

Basic Grammar

A Foundational Guide to Proper English

From Nouns to Complete Sentences

English grammar concepts presented in logical steps

Comprehensive explanations of parts of speech

Sentences divided into their component parts

Clear, concise examples for new material

Helpful exercises for all topics

Suitable for third grade and higher

The Traditional Approach
to Learning

Julie Pecuch

BASIC GRAMMAR: A Foundational Guide to Proper English provides clear, concise lessons that teach basic English grammar with simple explanations, helpful tips and meaningful exercises. The book presents English parts of speech in a traditionally structured and easy to understand way with each lesson building upon a previously taught skill.

BASIC GRAMMAR: A Foundational Guide to Proper English

by Julie Pecuch

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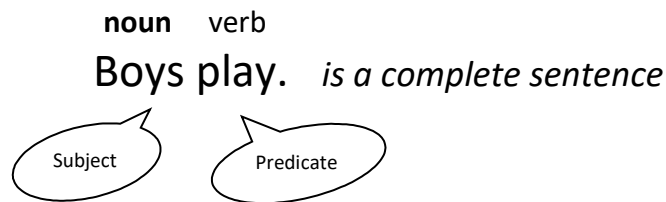
UNIT 1 - NOUNS

In English we speak in **sentences**. The parts of a sentence are called the **parts of speech**. We will cover most of the **parts of speech** in this text including:

- NOUNS
- VERBS
- ADJECTIVES
- ADVERBS
- PRONOUNS
- CONJUNCTIONS
- PREPOSITIONS

You are already familiar with all of these since you use them in your everyday speech. Now you will learn their names and their proper usage.

An English sentence can have any or all of these **parts of speech**. However, **all** sentences **must** have a **subject (noun)** and a **predicate (verb)**.



NOUNS

A noun is a person, place, thing or idea. It is usually something you can touch, see or picture in your mind. There can be one or more than one noun in a sentence.



Exercise 1 - Underline all the nouns in the following sentences.

The girls ran to the house to see the dress.

Many people saw the airplane in the sky.

A kitten climbed up the tree to see a bird.

Some men gather near the camp.

Soldiers marched in the parade.

The swing goes high in the air.

That man sails his boat in the summer.

Which toy do you like?

We like jam on our bread.

I am going to the store.

Did you like the movie?

Yesterday we saw many pretty shells on the beach.

After completing this exercise, go to the end of the Unit and check your answers. If you made mistakes, review the section.

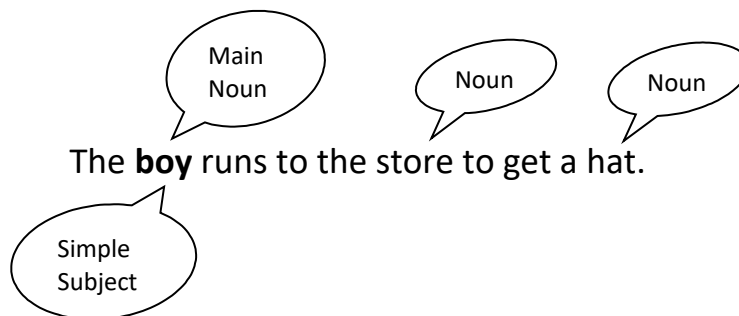
Nouns

Subject of the Sentence

One **noun** will be the **subject of the sentence**.

The **subject** is who or what the sentence is about. The sentence below tells us what the **boy** is doing (*runs to the store*) so the word boy is the subject. The **subject** is the **main noun** of the sentence and is very often the thing in the sentence that takes some action.

The **main noun** is also known as the **simple subject**.



Exercise 2 - Circle the simple subject (main noun) of the sentence and underline all the other nouns:

Will the picture fit in the frame?

A little bird flew out the window.

Does the boy have a ball?

When will the play start?

The pond looks pretty today.

My cup is full of hot tea.

Where is the pretty lady?

Some girls are going to the park on their bikes.

After completing this exercise, go to the end of the Unit and check your answers. If you made mistakes, review the section.

Proper Nouns

Most nouns are called **common** nouns. However, there is another type of noun that names something or someone special or something specific. These are called **proper** nouns. Because they are special, they always begin with a capital letter.

Paul and Tina visited Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

Examples of proper nouns include:

names of persons John Smith, Senator Allen, Pope John Paul

names of places Mt. Rushmore, Washington D.C., Indiana

names of months March, June, November

days of the week Monday, Friday, Sunday

names of books,
TV shows, movies The Bible, The Super Bowl,
Toy Story

Helpful Hint
COMMON nouns are *general*.
PROPER nouns refer to
someone or something *specific*.

Exercise 3 – Replace the underlined words with a proper noun. Answers will vary.

My dog will go to the vet tomorrow.

Rover will go to Dr. Jones Monday.

My neighbor likes to shop at the store near his house.

Our teacher lives in the city.

Does she like the restaurant?

After completing this exercise, go to the end of the Unit and check your answers. If you made mistakes, review the section.

Nouns

Exercise 4 – Write the noun in the correct column. Capitalize the proper nouns.

bicycle	fred jones	florida	wednesday	library	pancake
jerry	holiday	western	star wars	mother	kansas city

common nouns

Proper Nouns

After completing this exercise, go to the end of the Unit and check your answers. If you made mistakes, review the section.

Articles

Although the words **Boys play.** make a complete sentence, the following sentence sounds better in spoken English and is more specific:

article noun verb

The boys play.

There are 3 articles, **THE**, **A** and **AN**.

the used for nouns that are **specific** or **plural** (more than one):

the boy the books the animals

a, an used for nouns that are **general and singular** (only one):

a boy a book an animal

The rules for using articles are:

the Use **the** with any specific person, place or thing *and* **plural** nouns:

the moon the horses the baseballs

a Use **a** with **singular** nouns that begin with a **consonant**:

a mistake a horse a baseball

an Use **an** with **singular** nouns that begin with a **vowel sound**:

an apple an onion an honor (silent h)

Many nouns will have an article in front. Not using an article makes the sentence sound incomplete. For instance, read the following sentences quietly out loud as we take away all the articles:

Many nouns will have article in front. Not using article can make sentence sound incomplete.

You can tell this does not sound correct.

Exercise 5 – Fill in the blank with the best article.

_____ little boy named Bob sat on _____ side of _____ apple tree. _____ tall man was walking down _____ road. Bob asked _____ man where he was going. _____ man told Bob he was traveling to _____ next village to visit _____ old friend.

After completing this exercise, go to the end of the Unit and check your answers. If you made mistakes, review the section.

Types of Sentences

There are 4 types of sentences. They are:

statement

question

exclamation

command

Nouns

Each type of sentence ends in some kind of **punctuation mark**. These marks are:

period (.)

question mark (?)

exclamation mark (!)

A **statement** gives some information and ends in a **period (.)**:

I have a dog.

A **question** asks for information and ends in a **question mark (?)**:

Do you have a dog?

An **exclamation** shows strong feelings and ends in an **exclamation point (!)**:

I have the best dog ever!

A **command** gives an order and ends in a **period (.)** or an **exclamation point (!)** depending on the force of the request:

Bring your dog here. or Bring your dog here!

Exercise 6 – Put the correct punctuation (. ? !) at the end of the sentence.

Will the picture fit in the frame_____

Our cat likes milk _____

Come here right now _____

Do you like broccoli _____

Many people saw the show _____

What a great game _____

Paragraphs

We group together sentences that are related. We call this grouping of sentences a **paragraph**. Paragraphs break up sentences into groups of similar information and make them easier and more interesting to read.

Unit 1 Quiz

1.) Fill in the blanks with the correct words.

Nouns can be a _____, _____, _____ or _____.

The main noun is also known as the _____.

Jose Perez is an example of a _____ noun.

Most nouns are _____ nouns.

The three articles are _____, _____ and _____.

All sentences must have a _____ and a verb.

The 4 types of sentences are _____, question, exclamation and command.

Try to fill in the blanks from memory. If you can't remember an answer, go back over the Unit to find the answer. When you are finished, check the correct answers at the end of the Unit.

2.) Underline all the nouns and articles you find in the following paragraphs.

Pete and his family go to the beach every year. Pete likes to swim in the ocean. He often goes fishing with his brother and tries to catch a fish. He also goes hunting for shells along the shore with the dog. The family brings food and has a cookout by the campfire. Pete and his family love going to the beach.

Many plants start their life as a seed. The seed needs certain things or it will not grow into a plant. Sometimes seeds wait in the ground until they can get the things they need. Plants wait for the heat from the sun. They wait for the rain for water. When they start to grow, a tiny little sprout will push out of each seed. The sprouts stretch up until they poke through the dirt and into the air.

After completing this exercise, go to the end of the unit and check your answers. If you made mistakes, review the Unit.

Nouns

Unit 1 Exercise Answers

Exercise 1 - Underline all the nouns in the following sentences.

The girls run to the house to see the dress. Many people saw the airplane in the sky.
A kitten climbed up the tree to see a bird. Some men gather near the camp.
Soldiers marched in the parade. The swing goes high in the air.
That man sails his boat in the summer. Which toy do you like?
We like jam on our bread. I am going to the store.
Did you like the movie? Yesterday we saw many pretty shells on the beach.

Exercise 2 - Circle the subject (main noun) of the sentence and underline all the other nouns:

Will the picture fit in the frame? A little bird flew out the window.
Does the boy have a ball? When will the play start?
The pond looks pretty today. My cup is full of hot tea.
Where is the pretty lady? Some girls are going to the park on their bikes.

Exercise 3 – Replace the underlined words with a proper noun: Answers will vary.

My dog will go to the vet tomorrow.
Rover will go to Dr. Jones Monday.
My neighbor likes to shop at the store near his house.
Mr. Davis likes to shop at the Walmart near his house.
Our teacher lives in the city.
Mrs. Jackson lives in Orlando.
Does she like the restaurant?
Does Alicia like the Olive Garden?

Exercise 4 – Write the noun in the proper column. Capitalize the proper nouns.

bicycle	fred jones	florida	wednesday	library	pancake
jerry	holiday	western	star wars	mother	kansas city

common nouns

Proper Nouns

bicycle
library
pancake
holiday
western
mother

Fred Jones
Florida
Wednesday
Jerry
Star Wars
Kansas City

Exercise 5 – Fill in the blank with the best article.

A or THE little boy named Bob sat on THE side of AN apple tree. A tall man was walking down THE road. Bob asked THE man where he was going. THE man told Bob he was traveling to THE next village to visit AN old friend.

Exercise 6 – Put the correct punctuation (. ? !) at the end of the sentence.

Will the picture fit in the frame?

Our cat likes milk.

Come here right now!

Do you like broccoli?

Many people saw the show.

What a great game!

Unit 1 Review Quiz Answers

1.) Fill in the blanks with the correct words.

Nouns can be a P E R S O N, P L A C E, T H I N G OR I D E A.

The main noun is also known as the S I M P L E S U B J E C T.

Jose Perez is an example of a P R O P E R noun.

Most nouns are C O M M O N nouns.

The three articles are A, A N and T H E.

All sentences must have a S U B J E C T and a predicate.

The 4 types of sentences are S T A T E M E N T, question, exclamation and command.

2.) Underline all the nouns and articles you find in the following paragraphs.

Pete and his family go to the beach every year. Pete likes to swim in the ocean. He often goes fishing with his brother and tries to catch a fish. He also goes hunting for shells along the shore with his dog. The family brings food and has a cookout by the campfire. Pete and his family love going to the beach.

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