WHAT IS A NOUN?
A noun is a word that names a person, place, thing, or animal in a sentence. A noun can function as a subject, direct object, indirect object, subject complement, object complement, appositive, adjective, or adverb.

Noun Gender
In English, many nouns are not gender sensitive. Examples of some non-gender specific nouns include: teacher, author, doctor, or nurse. There are some nouns that can be gender specific. Examples of some gender-specific nouns include: actor/actress, waiter/waitress, or steward/stewardess.

Noun Plurals
One would pluralize a noun to indicate a number more than one. Most nouns change to form a plural by simply adding -s or -es to the end of a noun.

- Each grade has at least five classes because there are so many students.
- My neighbor has two dogs, and both like to run back and forth along the fence.

Note: Some nouns are pluralized in different ways. For example, nouns that end in “f” drop the “f” and add “ves,” while nouns that end in “y” drop the “y” and add “ies.”

- In the fall, I love to watch the leaves falling from the trees.
- Traveling has become Susan’s new passion, and her goal now is to travel to as many countries as she is able.

Note: Some nouns are pluralized irregularly. Some examples of these are:

- Mouse > Mice
- Goose > Geese
- Die > Dice
- Ox > Oxen

Proper Nouns
Proper nouns are those that represent the name of a specific person, place, or thing. A proper noun is indicated by using a capital letter. Some examples of proper nouns are names of: people, cities, countries, days of the week, months, institutions, religions and their holy texts, and organizations.

- Monmouth University is located in West Long Branch, New Jersey.
- President Bush is the 43rd president of the United States of America.
- In 2000, Christianity was ranked the largest religion in the world.
- June is the most popular month for a wedding, whereas July is the most popular month in which to have a baby.
A common noun is any noun that refers to a general person, place, or thing.

The University begins classes on September 4, 2007.
Make sure to watch for the signs that direct traffic in and out of the parking lot.
It is important to do your assignments on time in order not to risk receiving a failing grade for the class.

A collective noun is used when naming a group of things, animals, or persons. It is important to recognize when a collective noun is used (versus a singular noun) in order to maintain correct subject-verb agreement.

The class was almost finished writing their essays when the bell rang.
(Here “class” is singular because it indicates a group.)

The police are a vital force in protecting the members of the community.
(Here “police” is plural because it indicates many individuals.)

A concrete noun names something or someone that you can perceive through the use of your senses (taste, touch, smell, sight, or hearing.)

The dog played with the red ball in the grass.
Our teacher let us watch a movie at the end of the day.

An abstract noun names anything which you cannot perceive through the use of your senses.

Justice should be served when a criminal is found guilty.
Our school prides itself on teaching perseverance, integrity, and honesty.