

Know Your Building Materials!

Nouns

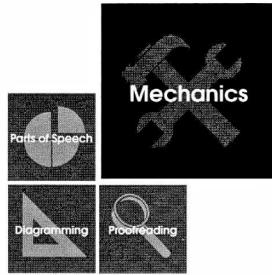
A **noun** is a word that names a person, place, or thing (John, barn, hat).

Draw a line under each noun.

1. A nasty dragon ate the teacher. (2)
2. Desserts should be eaten before vegetables. (2)
3. Barbie and Skipper are annoying. (2)
4. Ask Joe and Jim to come. (2)
5. The Beatles were a singing group. (2)
6. Rich hit the ball and then ran around the bases. (3)

Fill in the blanks.

A **noun** is a word that names a _____, _____,
or _____.



Good Mechanics Are Hard to Find

Avoid Slang

In formal writing, avoid expressions used in speech such as **well**,... or **like**. Instead of slang, choose words that express your meaning exactly.

Cross out slang expressions and replace them with better word choices.

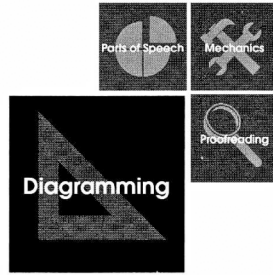
Example: Tarzan was ~~like~~ the ~~coolest~~ ~~dude~~ in the ~~flick~~.

Tarzan was the most exciting character in the movie.

1. Well, he hung out with the monkeys.
2. His lifestyle was totally awesome.
3. His hood was like a jungle.
4. Like, the world is a jungle out there.
5. His buds were animals.

Fill in the blank.

A _____ is a word that names a person, place or thing.



Understand the Structure

Sentence Subjects

Every sentence must have a **subject** and a **predicate**. The **subject** is usually a **noun**. The **subject** is what or who is being talked about. The predicate tells what the subject is doing.

*The **boy** hit the ball.*

In a **question**, the subject often is in the middle or at the end.

*Where is the **hamster** going?*

In a **command**, the subject is understood but not stated.

*(**You**) Go to bed!*

In sentences starting with **There is (are)**, and **Here is (are)**, the subject follows **is** or **are**.

*There are the **girls**.*

Underline the subject in each sentence. If the subject is understood, write it in parentheses.

1. The cat ran away with the hat.
2. Where is the cat going with the hat?
3. The man with the funny hair is going to find that silly cat.
4. Watch out for that cat's claws!
5. Those claws are sharp.
6. Under the pine tree, he lurks.
7. Why am I reading about this stupid cat?



Careless Mistakes Can Cause Big Problems!

Proofreading

Careless mistakes can make the difference between a great paper and a poor paper. Proofreading errors can make a paper difficult to read. Sometimes they can unexpectedly change the author's meaning entirely.

Correct the mistakes in the sentences below. Each line contains one mistake.

My little brother john likes to make a snack when he gets home from schol. He spreads peanut butter on a slice of bread. Then, he puts broccoli in the blender and mashes it too a slimy green pulp. Next, he spreads the disgusting green slime on another piece of bread and makes like a sandwich. Yuck! Does that sound good to you.