

A **noun** is the name of a person, place, thing, or idea:

<i>People</i>	farmer, mechanic, father, Professor Haskins, editors, Marcia
<i>Places</i>	ocean, Canada, porch, Spain, classroom
<i>Things</i>	scissors, giraffe, pen, smiles, tugboat, skateboard, braces, drill
<i>Ideas</i>	love, inspiration, courage, anxiety, eagerness, happiness

All nouns are either common or proper nouns:

A **common noun** names any person, place, or thing. Examples are *basketball*, *video*, *wizard*, *coin*, *woman*, and *coach*.

A **proper noun** names a particular person, place, or thing and begins with a capital letter. Examples are *Winston Churchill*, *Babe Ruth*, *Mr. Richard Turner*, and *Chicago*.


Know the difference between a common and a proper noun:

<i>Common Nouns</i>	<i>Proper Nouns</i>
hospital	Mercy General Hospital
woman	Martha Washington
school	Sayville Middle School
newspaper	<i>The New York Times</i>

Here are some specific types of nouns:

A **collective noun** names a group of people or things. Examples of collective nouns are *jury*, *herd*, *flock*, *family*, *fleet*, *club*, *class*, and *group*.

A **compound noun** is a noun consisting of more than a single word. It could be separate words such as *social studies*, *physical education*, and *dining room*. It could be two words joined by a hyphen such as *merry-go-round*, *thirty-three*, *sister-in-law*, and *great-grandmother*. It could be a combined word such as *schoolteacher*, *bookkeeper*, *landlord*, and *headmaster*.

 **WRITING TIP** Use a dictionary or a thesaurus for help in choosing the most precise noun for your purpose.