

Types of Nouns

There are many different types of nouns. As you know, you capitalize some nouns, such as "Canada" or "Louise," and do not capitalize others, such as "badger" or "tree" (unless they appear at the beginning of a sentence). In fact, grammarians have developed a whole series of noun types, including the proper noun, the common noun, the concrete noun, the abstract noun, the countable noun (also called the count noun), the non-countable noun (also called the mass noun), and the collective noun. You should note that a noun would belong to more than one type: it will be proper or common, abstract or concrete, *and* countable or non-countable or collective.

If you are interested in the details of these different types, you can read about them in the following sections.

Proper Nouns

You always write a proper noun with a capital letter, since the noun represents the name of a specific person, place, or thing. The names of days of the week, months, historical documents, institutions, organizations, religions, their holy texts and their adherents are proper nouns. A proper noun is the opposite of a common noun.

In the following sentences, the proper nouns are bold:

The bananas were transported to Jamaica.

Common Nouns

A common noun is a noun referring to a person, place, or thing in a general sense -- usually; you should write it with a capital letter only when it begins a sentence. A common noun is the opposite of a proper noun.

In the following sentence, the common nouns are bold:

According to the sign, the nearest town is 60 miles away.

Sometimes you will make proper nouns out of common nouns, as in the following examples:

The Diary of Anne Frank is often a child's first introduction to the history of the Holocaust.

Concrete Nouns