

**Reference Note**

For more information about **capitalizing proper nouns**, see page 266.

4. Motte supported the plan and was glad to help her country.
5. She even supplied flaming arrows and a bow for the attack.
6. Other people might not have been so generous or patriotic.
7. The house was saved after the enemy raised the white flag of surrender.
8. Afterward, Motte invited soldiers from both sides to dinner.
9. This gesture showed that Motte had a generous heart.
10. The colonies and all citizens of the United States are in her debt.

## Proper Nouns and Common Nouns

A **proper noun** names a particular person, place, thing, or idea and begins with a capital letter. A **common noun** names any one of a group of persons, places, things, or ideas and is generally not capitalized.

Common Nouns	Proper Nouns
girl	Kay O'Neill
writer	Octavio Paz
country	Morocco
monument	Eiffel Tower
compact disc	<i>A Long Way Home</i>
book	<i>The Blue Sword</i>
religion	Buddhism
language	Arabic
city	Ottawa

### Exercise 2 Identifying Common Nouns and Proper Nouns

Write the nouns in each of the following sentences. Then, identify each noun as a *common noun* or *proper noun*.

- EXAMPLE**
1. Mark visited an interesting museum in Colorado last month.  
 1. *Mark—proper; museum—common; Colorado—proper; month—common*

**HELP**

In Exercise 2, some nouns are used more than once.

1. Mark and his parents went to the Black American West Museum and Heritage Center in Denver.
2. The museum displays many items that cowboys used.
3. These items are from the collection of Paul Stewart, the man who founded the museum.
4. Mark saw saddles, knives, hats, and lariats.
5. He also saw many pictures of African American cowboys.
6. The museum is located in an old house that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
7. The house once belonged to Dr. Justina L. Ford.
8. She was the first black female physician in Colorado.
9. Mark was amazed by all of the old medical instruments in one display.
10. He said he was glad doctors don't use equipment like that anymore.

### Exercise 3 Revising Sentences by Using Proper Nouns

Revise the following sentences by substituting a proper noun for each common noun. You might have to change some other words in each sentence. You may make up proper names.

EXAMPLE 1. An ambassador visited a local school and spoke about his country.

1. *Ambassador Rios visited Jackson High School and spoke about Brazil.*

1. That painting is in a famous museum.
2. The police officer cheerfully directed us to the building on that street.
3. My relatives, who are originally from a small town, now live in a large city.
4. The librarian asked my classmate to return the book as soon as possible.
5. That newspaper is published daily; this magazine is published weekly.
6. The girl read a poem for the teacher.
7. That state borders the ocean.
8. The owner of that store visited two countries during a spring month.
9. A man flew to a northern city one day.
10. Last week the mayor visited our school and talked about the history of our city.

**Exercise 4** Identifying and Classifying Nouns

Identify the nouns in the following sentences, and label each noun as a *common noun* or a *proper noun*.

- EXAMPLE [1] Lillian Evanti performed in Europe, Latin America, and Africa.
1. *Lillian Evanti—proper noun; Europe—proper noun; Latin America—proper noun; Africa—proper noun*

[1] Evanti was the first African American woman to sing opera professionally. [2] Her talent was recognized early; when she was a child, she gave a solo concert in Washington, D.C. [3] As an adult, she performed in a special concert at the White House for President Franklin Roosevelt and his wife, Eleanor. [4] Evanti also composed a musical piece titled “Himno Panamericano,” which was a great success. [5] Her career inspired many other African American singers.

[6] A few years later Marian Anderson stepped into the limelight. [7] Always a champion of the arts, Mrs. Roosevelt again aided a great performer. [8] With the assistance and encouragement of the former First Lady, Anderson sang at a most appropriate site—the Lincoln Memorial. [9] Like Evanti, Anderson broke barriers, for before her, no other African American had sung at the famous Metropolitan Opera House in New York City. [10] One honor that Anderson earned was a place in the National Arts Hall of Fame.

**Concrete Nouns and Abstract Nouns**

A *concrete noun* names a person, place, or thing that can be perceived by one or more of the senses (sight, hearing, taste, touch, smell). An *abstract noun* names an idea, a feeling, a quality, or a characteristic.

**Concrete Nouns**

photograph, music, pears, filmmaker, sandpaper, rose, Brooklyn Bridge

**Abstract Nouns**

love, fun, freedom, self-esteem, beauty, honor, wisdom, Buddhism

### Exercise 5 Writing Sentences with Concrete and Abstract Nouns

Identify each noun in the following list as *concrete* or *abstract*. Then, use each noun in an original sentence.

EXAMPLE 1. truth

1. *abstract*—People should always tell the truth.

- |                |               |           |           |
|----------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. soy sauce   | 4. ice        | 7. motor  | 9. pillow |
| 2. brotherhood | 5. excitement | 8. health | 10. honor |
| 3. laughter    | 6. kindness   |           |           |

### Collective Nouns

A *collective noun* is a word that names a group.

audience	committee	herd	quartet
batch	crew	jury	swarm
class	family	litter	team

#### Reference Note

For more information about **collective nouns**, see pages 158 and 167.

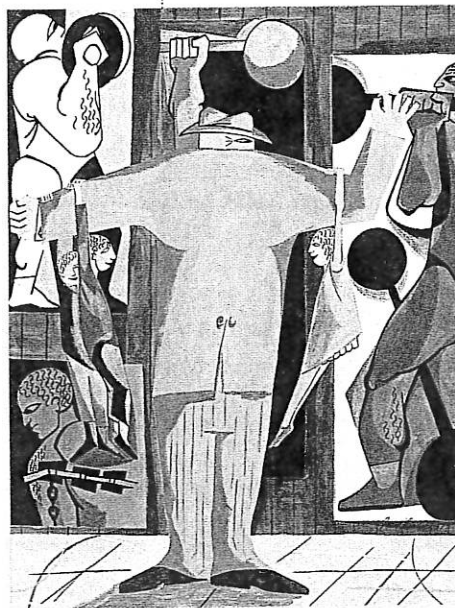
### Review A Using the Different Kinds of Nouns

Complete the following poem, which is based on this painting. Add common, proper, concrete, abstract, or collective nouns as directed. For proper nouns, you'll need to make up names of people and places. Be sure you capitalize all proper nouns.

Meet my [1] (*common*), the really amazing,  
Truly tremendous [2] (*proper*), that's who.  
You can see what [3] (*abstract*) he gives  
The [4] (*collective*) of fans who hang on him  
like glue.

The walls of his gym on [5] (*proper*)  
Are covered with [6] (*concrete*) that show  
The muscled, tussled [7] (*common*) aplenty,  
Who work out there, come rain or come snow.

Eduardo, [8] (*proper*), and I really enjoy  
The [9] (*abstract*) of hanging on tight  
Way above the [10] (*concrete*) and swinging,  
Held up by the muscleman's might.



Jacobi Lawrence, *Strong Man*. Gouache on paper, 22" x 17". Photo by Chris Eden, Francine Seders Gallery.