1 Nouns

A noun is the name of a person, place, animal, thing, idea or emotion. In short, it is a naming word.

Common and Proper Nouns

- Common nouns are the general names of people, places or things of the same kind. They do not refer to particular people, places or things. They usually begin with a small letter.
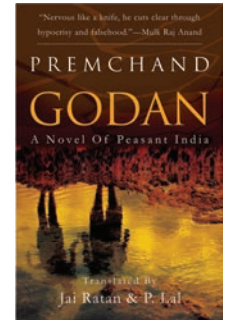
    school   train   gardener   toy   box   picture

- Proper nouns are the names of particular people, places or things. They always begin with a capital letter.

    Rahim   Mount Abu   Thursday   Pepsi

A Underline the nouns in the following sentences. Write *CN* above common nouns and *PN* above proper nouns.

1. Munshi Premchand was a great writer.
2. He wrote many books in Hindi.
3. One of his famous books is *Godan*.
4. His books are generally set in the villages of northern India.
5. His books have been translated into many languages.
6. *Godan* is available in Urdu, Hindi and English.

B The words in each of the following rows are specific examples of a larger group. Write the names of the groups they belong to.

1. yellow, orange, blue .... colours ....
2. peacock, woodpecker, eagle ....
3. football, hockey, badminton ....
4. tea, cold drinks, coffee ....

5. Ganges, Yamuna, Tapti ....

6. table, chair, bed ....

7. Tokyo, Mumbai, Los Angeles ....

8. mango, banana, watermelon ....

9. Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday ....

10. pen, pencil, notebook ....

C **Read the descriptions given below. Choose from the box a name that matches each description and write it in the given space.**

> vegetarian   patriot   host   optimist   pessimist
> optician   confectioner   pilot   actor   baker

1. sells sweets and pastries ....

2. flies an aeroplane ....

3. bakes bread ....

4. acts in plays or movies ....

5. always expects good things to happen ....

6. does not eat meat ....

7. always expects bad things to happen ....

8. loves his/her country ....

9. invites guests to a party ....

10. sells spectacles ....

Collective Nouns

Collective nouns are the names of groups of people, animals or things.

a *team* of cricket players

a *flock* of sheep

a *bouquet* of flowers

D Choose the correct noun to complete each sentence.

1. A bale of .... fell off the cart. (cotton/boxes)

2. We saw a pride of .... resting near the pond. (crocodiles/lions)

3. A gaggle of .... was swimming in the lake. (geese/fish)

4. The child was lost in the crowd of .... outside the theatre. (monkeys/people)

5. A troupe of .... was invited from Australia. (politicians/dancers)

6. The captain could not find an able crew of .... (whales/sailors)

7. Sharif bought a bouquet of .... for his wife. (grapes/flowers)

8. The carpenter carved a beautiful chest of .... (drawers/desks)

9. The boy plucked a bunch of .... from the vineyard. (grass/grapes)

10. The explorer had a fleet of ten .... (ships/trains)

11. Akhil recognized a few constellations of .... (stars/meteors)

12. A congregation of .... assembled to pray. (devotees/customers)

13. John ran up the flight of .... (stairs/planes)

14. The suite of .... booked for us was huge. (rooms/clothes)

15. Suman bought a string of .... for her mother. (bracelets/pearls)

E Correct the mistakes in the use of collective nouns in the following sentences and rewrite them.

1. A pride of spectators gathered around the winner.

   ....

2. My suitcase rolled down the flight of chairs.

   ....

3. Did you find a bouquet of keys on this table?

   ....

4. The ship had a team of singers aboard.

    ....

5. Our submarine followed a shoal of geese.

    ....

F **Fill in the blanks with suitable collective nouns from the box.**

> class   suites   audience   bench   gang
> clump   colony   army   shoals   sheaf

1. The clerk tripped and dropped the whole .... of papers.

2. The little boy was frightened by a .... of ants.

3. A .... of judges sat down to discuss the matter.

4. During our scuba-diving session, we saw .... of fish darting about.

5. The colonel was very strict with his .... of soldiers.

6. The police are looking for the notorious .... of robbers.

7. The deer hid behind a .... of trees.

8. The teacher greeted the .... of pupils.

9. This big building has several .... of offices.

10. After the programme the dancers bowed to the ....

G **Fill in the blanks with suitable nouns from the box.**

> mountains   wolves   actors   experts
> butterflies   cows   crows   directors

1. Mr Palanivel is a member of the board of .... of Ritu Textiles.

2. The plane flew over a range of ....

3. A herd of .... stood on the road and caused a traffic jam.

4. A pack of .... surrounded the rabbits.

5. A panel of .... was appointed to inquire about the accident.

6. A swarm of .... descended on the garden.

7. The cast of .... reached the location early in the morning.

8. A murder of .... cawed outside my window.

Abstract Nouns

Nouns that name ideas, qualities and feelings are called abstract nouns.
> friendship, honesty, happiness

- Abstract nouns are often formed from adjectives.
  > The *brave* armymen fought in the battle. (adjective)
  > The armymen fought with *bravery* in the battle. (noun)

  In the second sentence, we changed the adjective *brave* into the abstract noun *bravery*.

- Abstract nouns can also be formed from verbs.
  > Ramola *knows* German very well.
  > Ramola's *knowledge* of German helped us while getting around in Austria.

  In the second sentence, we changed the verb *know* into the abstract noun *knowledge*.

H **Given below is a list of nouns. Circle the abstract nouns among them.**

sorrow	porcupine	grief	hope
lantern	anger	container	tolerance
happiness	tractor	despair	chalk

I **Change the words in red into abstract nouns and use them to fill in the blanks.**

1. The courageous soldiers moved ahead. Everyone praised them.

   Everyone praised the soldiers for their ....

2. We should be kind to animals.

   Let's show .... to animals.

3. The teacher was patient with the children.

The teacher showed a lot of .... with the children.

4. Lazy people often fail.

Some people often fail due to their ....

5. Mr Menon is so gentle that everyone likes him.

Mr Menon's .... makes him likeable to everyone.

J **Tick (✓) the correct abstract nouns from those given in brackets.**

1. My teacher gave me a good piece of (advice/patience).
2. The detective's (intelligence/kindness) helped him solve the case.
3. (Pride/Choice) always has a fall.
4. Birbal's (wisdom/height) made him famous in Akbar's kingdom.
5. Subhas Chandra Bose showed great (patriotism/dishonesty) and fought for his country.
6. (Honesty/Cruelty) is the best policy.

K **Fill in the blanks with verbs and abstract nouns.**

	Verb	Abstract Noun		Verb	Abstract Noun
1.	arrive	....	6.	....	departure
2.	....	choice	7.	discover	....
3.	....	invention	8.	....	destruction
4.	invade	....	9.	....	prevention
5.	defend	....	10.	interfere	....

L **Fill in the blanks with abstract nouns formed from the words given in brackets.**

1. Ambika needed her teacher's .... to leave the class. (permit)
2. The doctors waited for the .... of the child's mother. (arrive)
3. .... leads to violence. (hate)
4. India achieved its .... after much struggle. (free)

5. The .... of this room is exactly the same as its .... (long, wide)

6. There was a lot of .... in the classroom when the teacher announced the picnic. (excite)

Possessive Forms of Nouns

Possessive forms of nouns show belonging or ownership. We put an apostrophe (') after a noun to make its possessive form.

- To singular nouns, add an apostrophe (') and *s*.
  the dog*'s* food   my brother*'s* football
- To plural nouns that end in *s*, add an apostrophe (') only.
  the dogs*'* food   my brothers*'* football
- To plural nouns that do not end in *s*, add an apostrophe (') and *s*.
  the men*'s* shirts   the children*'s* toys
- When something belongs to more than one person and we mention the names of all of them, add an apostrophe (') to the last noun.
  Zahid, Junaid and Sahil*'s* bats

M **Add apostrophes (') wherever required in the given sentences.**

1. The teachers table was painted red, which annoyed her very much.
2. My fathers office is near my mothers shop.
3. The womens dresses were very expensive even after the discount.
4. Anil is packing Anu, Reema and Sanjays lunch.
5. Three boys bikes were parked in the driveway.
6. Where is Harjinders pencil box?
7. I put on Prajiths hat by mistake.

Grammar Game

For Teachers

Divide the class into groups of 6–8 children. Ask the groups to collect nouns from the first page of the day's newspaper. All groups should work on the same page. Each group should then list the nouns in various categories – common, proper, collective, abstract and possessive forms. Discuss the lists in class. The team that has the maximum number of correct nouns is the winner.