NOUNS, ARTICLES, & ADJECTIVES

THE NOUN is a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea.

A COMMON NOUN is a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea. These nouns are NEVER CAPITALIZED and always consist of ONE WORD ONLY. Examples:

PERSONS: teacher, man, girl
PLACES: school, yard, city
THINGS: bridge, carrot, building, day
IDEAS: anger, democracy, inspiration* (these are often called ABSTRACT nouns)
(*watch for the “ion” ending - that’s a strong clue that the word is a noun)

A PROPER NOUN is the NAME of a person, place, etc. These words are CAPITALIZED and MAY CONSIST OF MORE THAN ONE WORD; however, no matter how many words are in a proper noun, it still equals only one noun. Examples:

PERSONS: Mr. Jones, Mary, Thomas John Matthews
PLACES: Cranford High School, Anchorage, Alaska, Russia
THINGS: The Golden Gate Bridge, Thursday, The Empire State Building, April 1, 1492
IDEAS: The Theory of Relativity, the Industrial Revolution

THE ARTICLE: There are only three articles; they are A, AN, and THE. They always come in front of the noun they modify. The article A is used in front of nouns which begin with consonants (a tree); the article AN is used in front of nouns which begin with vowels or vowel sounds (an apple).

THE ADJECTIVE: Adjectives describe or MODIFY NOUNS and PRONOUNS. They usually come in front of the noun they modify. Examples are TALL, SILLY, BEAUTIFUL, SEVERAL. For now, all the adjectives you will be studying will be next to the noun they modify. Watch out for PROPER ADJECTIVES, which are adjectives made out of proper nouns (England = English); they always begin with capital letters. Since a proper noun can consist of more than one word (Tim Smith), a proper adjective can also consist of more than one word (Tim Smith's house). If this is the case, then you would mark such an adjective "adj" and use "wings." (See "Elvis Presley's" below.)

We've just learned the NAMES of three words: noun, article, and adjective. Words also do certain JOBS: the job done by articles and adjectives is called MODIFIER. Nouns have five different jobs that they do; we'll learn about those jobs soon.

STEPS TO TAKE:

1. Find all the nouns in each sentence. Write N over the common nouns and PN over the proper nouns. If a proper noun consists of more than one word, write PN over the middle and draw lines (“wings”) over all the words in the noun (see example).

   n
   n
   pn

   EXAMPLE: The teenagers loved Elvis Presley's famous song, “Blue Suede Shoes.”

2. Go back to EACH noun you found and ask “Which?” Any word located next to that noun that answers this question is either an article or an adjective. Write ART over the articles and ADJ over the adjectives.

Which teenagers? the teenagers. the is an article
Which song? Elvis Presley’s famous song. Elvis Presley is an adjective (with wings); famous is an adjective.
Which “Blue Suede Shoes”? It doesn’t say.

art n adj adj n pn

EXAMPLE: The teenagers loved Elvis Presley’s famous song, “Blue Suede Shoes.”
NOUNS, ARTICLES, & ADJECTIVES: EXERCISE #1

NAME:____________________________________________DATE:________________

DIRECTIONS: Write n over the common nouns, pn over the proper nouns (put “wings” [pn] over proper nouns that consist of more than one word), art over the articles, and adj over the adjectives.

1. Every morning at Madison Middle School we salute our nation’s flag.

2. The students stand at their desks and put their hands over their hearts.

3. Some students do not choose to say the Pledge of Allegiance, but it is the custom for those students to stand quietly to show respect for the beliefs of the students who do.

4. In twelve years of school, each boy and girl will say the Pledge of Allegiance on approximately 2,160 occasions.

5. The constant repetition of the pledge often means that students ignore the meaning of this daily ritual.

DIRECTIONS: Mark the nouns, articles, and adjectives as you were instructed above.

1. The young boy was a recent immigrant from the war-torn Central American country of El Salvador.

2. On his first day at his new school in America, he noticed that the students stood every morning, faced the flag, and said words he didn’t understand.

3. By the second week he was able to say the first few words by imitating his fellow students.

4. The boy’s family were happy to live in a prosperous country where the people could work at their jobs and raise their children in peace and safety.

5. By the end of his first month of school, Juan stood every morning and proudly pledged allegiance to the flag of his adopted country.
WRITE THE DEFINITION OF A NOUN IN A COMPLETE SENTENCE.
(You will be tested on these definitions.)

WHICH TYPE OF NOUN BEGINS WITH A CAPITAL LETTER AND MAY CONSIST OF MORE THAN ONE WORD?
Nouns, Articles, & Adjectives: Exercise #2

NAME:________________________________________ DATE:_____________________

DIRECTIONS: Write n over the common nouns, pn over the proper nouns (with “wings” [——pn——] if necessary), art over the articles, and adj over the adjectives.

1. The American flag was officially adopted by the Continental Congress in Philadelphia on June 14, 1777. (Hint: the date in this sentence is a proper noun with wings.)

2. The first flag had seven red stripes and six white stripes to symbolize the original thirteen colonies.

3. In the upper left-hand corner, known as the canton, was a blue field with thirteen white stars.

4. After Vermont and Kentucky joined the union in 1795, the canton held fifteen stars and there were now fifteen red-and-white stripes.

5. In 1818 the decision was made to keep thirteen red-and-white stripes and add new stars to the canton to show the current number of states in the union.

6. Many people believe that our American flag was made by the legendary Betsy Ross.

7. This story is probably not an accurate version of how our nation’s symbol was made.

8. According to the popular story, the young seamstress known as Betsy Ross sewed and helped design our nation’s first flag under the direction of George Washington.

9. Historical records show that Betsy Ross was a real flagmaker, but there is no evidence that she made the first Stars and Stripes.

10. This delightful legend about Betsy Ross gained popularity with the American public at the time of the national centennial in 1876.

WRITE THE DEFINITION OF THE ADJECTIVE IN A COMPLETE SENTENCE.
**NOUNS, ARTICLES, & ADJECTIVES: EXERCISE #3**

**DIRECTIONS:** Write **n** over the common nouns, **pn** over the proper nouns (with “wings” —–pn—— if necessary), **art** over the articles, and **adj** over the adjectives.

1. It is the tradition throughout the entire world to have rules and regulations about the proper method of displaying any country’s flag.

2. During the twentieth century flag etiquette received particular attention because flags have become a prime focus of patriotism.

3. In the United States the anniversary of the flag’s adoption by the Continental Congress in 1777 has been celebrated as Flag Day.


5. Many legal battles have been waged over the so-called desecration of the flag.

6. Political protesters, such as the anti-Vietnam War marchers of the 1960s, may try to dramatize their particular causes by burning the flag.

7. The highest courts in the land usually decide that, since the American flag is a powerful symbol of freedom, citizens should be free to treat it as they choose, even if this treatment causes outrage in others.

8. In one American city, an artist was criticized for displaying the Stars and Stripes in a disrespectful manner as a means of symbolizing his freedom of speech.

9. Other citizens chose to exercise their own First Amendment rights by removing flags displayed in this manner.

10. Flags symbolize deep-felt emotions, and they have become an important means of political communication on our planet.

**LIST THE THREE ARTICLES IN OUR LANGUAGE.**

**WHERE WILL THE ARTICLE BE LOCATED, IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE NOUN?**

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