

## Part 1 What Are Nouns?

Nouns are used to name persons, places, and things.

PERSONS	friend, pilot, driver, Chris Evert Lloyd
PLACES	Charleston, beach, field, Disney World
THINGS	shoe, football, cloud, bread

Things named by nouns may be things you can see:

bike belt guitar spoon

Other things named by nouns may be things you cannot see:

pain science language law

Still other things named by nouns are ideas:

friendship courage honesty sadness  
freedom poverty religion Christianity

A noun is one of the eight parts of speech.

A noun is a word used to name a person, place, or thing.

## Part 2 Common Nouns and Proper Nouns

What do you notice about the italicized words in the following sentence?

One *boy*, *José Rodríguez*, and one *girl*, *Jenny Thiem*, come from a nearby *city*, *Lansing*.

The italicized words are nouns. The words *boy*, *girl*, and *city* are called **common nouns**. A common noun is a general name. It does not name a special boy, girl, or city.

The words *José Rodríguez*, *Jenny Thiem*, and *Lansing*, on the other hand, name specific people and a specific city. They are called **proper nouns**. A proper noun always begins with a capital letter.

**A common noun is the name of a whole class of persons, places, or things. It is a name that is common to the whole class.**

**A proper noun is the name of a particular person, place, or thing.**

COMMON NOUNS	PROPER NOUNS
singer	Beverly Sills
bridge	Golden Gate Bridge
street	Grant Avenue
state	Oregon

Notice that a noun may consist of more than one word.