

I. Parts of speech

Exercise 1:

A. Ten nouns follow. Identify each one as common/concrete, proper, collective, or abstract.

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|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. earth. | 6. flock. |
| 2. Paris. | 7. cigarette. |
| 3. army. | 8. John. |
| 4. misery. | 9. ink. |
| 5. depression. | 10. gravity. |

B. In this passage there are four concrete/common nouns; three proper nouns; two collective nouns; and three abstract nouns. Can you find them all?

The man looked with indifference at the vast gathering of eagles landing on Big Ben. A fleet of traffic, including countless buses and taxis, had stopped in Parliament Square to watch in fascination; but his only interest lay in finding the nearest McDonald's and buying a huge hamburger.

- Four common/concrete nouns:
- Three proper nouns:
- Two collective nouns:
- Three abstract nouns:

Exercise 2:

A. Identify and make a circle around the verb in these sentences. 1–7 are ‘simple’ [i.e. one-word] verbs; 8–10 are compounds [2 or more words].

- 1) The anxious householder telephoned the police.
- 2) The wind’s strength appalled him.
- 3) Hitler was arguably this century’s most evil genius.
- 4) Lightning destroyed the chapel.
- 5) To everyone’s surprise she became the school’s best cricketer.
- 6) The chef cautiously tasted the soup.
- 7) The kitten savaged the ball of wool.
- 8) No one has ever vanquished death.
- 9) She will be returning shortly.
- 10) This result will disappoint him greatly.

B. Provide the correct past participle of the verb given in brackets to make the sentence grammatically accurate.

- 1) Have you [bring] the flowers?
- 2) She had [commit] herself to three years’ of work.
- 3) Where has my car [go]?
- 4) He had [hop] off the field, nursing his injured foot.
- 5) I have [cut] my finger badly.

Answers to exercise 1:

- A.** 1) common/concrete. 2) proper. 3) collective. 4) abstract. 5) **either** abstract (state of mind, mood) **or** concrete (a weather front; sunk place, hollow). 6) collective. 7) common/concrete. 8) proper. 9) common/concrete. 10) **either** abstract (seriousness) **or** concrete (weight, attractive force).
- B.** Four common/concrete nouns: **man; buses; taxis; hamburger.** You could also have **traffic** and **eagles.** Three proper nouns: **Big Ben; Parliament Square; McDonald's.** Two collective nouns: **gathering; fleet.** Three abstract nouns: **indifference; fascination; interest.**

Answers to exercise 2:

- A.** 1) telephoned. 2) appalled. 3) was. 4) destroyed. 5) became. 6) tasted 7) savaged. 8) has vanquished. 9) will be returning. 10) will disappoint.
- B.** 1) brought. 2) committed (note the *double t*). 3) gone. 4) hopped (note the *double p*). 5) cut.