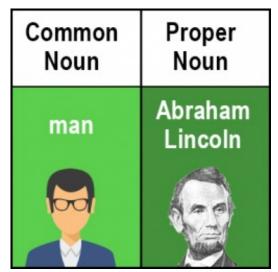


Table Of Contents:

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Nouns are words which refer to *people*, *places* or *things*. We can divide them into two types – **common nouns** and **proper nouns**.



via https://www.yourdictionary.com/proper-noun

Common nouns

Common nouns are generic nouns. They name people, places, things or ideas that are *not* specific and not unique.

Examples of **common nouns** include:

- air, cat, happiness, music, newspaper.
- Would you like a cookie?
- There are a lot of important **documents** in the **archives**.

We don't usually write them with a capital letter, unless they come at the beginning of a sentence:

- I love **music**. (NOT: I love Music.)
- *Happiness* is the most important thing.



Proper nouns

Proper nouns are *names* for unique people, places or things and we always write them with a *capital* letter:

- My sister's name is **Sarah**.
- The best day of the week is **Friday**.

Examples of proper nouns include:

• Australia, Monday, Rome, Russian, Sarah.

Proper nouns include:

- a) The names of people, places or institutions:
 - Sarah, Mr Stevens, the United States, Beijing, Cambridge University, the Hilton Hotel.
- b) The names of the days of the week, months of the year and public holidays:
 - Saturday, Thursday, June, September, Christmas, Thanksgiving.

(But not seasons: 'summer' not 'Summer'.)

- c) The names of nationalities and languages:
 - Mexican, Swiss, English, Spanish.
- d) The names of newspapers, magazines and the titles of books and movies:
 - The Guardian, Vogue, Alice in Wonderland, Moby Dick, Terminator, The Lord of the Rings.

Note: When the title has several words, we often write all the **important words** in capital letters.

- San Fransisco
- Three Men in a Boat



Take care with:

- I went for a walk in the park.
- I went for a walk in **Central Park**.
- I studied chemistry at the university.
- I studied chemistry at **London University**.

Note that proper nouns are generally used without articles.

- **Agatha Christie** wrote many books.
- Let's go to **San Francisco**.
- He never goes anywhere without **Sarah**.

However, there are several categories that are used with the <u>definite article 'the'</u>.

Watch this video from Learn English from KT explaining the difference between common and proper nouns and some capitalization rules:

See also:

Articles with Proper Nouns

Abstract and Concrete Nouns

Countable and Uncountable Nouns