

Common nouns and proper nouns

Common nouns name everything that we can see, hear, smell, taste and touch. Common nouns do not start with a capital letter unless they start a sentence.

Example: Some people enjoy climbing mountains.

Proper nouns name specific people, places and things. Proper nouns always start with a capital letter.

Example: Table Mountain is in Cape Town.

1. Choose the correct common nouns and proper nouns from the words in the margin to complete the sentences below.
 - a) My _____ is called _____ and he loves to play.
 - b) Ned's _____ Julia is _____ at her school.
 - c) _____ is the naughtiest boy in our _____.
 - d) I love building huge _____ at the _____.
2. Read the paragraph below. Circle all the common nouns and put a **C** above them. Underline all the proper nouns and put a **P** above them.

beach class
sister
sandcastles
George
Spot dog
Head Girl

In South Africa, the summer holiday is our longest holiday. It falls in December and January. All year we look forward to this long lazy holiday. At Christmas time in December we have braais and swim. We get together with family and friends and we relax and have fun. In Cape Town it is warm and dry but in KwaZulu-Natal it is very hot and there are lots of thunderstorms with rain and even hail. Wherever you are in the country, this is a happy time of the year because it is school holidays and people can relax.

Abstract nouns and collective nouns

Abstract nouns name emotions and things that we cannot see, hear, smell, taste and touch.

Examples: The girl showed great love for her brother.
The fireman is very strong.

Collective nouns name a group of the same type of people or things.

Examples: a herd of elephants
a team of athletes



1. Choose abstract nouns from the list in the margin to complete the sentences below.
 - a) Vusi was in a lot of _____ when he broke his foot.
 - b) I have great _____ for people who hurt animals.
 - c) My parents have always taught us to tell the _____.
 - d) It is important to show _____ to your classmates always.
 - e) There was a lot of _____ when the team won first prize.
 - f) We heard loud _____ from the children outside.
2. Choose the correct collective noun from the list in the margin to replace the incorrect word in *italics*.
 - a) A *group* of players ran onto the field. _____
 - b) I bought my mom a *set* of flowers for Mother's Day.

 - c) We saw a *group* of dolphins swim past the boat.

 - d) A *group* of sheep grazed in the field. _____
 - e) There was a *bunch* of bees buzzing around my head.

 - f) The *team* of singers sang beautifully. _____