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## 10.1 Nouns

### Key Information

A **noun** is a word that names a person, a place, a thing, or an idea.

A **concrete noun** names an object that occupies space or that can be recognized by the senses.

carpet      mouse      sky

An **abstract noun** names an idea, a quality, or a characteristic.

surprise      goodness      intelligence

A **singular noun** names one person, place, thing, or idea. A plural noun names more than one.

A **proper noun** is the name of a particular person, place, thing, or idea.

Ernest Hemingway  
Canada      November

A **common noun** is the general—not the particular—name of a person, a place, a thing, or an idea.

writer      country      month

Proper nouns are capitalized; common nouns are generally not capitalized.

A **collective noun** names a group.

jury      committee      herd

### ■ A. Identifying Nouns

Underline all the nouns in the sentences below.

1. Preparation for an athletic event such as the New York City Marathon involves serious effort.
2. A weightlifter must have the capability to lift incredibly heavy weights.
3. Wrestlers wage individual battles but can earn points for a team.
4. Although basketball was invented in the United States, it is now played throughout the world and is a part of the Olympics.
5. Soccer and lacrosse are sports that are gaining popularity in America.
6. A club sometimes sponsors swimmers, golfers, or other athletes in competitions.
7. A group of running events may be held on indoor tracks.
8. A league, such as the National Hockey League, can provide national organization.
9. A committee may judge events such as skating competitions.
10. In any sport only a handful will earn the reputation of a Monica Seles or a Michael Jordan.

### ■ B. Using Nouns

From the sentences above, list five examples of each of the following:

1. (proper nouns) \_\_\_\_\_
2. (collective nouns) \_\_\_\_\_
3. (concrete nouns) \_\_\_\_\_
4. (abstract nouns) \_\_\_\_\_
5. (plural nouns) \_\_\_\_\_

# Grammar Practice

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## 10.2 Pronouns

### Key Information

A **pronoun** is a word that takes the place of a noun, a group of words acting as a noun, or another pronoun. The word or group of words that a pronoun refers to is called its **antecedent**.

A **personal pronoun** refers to a specific person or thing.

A **reflexive pronoun** refers to a noun or another pronoun and indicates that the same person or thing is involved.

A **possessive pronoun** takes the place of the possessive form of a noun.

A **demonstrative pronoun** points out specific persons, places, things, or ideas.

An **interrogative pronoun** is used to form questions.

A **relative pronoun** is used to begin a special subject-verb word group called a subordinate clause.

An **indefinite pronoun** refers to people, places, or things in a general way.

### ■ Identifying Pronouns

Underline all pronouns below. Above each pronoun, write *Per.* (personal), *Poss.* (possessive), *Ref.* (reflexive), *Dem.* (demonstrative), *Int.* (interrogative), *Rel.* (relative), or *Ind.* (indefinite).

1. Never advise anyone to go to war or to marry.—Spanish proverb
2. Admonish your friends privately, but praise them openly.—Syrus
3. Ambition destroys its possessor.—Talmud
4. I pledge you—I pledge myself—to a new deal for the American people.—F. D. Roosevelt
5. Many can argue; not many converse.—Alcott
6. As you make your bed, you must lie in it.—English proverb
7. Everything changes but change.—Zangwill
8. All will come out in the washing.—Cervantes
9. No one reaches a high position without daring.—Syrus
10. The best way out of a difficulty is through it.—Anonymous
11. I'm from Missouri; you must show me.—Vandiver
12. God save me from my friends; I can protect myself from my enemies.—De Villars
13. We set ourselves to bite the hand that feeds us.—Burke
14. He laughs best who laughs last.—English proverb
15. Nothing is sillier than silly laughter.—Catullus
16. What is the city but the people?—Shakespeare
17. If a man bites a dog, that is news.—John Bogart
18. Nothing succeeds like success.—Dumas
19. He who is firm in will molds the world to himself.—Goethe
20. You must look into people as well as at them.—Chesterfield

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## 10.3 Action Verbs

### Key Information

A **verb** is a word that expresses action or a state of being and is necessary to make a statement. A verb expresses time—present, past, and future—by using tense forms.

An **action verb** tells what someone or something does. Action verbs can express either physical or mental action.

He **worked** on the painting. (physical action)  
She **admires** Picasso. (mental action)

A **transitive verb** is an action verb that is followed by a word or words that answer the question *what?* or *whom?*

The chorus **sang** a new song. (The action verb *sang* is followed by the noun *song*, which answers the question *sang what?*)

An **intransitive verb** is an action verb that is *not* followed by a word that answers the question *what?* or *whom?*

The chorus **sang** loudly. (The action verb is followed by a word that tells *how*.)

### A. Identifying Action Verbs

Underline the action verb in each sentence. Identify each verb as transitive or intransitive by writing *T* or *I* in the blank.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Duckbill platypuses pose a scientific enigma.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. They possess flat, rubbery bills, no teeth, and webbed feet.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Mother platypuses produce milk for their young.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Platypuses flop their beaverlike tails.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Platypuses live in rivers and lakes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. They also feed there.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. They sleep in burrows in riverbanks.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Male platypuses usually strike their victims.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Scientists sometimes call the platypus a “bits-and-pieces animal.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Researchers still seek answers to the mammal’s mysteries.

### B. Using Action Verbs

Fill in the blank in each sentence below with an appropriate action verb. In the blank before the sentence, identify the action verb as *T* (transitive) or *I* (intransitive).

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Everyone in the concert hall \_\_\_\_\_ the conductor, who raised his baton to begin the final piece.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The first notes of the symphony \_\_\_\_\_ from the percussion section like approaching thunder.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The audience \_\_\_\_\_ almost breathlessly as the conductor led the orchestra through a very personal interpretation of one of Wagner’s best pieces.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. During the intermission, the crowd \_\_\_\_\_ refreshments.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. After the final piece, everyone vigorously \_\_\_\_\_.

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## 10.3 Linking Verbs

### Key Information

A **linking verb** links, or joins, the subject of a sentence (often a noun or a pronoun) with a word or expression that identifies or describes the subject.

*Be* in all its forms is the most commonly used linking verb. Forms of *be* include *am*, *is*, *are*, *was*, *were*, *will be*, *has been*, and *was being*.

Other verbs that can act as linking verbs include *appear*, *feel*, *look*, *seem*, *sound*, *taste*, *become*, *grow*, *remain*, *smell*, and *stay*. Most of these verbs can also be action verbs.

To determine whether a verb is an action verb or a linking verb, substitute *seem* for the verb. If *seem* can be substituted, the verb is probably a linking verb.

Linking: The leaves **turned** red.  
[*Seemed* makes sense.]

Action: The taxi **turned** the corner.  
[*Seemed* cannot be substituted.]

### ■ Identifying Linking Verbs

Underline the linking verbs in the sentences below.

1. The great frigate bird is the most widespread of the five species of frigate birds on earth.
2. Warm islands located in the Pacific and Indian oceans are the nesting spots of these birds.
3. High, rocky cliffs are the homes of frigate birds.
4. The birds seem happiest on uninhabited islands.
5. For over a year, young frigate birds remain dependent on their parents.
6. Most of the time the young birds stay warm in their nests.
7. A huge scarlet throat sac is characteristic of the full-grown male frigate bird.
8. This sac looks balloon-like.
9. Adult great frigates are marvelous soarers and gliders.
10. In flight a great frigate bird sometimes looks free, like a ragged bundle of feathers floating in the air.
11. Frigates seem happier in the air than on the ground.
12. Frigates appear capable of every kind of airborne movement; their flying ability is amazing.
13. Frigate birds are extraordinary; they are famous for snatching fish from other birds in flight.
14. They can also snatch fish from the ocean's surface; fish are their staple food.
15. People sometimes feel clumsy next to these spectacular fliers.