



Nouns

Teaching

A **noun** is a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea.

Type of Noun	Definition	Example
common noun	general name for a person, place, thing, or idea	architect
proper noun	name of a particular person, place, thing, or idea	Frank Lloyd Wright
singular noun	one person, place, thing, or idea	building
plural noun	more than one person, place, thing, or idea	buildings
collective noun	name of a group regarded as a unit	crew
concrete noun	name of something perceptible to the senses	brick
abstract noun	name of something the senses cannot perceive	beauty
compound noun	two or more words used together as one noun	saltbox
possessive noun	a noun that shows ownership	artist's vision, artists' visions

REVIEW

Finding Nouns

Underline every noun in each sentence.

1. When you see an attractive building, thank the architect who designed it.
2. Architects design buildings both to provide shelter and to create beauty.
3. Architects also design monuments dedicated to the memory of important people and events.
4. The beauty of a city is determined by the quality of its architecture.
5. Architecture dates from prehistoric times and is found in almost all societies.
6. A society's architecture reflects the values of its people.
7. Unique styles of architecture have developed in the various cultures of the world.
8. In America, the first architecture copied Europe's styles.
9. In the Southwest, missionaries built churches of adobe that combined the styles of Spain and the American Indians.
10. In the northern colonies, the settlers built homes of wood with sloping roofs.
11. In the southern colonies, planters constructed large residences that were similar to England's country estates.
12. The Industrial Revolution created a demand for new types of buildings.
13. For centuries, architects had planned religious buildings, castles, and houses.
14. With the growth of industrialization, architects needed to design structures such as factories, warehouses, and offices.
15. When they decided not to copy the styles of other countries, America's architects started to make an impact on the world's architecture.
16. The skyscraper, the best-known symbol of modern architecture, was developed in the United States.
17. Chicago became the center of modern architecture in the United States as the city rebuilt after the Great Chicago Fire.
18. Recently, people have developed a concern for the preservation of old buildings with architectural value.

Nouns

More Practice

A. Identifying Nouns

Identify each numbered and italicized noun by writing **common, proper, abstract, concrete, collective, compound,** or **possessive** on the corresponding line below. Each noun belongs to at least two categories.

Frank Lloyd Wright was one of (1) *America's* most distinguished architects. Wright was an advocate of functional architecture; that is, he believed that every part of a building should express its (2) *use*. Nothing unnecessary should be added. His works ranged from private homes to public (3) *museums*. He even made plans for a (4) *skyscraper* one mile high. He designed the (5) *Imperial Hotel* in Tokyo. It was one of the few buildings to survive undamaged after a severe earthquake struck the city in 1923.

In 1932, Wright founded the Taliesin Fellowship. The fellowship was a (6) *group* of architectural students who paid to live and work with Wright. During the 1930s, (7) *Wright's* projects included the *Falling Water House*, a private house dramatically perched over a (8) *waterfall*. It is a sensational house with glass everywhere to bring (9) *Mother Nature* into the living room. Wright's daring designs and complex use of geometric shapes have inspired a whole (10) *community* of architects.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

B. Identifying Nouns

Underline the noun or nouns described in parentheses after each sentence.

- Architects in Egypt often built monuments to their kings, both living and dead. (proper noun)
- Egyptians built tombs for their rulers in pyramids, four-sided buildings with pointed tops. (common noun)
- Pyramids were not the only buildings that ancient architects designed, however. (concrete noun)
- The temple of Queen Hatshepsut built around 1480 B.C. is considered to be a masterpiece of ancient architecture. (compound noun)
- In honor of her, the Queen's subjects erected it at the foot of a massive cliff, joining nature and architecture. (possessive noun)
- It is easy to imagine gangs of workers struggling to move huge rocks into place. (collective noun)
- The beauty and mystery of ancient pyramids and temples continue to fascinate people. (abstract noun)



Nouns

Application

A. Supplying Nouns

Complete the paragraph by supplying nouns as indicated in parentheses. Write each word you would use on the blank line.

One of my favorite buildings is the **(1. proper noun)**. The elements that I feel are most attractive in this building are its **(2. common nouns)**. In addition, the **(3. compound nouns)** are both functional and artistically effective. The architect used these materials: **(4. concrete noun)**, on the outside walls and **(5. concrete noun)** on the inside of the building. In my opinion, the **(6. possessive noun)** design works well. The **(7. collective noun)** that uses the building regularly should take time to admire its **(8. abstract noun)**.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | |

B. Writing with Nouns

Write sentences that contain the kinds of nouns indicated. Underline these nouns in your sentences.

- Use a proper noun and a plural noun.

- Use a common noun and a collective noun.

- Use an abstract noun and a possessive noun.

- Use a compound noun and a proper noun.

- Use an abstract noun and a concrete noun.

- Use a proper possessive noun and a concrete noun.

- Use an abstract noun and a plural noun.

- Use a concrete noun and a proper noun.

REVIEW