for CHAPTER 2: PARTS OF SPEECH OVERVIEW  pages 25–29

The Noun

Nouns, Compound Nouns

2a. A noun is a word or word group that is used to name a person, a place, a thing, or an idea.

PERSONS grandmother, police officer, Albert Einstein, Mrs. Evans
PLACES valley, day care, Gulf of Mexico, country, Cornerstone Books
THINGS Valentine's Day, highway, dozen, Internal Revenue Service
IDEAS happiness, self-interest, thought, unity

To decide whether a word is a noun, try placing the word in the blank in one of the following sentences. If the word makes sense in the sentence, then the word is probably a noun.

EXAMPLES I got a new _______. or I like _______.
I got a new computer. I like honesty.

Did you notice that some nouns are made up of more than one word? A compound noun is a single noun made up of two or more words. The compound noun may be written as one word, as a hyphenated word, or as two or more words.

ONE WORD bookcase, basketball, hourglass
HYPHENATED WORD brother-in-law, great-uncle, warm-up
TWO OR MORE WORDS lieutenant governor, San Diego Zoo, parking lot

Exercise A Underline the nouns in each of the following sentences.

Example 1. The twelve-year-old carried two bags from Ed’s Groceries to the car. [Twelve-year-old is a person, bags are things, Ed’s Groceries is a place, and car is a thing, so all four of these are nouns.]

1. Jenna slid the pocketbook into the drawer. [Are there any people in this sentence? any things? any places? any ideas?]
2. Save your money for a rainy day.
3. Oh, no! The pigs have knocked the fence down again.
4. Is Kendra planning on a career in technology?
5. Mr. Jenson is a teacher at Jefferson High School.

Common Nouns and Proper Nouns

As you may have noticed, some nouns begin with capital letters and others do not. A common noun names any one of a group of persons, places, things, or ideas. Common nouns are not capitalized. A proper noun names a particular person, place, thing, or idea. Proper nouns are capitalized.
COMMON NOUNS  person, car, store, state
PROPER NOUNS  Dr. Linda Cartwright, Corvette, Ralph’s Bike Shop, New Hampshire

**TIP** To identify a proper noun, try placing a or an in front of the noun. If a or an does not make sense in front of the noun, the noun is probably a proper noun. For example, a Mount Rushmore doesn’t make sense. Therefore, Mount Rushmore is a proper noun.

**EXERCISE B** For each underlined noun in the following sentences, write C above each common noun and P above each proper noun.

**Example 1.** That saw is made by Butler Tools and is available. [Saw is common noun because it names any one of a group of saws. Butler Tools is a proper noun because it names a particular company.]

6. Our Niceville Tennis Club meets every Saturday for two hours at these courts.

7. A string of diamonds glittered in the window of the shop.


9. Mrs. Chase gave a party for our class at Riverside Middle School.

10. Do you know the stories of King Arthur and his knights?

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**Concrete and Abstract Nouns**

Many nouns name people, places, and things. Other nouns name ideas. A *concrete noun* names a person, place, or thing that can be perceived by one of the senses (sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell). An *abstract noun* is a word that names an idea, a feeling, a quality, or a characteristic.

**CONCRETE NOUNS**  sand, Fido, man, roar
**ABSTRACT NOUNS**  love, truth, loyalty, evil

**EXERCISE C** Write A on the line next to each abstract noun and C next to each concrete noun.

**Example**  C  1. family  [Family is a concrete noun because a family is a thing that can be seen.]

11. team  [Is a team a thing that can be seen?]

16. Empire State Building

17. house

12. joy

18. fingernail

13. pencil

19. choir

14. kindness

20. intensity

15. group
The Pronoun

2h. **A pronoun** is a word used in place of one or more nouns or pronouns.

Writers and speakers often use pronouns to avoid repeating a name or a word.

**EXAMPLES**

Will Kendra walk Kendra's dog this afternoon? [Repeating the name *Kendra* sounds awkward.]

Will Kendra walk *her* dog this afternoon? [The pronoun *her* replaces *Kendra’s*.]

The twins congratulated the twins because the twins' basketball team won the championship. [Repeating the word *twins* sounds awkward.]

The twins congratulated *themselves* because *their* basketball team won the championship. [The pronouns *their* and *themselves* replace *twins*.]

**EXERCISE A** Circle the underlined word that is a pronoun in the following sentences. Each sentence has two words underlined, and only one of them is a pronoun.

Example 1. Mel and Chi helped **themselves** to a plate of spaghetti. [The word *themselves* is a pronoun because it is used in place of *Mel* and *Chi*.]

1. The singers warmed up their voices before the show. [Which word is used in place of *singers*?]
2. Dr. Ito said, “Where did I put my glasses?”
3. When you are finished, please put the book back on the shelf where you found it.
4. Steve, did you finish your art class at the community college yet?
5. Nelson and I laughed when we saw the remote-controlled car jump over the ramp.

**Personal Pronouns**

A personal pronoun refers to the one speaking (first person), the one spoken to (second person), or the one spoken about (third person).

**FIRST PERSON** We wanted to cook our own dinner. [The personal pronouns *We* and *our* refer to the people speaking.]

**SECOND PERSON** Are your muscles still sore from the soccer game yesterday? [The personal pronoun *your* refers to the person to whom someone is speaking.]

**THIRD PERSON** Joanie is the club’s treasurer; *she* likes to keep track of money. [The personal pronoun *she* refers to the person, *Joanie*, about whom someone is speaking.]

**EXERCISE B** Underline each personal pronoun in the sentences that follow. Some sentences have more than one personal pronoun.

Example 1. Teresa, would you like to demonstrate your science project to the class? [The second person pronouns *you* and *your* replace *Teresa*.]
6. When Deb and Roland ran for the student council, they both won. [Which word is used in place of Deb and Roland?]

7. What a good speaker she was!

8. Jennifer Gonzales just said, “I would like to volunteer at the clothing drive this weekend.”

9. Because the cat was sleepy, it took its nap after dinner.

10. Justin asked his uncle to check the spark plugs and change them.

**Antecedents**

The word that a pronoun stands for (or refers to) is called the pronoun’s *antecedent.* The antecedent can come before or after a pronoun.

**ANT PRON**

BEFORE PRONOUN  
As for Ryan, he wants a new bike helmet. [The pronoun *he* stands for *Ryan.*

*Ryan* is the antecedent of *he.*]

AFTER PRONOUN  
For himself, Ryan wants a new bike helmet. [The pronoun *himself* stands for *Ryan,* even though *himself* comes first. *Ryan* is the antecedent of *himself.*]

Sometimes the antecedent is not stated.

**EXAMPLES**  
I will meet you at the library. [I refers to the speaker, and *you* refers to the person spoken to.]

Who is the new neighbor? [The speaker doesn’t know who *who* is.]

Somebody needs to shut the door before the dog escapes! [The indefinite pronoun *Somebody* does not have an antecedent.]

**Exercise C** Underline the pronoun in each of the following sentences. Then, draw an arrow to the pronoun’s antecedent. If a pronoun does not have an antecedent, write *none* on the line.

**Example 1.** Yes, Tim did all the research himself. [*Himself* is a pronoun because it refers to another word, *Tim.* *Tim* is the word that *himself* refers to, so *Tim* is the antecedent of *himself.*]

**11.** Will Rosa be playing first violin tonight, or will she be out of town? [Which word is used in place of another word? Which word is being replaced by another word?]

**12.** The moon has craters on its surface.

**13.** What is black and white and read all over?

**14.** During the ceremony, the president himself cut the ribbon.

**15.** Kangaroos carry their young in a special pouch.
Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns, Demonstrative Pronouns, and Interrogative Pronouns

Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns

2j. A reflexive pronoun refers to the subject and functions as a complement or the object of a preposition.

REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS

I addressed the envelope to myself. [Myself is a reflexive pronoun that refers to I. Myself is the object of the preposition to.]

Give yourself a break. [Yourself is a reflexive pronoun that refers to the subject you. Even though you does not appear in the sentence, it is understood to be the subject. Yourself is an indirect object of the verb Give.]

2k. An intensive pronoun emphasizes a noun or another pronoun.

INTENSIVE PRONOUNS

Dad himself told the story. [The intensive pronoun himself emphasizes Dad.]

The twins made this whole mess themselves. [The intensive pronoun themselves emphasizes twins.]

Notice that reflexive and intensive pronouns take the same form.

FIRST PERSON myself, ourselves
SECOND PERSON yourself, yourselves
THIRD PERSON herself, himself, itself, themselves

TIP If you’re not sure whether a pronoun is reflexive or intensive, use this test:

(1) Read the sentence aloud, leaving out the pronoun.
(2) Ask yourself whether the basic meaning of the sentence stayed the same.
(3) If the meaning stayed the same, the pronoun is probably intensive. If the meaning changed, the pronoun is probably reflexive.

EXERCISE A Identify the underlined pronoun in each of the following sentences. Write REF on the line for each reflexive pronoun and INTEN for each intensive pronoun.

Example 1. The ninth-grade actors played all the major roles themselves. [Themselves is an intensive pronoun because it emphasizes actors. The sentence would still make sense if themselves were left out.]

1. The biggest squirrel kept the best food for itself. [Would the sentence still make sense if itself were left out?]

2. Give yourself some credit, brother. 
1. Juanita reminded herself to drink plenty of water before the soccer game.
2. Actually, the motor itself is fine.
3. My grandfather himself made this chair for Mom many years ago.

Demonstrative and Interrogative Pronouns

A **demonstrative pronoun** points out a person, a place, a thing, or an idea.

**DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS**

- this
- that
- these
- those

**EXAMPLES**

- Tim made **that**. [That points out a certain object in this sentence, so it is a demonstrative pronoun.]
- **This** is Tim’s sister. [This points out a certain person, so it is a demonstrative pronoun.]

An **interrogative pronoun** introduces a question.

**INTERROGATIVE PRONOUNS**

- which
- who
- whom
- whose
- what

**EXAMPLES**

- **Which** is Tim’s sandwich? [Which introduces a question, so it is an interrogative pronoun.]
- **Who** made the sandwich? [Who introduces a question, so it is an interrogative pronoun.]

**EXERCISE B** Identify the underlined pronoun in each of the following sentences. Write **DEM** on the line for each **demonstrative pronoun** and **INTER** for each **interrogative pronoun**.

**Examples**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>INTER</strong></th>
<th><strong>DEM</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. What did you say? [What introduces a question.]</td>
<td>2. This was my first trip out of state. [This points out trip.]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Manuel, isn’t this our homework assignment? [Does the pronoun introduce a question or point out a noun?]</td>
<td>7. What, of all things, is a zeppelin? [Does the pronoun introduce a question or point out a noun?]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Actually, these are rather cool math problems.</td>
<td>9. However did you think of that?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Who let the cat out?</td>
<td>11. Which of them looks better on me?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Yes, those are the boxes for the sale.</td>
<td>13. Whose are these coins on the floor?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Where on earth did you find that, Kyle?</td>
<td>15. Whom has the coach chosen this time?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Relative and Indefinite Pronouns

Relative Pronouns

A relative pronoun introduces a subordinate clause.

### Relative Pronouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relative Pronouns</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>that</td>
<td>which</td>
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<tr>
<td>who</td>
<td>whom</td>
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<tr>
<td>whose</td>
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### Subordinate Clauses

- Hilda is the one who broke the school record. [The clause who broke the school record does not express a complete thought. Who is the subject of the clause, and broke is the verb.]
- The road, which has just been paved, is not open. [The clause which has just been paved does not express a complete thought. Which is the subject of the clause, and has been paved is the verb.]

#### Exercise A

Circle the relative pronoun in each of the following sentences. Hint: The subordinate clause has already been underlined for you.

**Example 1.** That island, which lies off the coast of Maine, is quite small. [Which is a relative pronoun because it introduces the subordinate clause which lies off the coast of Maine.]

1. Is that article about the person who invented the safety pin? [Which word introduces the subordinate clause?]
2. Locate the control key, which should be pressed with S.
3. A valve controls the water that flows into the reservoir.
4. Ladies and gentlemen, here is the man whom you have been waiting for all evening!
5. Wow! Those flamenco dancers must wear out every pair of shoes that they own.

#### Exercise B

Underline the subordinate clause in each of the following sentences. Then, circle the relative pronoun.

**Example 1.** Do you know anyone who can fix a cassette tape? [The word group who can fix a cassette tape is a subordinate clause. It does not express a complete thought, but who is its subject and can fix is its verb.]

6. Wasn’t Belva Ann Bennett Lockwood the first woman who pled cases to the Supreme Court? [Which word group begins with the relative pronoun who and does not express a complete thought?]
7. We studied the architect’s model, which had been constructed of foam board.
8. Tina is the one whom we selected.
9. The boat that has the red sail is theirs.
10. Did first prize go to the science project that you and I liked best?
Indefinite Pronouns

An **indefinite pronoun** refers to a person, a place, a thing, or an idea that may or may not be specifically named.

**COMMON INDEFINITE PRONOUNS**

- all
- another
- any
- anybody
- anything
- both
- each
- either
- everyone
- everything
- few
- many
- more
- most
- much
- neither
- nobody
- no one
- nothing
- one
- other
- several
- some
- someone
- something

**EXAMPLE** Many of the children had read the book. [*Many* does not refer to specific children.]

**Exercise C** For each of the following sentences, underline each indefinite pronoun. Hint: Do not underline a word that is used as an adjective to describe another word.

**Examples**

1. Everything depends on communication. [*Everything* is an indefinite pronoun because it refers to a thing that is not specifically named.]

2. Each word adds **something** to the ability to communicate. [*Something* is an indefinite pronoun because it refers to a thing that is not specifically named. *Each* has not been underlined because it is an adjective describing *word*.]

11. Many of our English words come from other languages. [*Which word refers to some things that are not specifically named?*]

12. Each day, more of these words are added to the language. [*Which word refers to some things that are not specifically named?*]

13. No one knows all of them.

14. Everybody knows some, however.

15. Several came from Native Americans.

16. The Spanish language gave names to some of our cities.

17. Can you name any?

18. The French have contributed much as well.

19. Each of these loanwords teaches us more about the world.

20. The growth of the English language can be stopped by nothing.
Adjectives

The Adjective

An adjective is a word that is used to modify a noun or a pronoun.

Nouns and pronouns name persons, places, things, and ideas.

To modify a word means to describe the word or to make its meaning more definite. An adjective modifies a noun or a pronoun by telling what kind, which one, how much, or how many.

WHAT KIND? Canadian flag, bright clouds, black paint
WHICH ONE OR ONES? this flag, first cloud, those paints
HOW MUCH? OR HOW MANY? several flags, three clouds, no paint

Notice that an adjective can come before or after the word it modifies.

BEFORE
The expensive jacket was in the window. [The adjective expensive describes jacket.]

AFTER
The jacket in the window was expensive. [The adjective expensive describes jacket.]

More than one adjective can modify the same word.

EXAMPLE That Italian jacket is expensive. [The adjectives That, Italian, and expensive describe jacket.]

EXERCISE A
Underline each adjective in each of the following sentences. Some sentences may contain more than one adjective. Do not underline a, an, or the in this exercise.

Examples 1. Several students had inquired about a new shop class. [Several describes students; new and shop describe class.]

2. After a few minutes, he was calm again. [Few describes minutes, and calm describes he.]

1. Who put an empty carton in the refrigerator? [Which word describes carton?]

2. Five goldfish swam around one lonely snail. [Which word describes goldfish? Which two words describe snail?]

3. Those children will run across the playground.

4. A sticky substance had been spilled on the laboratory table.

5. The clear light of the sea dazzled the weary sailors.

6. Get that wet, dirty dog off this clean floor!

7. A dozen elephants seemed happy in the muddy, shallow lake.
8. Few people understand every word in a Shakespearean play, Sharon.

9. Have you ever seen an electric violin?

10. The bay was rough and choppy on the stormy day.

Articles

The adjectives *a*, *an*, and *the* are called *articles*. *A* and *an* are called *indefinite articles* because they refer to any member of a general group.

- *A* is used before a word beginning with a consonant sound.
- *An* is used before a word beginning with a vowel sound.

**EXAMPLES**

- *A* plan has already been made. [*Plan* begins with a consonant sound.]
- *An* earthworm slithered into the dirt. [*Earthworm* begins with a vowel sound.]
- The anthill is like *a* universe of tiny creatures. [Even though *u* is a vowel, the word *universe* begins with a consonant sound. Do you hear the *y* sound?]
- We all make *an* honest mistake every now and then. [Even though *h* is a consonant, the word *honest* begins with a vowel sound. The *h* is not pronounced.]

*The* is called the *definite article* because it refers to someone or something in particular.

**EXAMPLES**

- Unfortunately, *the* apples were green, sour, and hard. [A specific group of apples were green, sour, and hard.]
- Did *the* mailbox have your letter in it today? [The speaker wants to know about a specific mailbox.]

**Exercise B**

Underline all of the adjectives in the following sentences. Include articles *a*, *an*, and *the* in your underlining. Then, draw an arrow from each adjective to the word it describes. Some sentences may have more than one adjective.

**Examples 1.** *A little antique vase stood on the counter.* [A is an indefinite article that refers to a vase. *Little* and *antique* are adjectives that describe the vase. *The* is a definite article.]

**2.** I finally came up with the *answer!* [*The* is a definite article that refers to a particular answer.]

11. Several frogs lived in the pond with some fish.

12. Please raise a hand if you would like to volunteer.

13. Cool and dark were the secret caverns.

14. A furry, little dog barked at us through the screen door.

15. Can you eat with Japanese chopsticks?