

Proper Nouns

You may have previously learnt that **common nouns** are the everyday general names that we use for places, things and people. This worksheet will take you a step further and teach you all about **proper nouns**.

Proper nouns always begin with capital letters and are the specific or personal names that we use to describe places, things and people. They are also sometimes called proper names. For example, the names Tom and Jane are proper nouns because they are somebody's proper name. Florida is a proper noun too because it's a specific place.

Here are a few examples and comparisons to help you understand the difference between **common nouns** and **proper nouns**:

Common Nouns (general names)	Proper Nouns (specific or personal names)
boy, girl	Ralph, Lisa
cat, dog	Tiddles, Scooby Doo
state, city	Florida, Orlando
ocean	Atlantic Ocean
author	Roald Dahl
day, month	Monday, April

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You will see that proper nouns can consist of two (or more) words.

Exercise 1: Label the following words as either **common nouns** or **proper nouns** by ticking the correct box. The first one has been done for you:

	Common Noun	Proper Noun
Bill Gates		✓
computer		
keyboard		
Mickey Mouse		
Disneyland		
castle		

	Common Noun	Proper Noun
cafe		
Burger King		
McDonalds		
car		
Ferrari		
mechanic		

MORE OVERLEAF ...

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Exercise 2: Read the following sentences and then underline the common nouns in **red** and underline the proper nouns in **blue**. The first one has already been done for you.

- (a) The mechanic who repaired our car at the garage is called Dave.
- (b) London is an exciting city to visit. Buckingham Palace is my favourite building.
- (c) "Please take a seat. Doctor Mills will be with you shortly."
- (d) I hope that we have lots of snow in November or December.
- (e) Every Saturday I take my dog, Patch, to Bramble Park.
- (f) The software on my computer includes Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel.
- (g) The nearest supermarket to me is Walmart. It's on Sycamore Avenue.
- (h) I built a model of the Statue Of Liberty out of Lego bricks.

Exercise 3: Try writing a few sentences of your own that contain one or more **proper nouns**. Underline them all when you have finished.
