Common and Proper Nouns

A common noun names any person, place, or thing. A proper noun names a particular person, place, or thing. Proper nouns begin with capital letters.

- **Common Nouns**: These birds live in cold places.
- **Proper Nouns**: It is cold in Antarctica in July.

The names of days, months, holidays, historical periods, and special events are proper nouns. They begin with capital letters: Colonial America, Thanksgiving, President Adams.

**Directions** Write C if the underlined noun is a common noun. Write P if the underlined noun is a proper noun.

1. Penguins have black and white feathers. ___
2. Some penguins live in zoos in the United States. ___
3. Penguins have webbed feet. ___
4. New Zealand has many penguins. ___
5. This penguin hatched in July. ___

**Directions** Underline the common nouns and circle the proper nouns in the sentences.

6. There is much food in the Pacific Ocean. ___
7. The Phillip Island Nature Park in Australia has many penguins. ___
8. We watched a movie about animals in Africa on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. ___
9. Were dolphins trained to help sailors during World War II? ___
10. Did you see penguins at the zoo on Labor Day? ___
Singular and Plural Nouns

A **singular noun** names only one person, place, or thing. A **plural noun** names more than one person, place, or thing.

**Singular Nouns**
- The **cage** is on the **shelf**.

**Plural Nouns**
- Iguanas are cuter than hamsters.

Most nouns add -s to form the plural. Add -es to a noun that ends in ch, sh, s, ss, or x: benches, wishes, buses, glasses, foxes. When a noun ends in a consonant and y, change the y to i and then add -es: cities.

Singular and plural nouns can have appositives. An appositive is a noun or phrase that tells more about the noun next to it.

**Singular Nouns**
- My brother, Joe, had an iguana.

**Plural Nouns**
- My friend’s dog, Lurch, might eat the iguana.

**Directions**
Write S if the underlined noun is singular. Write P if the underlined noun is plural. Circle any appositives in the sentences.

1. I would like an **iguana** for a pet. ___
2. Jeff, my friend’s brother, said that **lizards** are quiet. ___
3. My mom thinks **reptiles** are ugly. ___
4. A baby iguana would not eat many **vegetables**. ___
5. My **sister**, Maria, likes my pet. ___

**Directions**
Underline the singular nouns and circle the plural nouns in the sentences.

6. The boy wrote many letters to his mother.
7. Iguanas and tarantulas are quiet.
8. The cage, sized for gerbils, is near the trophies.
9. His brother is just a baby.
10. My mom says reptiles can grow so big, they may scare my friends.
Irregular Plural Nouns

A plural noun names more than one person, place, or thing. Most nouns add -s to form the plural. An **irregular plural noun** has a special form for the plural.

**Singular Nouns**

An ox and a sheep live on the farm.

**Irregular Plural Nouns**

Three oxen and some sheep live on the farm.

Some nouns and their irregular plural forms are *child/children*, *deer/deer*, *foot/feet*, *goose/geese*, *leaf/leaves*, *life/lives*, *man/men*, *mouse/mice*, *ox/oxen*, *sheep/sheep*, *tooth/teeth*, and *woman/women*.

**Directions** Write **S** if the underlined noun is singular. Write **P** if the underlined noun is plural.

1. Some **children** collect pets. _____
2. Carrie has four **mice**. _____
3. She has a pet **goose** in her yard. _____
4. Carrie wants some woolly **sheep**. _____
5. She even wants a **deer**. _____

**Directions** Underline the singular nouns and circle the plural nouns in the sentences.

6. The children told the woman about their problem.

7. They could not rake all the leaves on the playground.

8. They could not run fast with leaves under their feet.

9. Some men brought machines to school.

10. The woman and the men solved the problem together.
Singular Possessive Nouns

To show that one person, animal, or thing owns something, use a singular possessive noun. Add an apostrophe (’) and the letter s to a singular noun to make it possessive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular Noun</th>
<th>The bear slept all day.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singular Possessive Noun</td>
<td>The hare did not like the bear’s laziness.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Directions Write the possessive noun in each sentence.

1. The class talked about each person’s favorite vegetable.  
2. Edward likes the carrot’s bright color.  
3. Olivia likes broccoli’s leafy tops.  
4. Terrell likes his mom’s bean soup.  
5. Everyone enjoys the farm’s good foods.  

Directions Write the possessive form of the underlined noun in each sentence.

6. The market sells the farmer freshest vegetables.  
7. The corn sweet flavor makes that soup delicious.  
8. What vegetable will be good with tonight dinner?  
9. The cook recipes for potatoes are wonderful.  
10. Tracy favorite salad includes lettuce and celery.  
11. The most important thing is a vegetable freshness.  
12. I can almost taste my dad homemade squash casserole.
Plural Possessive Nouns

To show that two or more people share or own something, use a plural possessive noun.

Plural Noun  Birds build their own nests.
Singular Possessive Noun  That bird's nest is in this tree.
Plural Possessive Noun  Birds' nests are different from one another.

Add an apostrophe (') to plural nouns that end in -s, -es, or -ies to make them possessive. To make plural nouns that do not end in -s, -es, or -ies possessive, add an apostrophe and an s.

men  men's boots  oxen  oxen's strength

Directions  Write the plural possessive noun in each sentence.

1. The eggs' shells are thin but strong.

2. Eagles' nests are very wide and deep.

3. Woodpeckers' beaks peck holes in trees.

4. Weaver birds' nests are made of knots.

5. Birds' homes are destroyed when forests are cut down.

Directions  Write the possessive form of the underlined noun in each sentence.

6. A city birds nest may have strange building materials.

7. Hummingbirds nests are the smallest of all bird nests.

8. A swiftlets nest can be used to make soup.

9. A nests job is to keep young birds warm and safe.

10. Birds homes are built in amazing ways!