

# Common and Proper Nouns

## Basic Definitions

### Common Nouns

All nouns are either a person, place or thing. However, common nouns are more general.

Examples of common nouns include:

Dog, city, car, amusement park, sister, holiday, day and toothpaste

### Proper Nouns

Proper nouns refer to more specific people, places and things. They are general always capitalized. Examples of proper nouns include:

Rover, New York City, Dodge Caravan, Disney World, Julie, Christmas, Monday and Crest

## Practice: Common vs. Proper Nouns

Read each word in the first column of each chart below. Decide if the word is a common noun or a proper noun. Put an "X" in the correct column.

	Common Noun?	Proper Noun?		Common Noun?	Proper Noun?
dog	<u>X</u>	___	vacation	___	___
rover	___	___	paris	___	___
banana	___	___	telephone	___	___
school	___	___	mother	___	___
tree	___	___	book	___	___

## Practice: Proper Nouns

Review each common noun and write a proper noun to go with it.

Common Noun	Proper Noun	Common Noun	Proper Noun
city	<u>Chicago</u>	cat	_____
man	_____	flower	_____
state	_____	tree	_____
car	_____	teacher	_____
boy	_____	school	_____

## Practice: Capitalization

Review each sentence. Underline each noun and circle the words that should be capitalized.

1. the man with the red car traded his car for a ford truck.
2. we are going to disneyland for our vacation this year.
3. my sister mary wants to take our mother out to lunch for mother's day.
4. the policeman was standing in front of the store on first street.
5. we went downtown to see the doctor.

# Common and Proper Nouns Answer Key:

## Practice: Common vs. Proper Nouns

Read each word in the first column of each chart below. Decide if the word is a common noun or a proper noun. Put an "X" in the correct column.

	Common Noun?	Proper Noun?
dog	<u>X</u>	_____
rover	_____	<u>X</u> (As a dog's name, Rover is a proper noun.)
banana	<u>X</u>	_____
school	<u>X</u>	_____
tree	<u>X</u>	_____

	Common Noun?	Proper Noun?
vacation	<u>X</u>	_____
paris	_____	<u>X</u> (Paris is the name of a city in France.)
telephone	<u>X</u>	_____
mother	<u>X</u>	_____
book	<u>X</u>	_____

## Practice: Proper Nouns

Review each common noun and write a proper noun to go with it.

Common Noun	Proper Noun
city	<u>Chicago</u>
man	<u>President Trump</u> (Any man's name is acceptable.)
state	<u>New York</u> (Any state name is acceptable.)
car	<u>Honda Accord</u> (Any car manufacturer and proper name is acceptable.)
boy	<u>Owen</u> (Any boy's name is acceptable.)

Common Noun	Proper Noun
cat	<u>Fluffy</u> (Any cat's name is acceptable.)
flower	<u>Lillium</u> (Certain scientific names of flowers are acceptable.)
tree	<u>Japanese Red Maple</u> (Any tree name with a proper noun in it is acceptable.)
teacher	<u>Mrs. Smith</u> (Any teacher's name is acceptable.)
school	<u>Harvard University</u> (Any official school name is acceptable.)

## Practice: Capitalization

Review each sentence. Underline each noun and circle the words that should be capitalized.

- the man with the red car traded his car for a ford truck.
- we are going to disneyland for our vacation this year.
- my sister mary wants to take our mother out to lunch for mother's day.
- the policeman was standing in front of the store on first street.
- we went downtown to see the doctor.