

Common and Proper Nouns

A **proper noun** names a particular person, place, idea, or thing. A **common noun** is more general; it does not name a particular person, place, idea, or thing.

Common

teacher
city
neighbor
building

Proper

Mrs. McCoy
St. Louis
Mr. Powell
Sears Tower

Directions: If the word listed below is a common noun, give an example of a proper noun that matches the word. If it is a proper noun, write a common noun that describes it.

1. Katie Couric _____
2. language _____
3. El Paso _____
4. magazine _____
5. Mt. St. Helens _____
6. planet _____
7. actor _____
8. John Glenn _____
9. *Titanic* _____
10. computer _____

Directions: Select five sets of nouns from above. For each pair of words, write a sentence that uses both the common and the proper noun correctly.

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____



PART A: THE PARTS OF SPEECH

EXERCISE 2: COMMON AND PROPER NOUNS

Often using a proper noun in place of a common noun can make a person's writing more exact and precise. Rewrite each of the following sentences, replacing the underlined common noun with a proper noun of your choice. Try using proper nouns in your own writing:

1. My aunt invited me to go on a trip to an island with her.

2. Because the boy was a fan of the baseball team, he went to the stadium to see his favorite team play the opposing team.

3. My country has some interesting places to visit, including its cities, its attractions and its lakes.

4. An explorer discovered a country before another person arrived there.

5. The river is one of the longest in the country.
