

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #1

FOCUS Proper Nouns

A **proper noun** is the name of a person, place, or thing. It can be acted upon and is capitalized.

CONNECT TO WRITING

Whenever possible, use specific proper nouns rather than common nouns. A proper noun may be a single word, a group of words (with or without abbreviations), or a hyphenated word.

Capitalize all words that make up proper nouns, except articles (*a*, *an*, and *the*), prepositions, such as *of*, *to*, and *from*, and conjunctions, such as *and*, *or*, and *but*.

Examples: *Josh* was honored person
 at *U.S. Memorial Auditorium* place
 with the *Smith-Lee Award*. thing

PRACTICE

Circle or highlight the proper nouns in the following story.

John Francis left his home in Beatrice, Nebraska in 1941, shortly before the start of World War II. Traveling first by bus to Chicago, he then boarded the *Southwestern Chief* to ride to Los Angeles. At Grand Central Station, John met his sister, Jane, and immediately began looking for part-time work and an apartment. He found employment at Blix Hardware on Western Avenue and a room to rent in nearby South Hollywood.

When war was declared, John enlisted in the army and was stationed at Fort Ord. He played trumpet in the Army Band and was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. The United States was fortunate to have so many young men, like John, serving their country.

After the war in 1945, John enrolled in the University of Southern California, paying his tuition with money from the G.I. Bill. Graduating *Cum Laude* with degrees in Business and Social Science, he continued to play trumpet in clubs all over Southern California. Upon marrying Janice Jones, he took a job at California Federal Savings and Loan and was promoted to Senior Vice-President. He and his wife raised two children, Mark and Robin.

WRITE

Compose your own sentence with person, place, and thing proper nouns.

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet Answers

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #1 Practice Answers

John Francis, Beatrice, Nebraska, World War II, Chicago, *Southwestern Chief*, Los Angeles, Grand Central Station, John, Jane, Blix Hardware, Western Avenue, South Hollywood, John, Fort Ord, Army Band, Staff Sergeant, United States, John, John, University of Southern California, G.I. Bill, Cum Laude, Business, Social Science, Southern California, Janice Jones, California Federal Savings and Loan, Senior Vice-President, Mark, Robin

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #2 Practice Answers

idea: friendship, self-image, freedom, self-confidence, world peace
person: teacher, fire-fighter, cousin, police officer, brother-in-law
place: mountain, neighborhood, country, football stadium, family room
thing: food, toy, rock, lamp stand, grandfather clock

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #3 Practice Answers

“Hello,” said Susan.
“Is this the owner of the car for sale?” the caller asks.
“It, is I,” replies Susan. “Who is calling?”
“The one paying you full price for your car. My name is Marcy. What’s yours?”
“Susan,” she says. “But let me get my husband. Actually, he is selling his car, not mine.
“Suit yourself, says Marcy. Put him on the phone.”

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #4 Practice Answers

Which One? these, that, this, those, certain
How Many? twenty-story, most, dozen, few, thousands
What Kind? juicier, muddy, navel, spicy, loud

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #5 Practice Answers

I know (mental) that he had run (physical) a full mile before, but he might be (state of being) too tired right now. He did walk (physical) a mile yesterday.

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #6 Practice Answers

What Degree: mostly, less, mainly
How: slowly, carefully, easily
Where: everywhere, nearby, here
When: often, one o’clock, later