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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**.

Common Noun	Proper Noun
man 	Abraham Lincoln 

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 ~~M~~usic.)*
- ***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 [definite article 'the'](#).

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](#)