

Proper Nouns and Common Nouns

How do these two italicized nouns differ?

One *sailor*, *George Ruiz*, jumped from the ship.

The word *sailor* is a general term. It refers to many people. It is a common noun. A common noun is a general name. The noun *George Ruiz*, on the other hand, refers to only one person. It is a *proper noun*. A proper noun is a specific name. *A common noun is the name of a whole group of persons, places, or things.* It is a name that is common to the group. *A proper noun is the name of a particular person, place, or thing.* It is capitalized.

Look at the following examples of common nouns and proper nouns. As you can see, some nouns are made up of more than one word.

Common Nouns

magazine

mountain

cartoonist

game

city

senator

Proper Nouns

Sports Illustrated

Mount Everest

Gary Trudeau

Super Bowl

Burlington

Senator Hayakawa

Exercise :

Make two columns on your paper. Label one column *Common Nouns* and the other *Proper Nouns*. Place each of the following nouns in the correct column. Capitalize all proper nouns. You can avoid columns by listing the common nouns after the word *Common* and the proper nouns after the word *Proper*.

1. holiday inn, motel, seabreeze motel, shores hotel
2. restaurant, diner, burger king, cafeteria
3. singer, lou rawls, album, willie nelson, ballad
4. allentown, town, village, ridgeville, asheville
5. court, judge, judge ellen rodriguez, jury

No	Proper Noun	Common Noun
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Exercises on reported speech

Rewrite the sentences in reported speech. Change pronouns and time expressions where necessary.

1. She said, "I am reading."
→ She said that
2. They said, "We are busy."
→ They said that
3. He said, "I know a better restaurant."
→ He said that
4. She said, "I woke up early."
→ She said that
5. He said, "I will ring her."
→ He said that

Complete the sentences in reported speech. Note the change of pronouns and tenses.

1. "Where is my umbrella?" she asked.
→ She asked
2. "How are you?" Martin asked us.
→ Martin asked us
3. He asked, "Do I have to do it?"
→ He asked
4. "Where have you been?" the mother asked her daughter.
→ The mother asked her daughter
5. "Which dress do you like best?" she asked her boyfriend.
→ She asked her boyfriend

Exercise : Read the passage below and answer the following questions.

Reading Comprehension Practice Questions

1. Questions 1-7.

In the sixteenth century, an age of great marine and terrestrial exploration, Ferdinand Magellan led the first expedition to sail around the world. As a young Portuguese noble, he served the king of Portugal, but he became involved in the quagmire of political intrigue at court and lost the king's favor. After he was dismissed from service to the king of Portugal, he offered to serve the future Emperor Charles V of Spain.

A papal decree of 1493 had assigned all land in the New World west of 50 degrees W longitude to Spain and all the land east of that line to Portugal. Magellan offered to prove that the East Indies fell under Spanish authority. On September 20, 1519, Magellan set sail from Spain with five ships. More than a year later, one of these ships was exploring the topography of South America in search of a water route across the continent. This ship sank, but the remaining four ships searched along the southern peninsula of South America. Finally they found the passage they sought near a latitude of 50 degrees S. Magellan named this passage the Strait of All Saints, but today we know it as the Strait of Magellan.

One ship deserted while in this passage and returned to Spain, so fewer sailors were privileged to gaze at that first panorama of the Pacific Ocean. Those who remained crossed the meridian we now call the International Date Line in the early spring of 1521 after ninety-eight days on the Pacific Ocean. During those long days at sea, many of Magellan's men died of starvation and disease.

Later Magellan became involved in an insular conflict in the Philippines and was killed in a tribal battle. Only one ship and seventeen sailors under the command of the Basque navigator Elcano survived to complete the westward journey to Spain and thus prove once and for all that the world is round, with no precipice at the edge.

1. The sixteenth century was an age of great ___ exploration.

- A. cosmic
- B. land
- C. mental
- D. common man
- E. none of the above

2. Magellan lost the favor of the king of Portugal when he became involved in a political ____.
- A. entanglement
 - B. discussion
 - C. negotiation
 - D. problems
 - E. none of the above
3. The Pope divided New World lands between Spain and Portugal according to their location on one side or the other of an imaginary geographical line 50 degrees west of Greenwich that extends in a ____ direction.
- A. north and south
 - B. crosswise
 - C. easterly
 - D. south east
 - E. north and west
4. One of Magellan's ships explored the ____ of South America for a passage across the continent.
- A. coastline
 - B. mountain range
 - C. physical features
 - D. islands
 - E. none of the above
5. Four of the ships sought a passage along a southern ____.
- A. coast
 - B. inland
 - C. body of land with water on three sides
 - D. border
 - E. answer not available
6. The passage was found near 50 degrees S of ____.
- A. Greenwich
 - B. The equator
 - C. Spain
 - D. Portugal
 - E. Madrid
7. In the spring of 1521, the ships crossed the ____ now called the International Date Line.
- A. imaginary circle passing through the poles
 - B. Imaginary line parallel to the equator
 - C. area
 - D. land mass
 - E. answer not found in article