Study Guide for Parts of Speech – Nouns and Pronouns (Answer Key)

**Nouns** - words used to name a person, place, thing, or idea

- **Persons** – Sharon, Captain Brown, hair stylist, swimmers
- **Places** – Iowa, Mexico City, Mars, Antarctica, library
- **Things** – leaf, cartoon, toothpick, rocket, merry-go-round
- **Ideas** – peace, excellence, truth, justice, equality, honesty

- Nouns are divided into two categories: **proper nouns** and **common nouns**.

  **Proper nouns** – names a particular person, place, or thing, and is always capitalized.

  **Common nouns** – names any one of a group of persons, places, or things and is not capitalized.

**Concrete vs. abstract**

- **Concrete nouns** – name an object that can be seen, heard, smelled, touched, or tasted.
  
  Examples: book, bell, flower, sand, apple

- **Abstract nouns** – name an idea, quality, or state.
  
  Examples: independence, curiosity, pride, uncertainty, sadness

**Collective nouns**

- **Collective nouns** – refer to a group of people or things. They are singular in form. It can be used to refer to a group either as a single unit or as a number of individuals.

  Examples: The crew (unit) prepares the stage for the concert.

  When will the crew (individual) test the equipment?

**Compound nouns**

- **Compound nouns** are two or more words that are used together as a single noun. The parts of the compound noun may be written as one word, as two or more words, or as a hyphenated word.

  - **One word** - airplane, sunlight, keyboard
  - **Separate words** – rain forest, parking lot, City Hall, Rocky Mountains
  - **Hyphenated word** – mother-in-law, runner-up, fade-out

  **not** compound nouns – new students, old friends, summer Olympics

- **Why?** New, old, and summer are adjectives used to describe the noun that follows
Possessive Nouns

Possessive nouns – show ownership or relationship. An apostrophe is used with nouns to show possession.

Ownership – the singer’s outfit

Relationship – the singer’s aunt.

Exercise #1: Nouns

Directions: Underline the common noun(s) in each sentence once and the proper noun(s) twice. There are 25 total nouns.

1) Sara is looking forward to school this year.

2) On Monday she registers at Sandwood High School.

3) I am both excited and frightened at the thought of going there.

4) There will be many unfamiliar faces, more work, and larger classes.

5) I have heard that the principal is a fair and understanding woman.

6) She is sympathetic to the needs and fears of new students.

7) She taught United States government in Houston.

8) I think that my most difficult subject will be geometry.

9) Mr. Alvarez was a professor in a small, rural college.

10) He is known for his marvelous sense of humor and clever teaching methods.
**Pronouns** - words used in place of a noun or of more than one noun.

- **Personal pronouns**

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- **Demonstrative pronouns** – point out specific people, places, things, or ideas. They allow you to indicate whether the things you are pointing out are relatively near in time or space or farther away.

  this  these  that  those

- **Relative pronouns** – used to introduce adjective clauses

  who  whom  whose  which  that

- **Interrogative pronouns** – used in questions

  Who…?  Whose…?  What…?  Whom…?  Which…?

- **Indefinite pronouns** – those that don’t refer to a definite person or thing; frequently used without antecedents.

  All  anyone  either  few  much  no one  some  another  anything  everybody  many  neither  one  anybody  any  both  everyone  more  nobody  other  anybody  each  every one  everything  most  nobody  several
Exercise #2: Locating Pronouns in Sentences

Directions: Underline the pronoun(s) in each of the following sentences. (Note: some of the pronouns that you will mark are actually used as adjectives. We will draw an arrow from those pronouns to the word(s) they are describing or modifying if they are actually acting as an adjective). There are 18 total pronouns.

1) Ms. Gates told her to collect the tests.
2) Our ecology project proved challenging.
3) Maria exhibited her model spacecraft at the science fair.
4) The drama coach told the players they would have to rehearse five hours every day.
5) Substitute Kitt’s school supplies for hers.
6) To whom is the principal pointing?
7) It was nice of Jim to invite everyone in the class to his party.
8) Whose bicycle is this? It is not mine.
9) Their car is the same color as ours.
10) Pedro is studying for his law exam; therefore, he keeps to himself.

- Antecedents - The word that a pronoun stands for is called its antecedent.

Example: Emma is going to the store to buy herself some shoes.

   pronoun: herself   antecedent: Emma

Example: Jack opened the book and read from it.

   pronoun: it   antecedent: book

Exercise #3: Locating Pronouns and their Antecedents

Directions: Underline the pronoun(s) in each of the following sentences. If the pronoun has an antecedent, then underline that twice.

1) What is the best way to get good seats for a concert?
2) A long wait in line is an experience that concertgoers are likely to recognize.
3) Someone gets up before dawn in order to be first in line.
4) The seats that go with the tickets turn out to be real disappointments, however.

5) A frustrated fan might well ask himself or herself why this happens.

6) The best way to find out is to ask the ticket sellers themselves.

7) All agree that there is no special advantage to getting to the box office early.

8) Ticket agencies usually give out lottery numbers to determine the customers who get to buy tickets first.

9) As a result, people at the end of the line might get better seats than those at the front.

10) Nothing is more important than luck when people are trying to get good seats.