

Know Your Building Materials!

Common and Proper Nouns

A **common noun** names a person, place, or thing like **boy**, **bathroom**, and **car**.

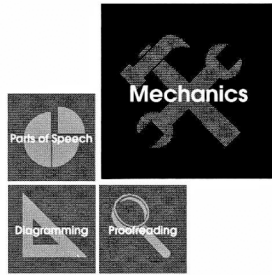
A **proper noun** is the name of a specific person, place, or thing like **Jesse**, **California**, and **Toyota**. **Hint:** Proper nouns are capitalized.

Draw one line under each common noun and two lines under each proper noun.

1. The kids on the school bus were making loud noises. (3)
2. Jenny was using bad language too. (2)
3. The poor driver was unhappy. (1)
4. The kids were going to Skyline School. (2)
5. The teachers were waiting in the parking lot. (2)
6. With all the noise, Betty, the driver, was distracted. (3)

Fill in the blanks.

A _____ is usually an action word.



Good Mechanics Are Hard to Find

Verb "TO BE"

The verb "to be" can be a main verb or a helping verb. Verbs have different forms depending on whether the subject is singular or plural or whether the tense is past, present, or future.

Choose the correct verb form.

1. Roger (**is, are**) at least ten feet tall.
2. He (**is, are**) growing very fast.
3. He (**was, were**) huge when he (**was, were**) born.
4. His brothers (**is, are**) all very tall also.
5. His sisters (**is, are**) all going to be very tiny.
6. There (**is, are**) seven kids in the family.
7. Unfortunately, the boys (**is, are**) not very fond of basketball.

Fill in the blanks.

Singular Present, Past Tense	Plural Present, Past Tense
I <u>am</u> , <u>was</u>	we _____
you _____	you <u>are</u> , <u>were</u>
he, she, it _____	they _____



Understand the Structure

Simple Sentence Diagrams

Sentence diagrams show the structure of a sentence.

The subject of a sentence is placed on a horizontal line. The verb follows and is separated from the subject by a vertical line.

Articles (the, a, an) are placed on a diagonal line below the word they modify.

Frogs croak.

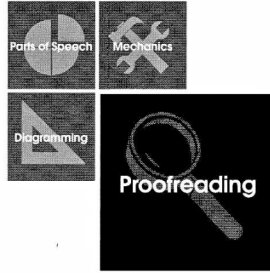
Frogs | croak

The boy is running.

boy | is running
 / The

Diagram the following sentences.

1. Trees sway.
2. Bears growl.
3. A wave will crash.



Careless Mistakes Can Cause Big Problems!

Subject-Verb Agreement

Nouns can be **singular** (cat) or **plural** (cats).

Verbs are also either singular (A cat **runs**), or plural (Cats **run**). A singular subject must **agree** with a singular verb.

In parentheses, write the form of the verb that agrees with the noun.

1. A dog (eat) _____
2. Parachutes (fall) _____
3. Children (swim) _____
4. A coyote (sneak) _____

*Circle the subject and underline the verb in each sentence. If they agree, write **Agree**. If they don't agree, write **Don't Agree**.*

1. The enormous wave loom over the surfer. _____
2. The sand on the beach feels hot. _____
3. The hot dog taste great. _____
4. Frisbees flies everywhere. _____