings a different type of food back to share.

DAY 5

### Exercise 5 Forming the Possessive

Write the possessive form of each underlined word below.

- |                                 |                                 |                            |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. <u>Marie Curie</u> discovery | 8. <u>Queen Isabella</u> policy | 15. <u>library</u> books   |
| 2. <u>scientist</u> experiments | 9. <u>principals</u> offices    | 16. <u>turkey</u> feathers |
| 3. <u>Gus</u> house             | 10. <u>men</u> store            | 17. <u>Henry</u> music     |
| 4. <u>Ellie</u> jacket          | 11. <u>Hawaii</u> climate       | 18. <u>boss</u> office     |
| 5. <u>machines</u> designers    | 12. <u>Alice Ross</u> address   | 19. <u>brothers</u> room   |
| 6. <u>monkeys</u> tails         | 13. <u>children</u> plans       | 20. <u>cow</u> milk        |
| 7. <u>coach</u> speech          | 14. <u>skiers</u> clothing      |                            |

### Exercise 6 Identifying Singular and Plural Possessives

Write the possessive nouns. Add or insert apostrophes where needed, and label each possessive noun as *singular* or *plural*.

- Benjamin Franklin was one of Americas greatest citizens.
- Among Franklins many occupations were printer, publisher, author, scientist, and statesman.
- Although this mans interests were many, he probably liked science best.
- The weathers many changes interested Franklin.
- Electricitys mysteries were of particular interest to this inventive scientist.
- One of Franklins experiments led to the invention of the lightning rod.
- The inventors idea came during a violent thunderstorm.
- Franklin sailed a silk and metal-tipped kite into a stormy clouds interior.
- Soon a spark of electricity traveled down the kites string.
- A metal key hanging from the kite string attracted the electrical charges, and Franklins nearby hand drew sparks.
- Lucks for tune was with Franklin that day.
- Others who tried it did not escape the sparks danger and were killed.
- Franklin was sure of his experiments meaning—that lightning is electricity!
- Cities buildings are safer because of the lightning rod.
- Placed on a buildings highest point, a metal rod connects to a heavy wire that leads to another rod deep in the ground.
- Lightnings electricity is attracted to the rod.
- It is then guided into the ground, ensuring the peoples safety.
- Lightning rods have also protected many ships crews from storms at sea.
- At one time, lightning storms destroyed many citizens homes.
- Lightning rods even saved the Franklin familys home.

Nouns

## 9.3 Possessive Nouns

A noun can be singular, naming only one person, place, thing, or idea; or it can be plural, naming two or more. A noun can also show ownership or possession of things or qualities. This kind of noun is called a possessive noun.

■ A **possessive noun** names who or what owns or has something.

Possessive nouns can be common or proper nouns. They can also be singular or plural. The following pairs of sentences show how possessive nouns are formed.

**Miko** owns a book about inventions.

**Miko's** book is about inventions.

Several **books** have indexes.

Check several **books'** indexes.

Possessive nouns are formed in one of two ways. To form the possessive of most nouns, you add an apostrophe and *-s* (*'s*). This is true for all singular nouns and for plural nouns not ending in *-s*. To form the possessive of plural nouns already ending in *-s*, you add only an apostrophe. These rules are summarized in the chart below.

Forming Possessive Nouns		
Nouns	To Form Possessive	Examples
Most singular nouns	Add an apostrophe and <b>-s ('s)</b> .	a girl—a girl's coat Wichita—Wichita's population
Singular nouns ending in <b>-s</b>	Add an apostrophe and <b>-s ('s)</b> .	Joseph Ives—Joseph Ives's clock Alexis—Alexis's book
Plural nouns ending in <b>-s</b>	Add an apostrophe ( <b>'</b> ).	boys—boys' shoes the Wrights—the Wrights' plane
Plural nouns not ending in <b>-s</b>	Add an apostrophe and <b>-s ('s)</b> .	children—children's toys women—women's organization