

Nouns in Sentences

Here's a quick way to recognize nouns:

You can put an article before a noun.

the house **an** orange **a** car

► **Articles** are three little words we use often—*the*, *an*, and *a*. We use them before nouns. Use *a* with words beginning with a consonant sound. Use *an* with words beginning with a vowel sound.

the hat **a** hat **the** elephant **an** elephant

Often there are adjectives between the article and the noun.

the little spotted **pony** **a** tall sailing **ship**

A First, underline each article. Then find each noun and circle it. Remember that nouns are words that name something. There may be several nouns in a sentence.

1. An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
2. A penny saved is a penny earned.
3. Where there is a will there's a way.
4. I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree.
5. For want of a nail the shoe was lost.
6. For the want of a shoe the horse was lost.
7. For the want of a horse the rider was lost.
8. For the want of the rider the battle was lost.
9. For the want of a battle the kingdom was lost.
10. And all for the want of a horseshoe-nail.

Some other noun determiners are *your*, *my*, *her*, *that*, and *this*.

B Find the articles and other noun determiners. Then find each noun and circle it.

What is the name of your favorite song? Is that singer performing next? No, this person will be next. You will like her song.

Nouns in sentences are the things we are talking about.
 My **friend Joan** and her little **sister** are at the **beach**.

The subject of a sentence is often a noun. It tells what we are talking about.
 The orange **chair** is new. The oak **desk** is old.

A noun may be used as the object of a verb. It tells what is being acted upon.
 Pass me the **butter**. Did you mail the **letter**?

The object of a preposition may be a noun. This object follows words such as *to, at, from, and for*.
 I'm going to the **store** at the **mall**.

C Find the nouns in the sentences. Circle them.

1. Circle the nouns in this sentence.
2. Mail the letter to your uncle today.
3. I'd like a cup of your famous coffee.
4. The external disk drive on my computer is not working today.
5. Would you like a computer for your birthday?
6. The contestant spun the wheel for the big prize.
7. The wheel landed on the right number.
8. A woman from my hometown won a new car.
9. The consolation prize was a trip to the city.
10. The host congratulated the winners with great enthusiasm.

Nouns can be singular (one) or plural (more than one).
 the thing the essay the schools the ideas

Nouns can be names of specific people or things. We capitalize those nouns.
 Declaration of Independence Robert Smith Mississippi River

D Read the paragraph. Use all the information that you know about nouns. Circle each noun.

Tony, the circus pony, is the main performer in the third act. All of the children love that animal. Tony may be a horse, but he looks as if he enjoys his work. The circus travels all across the United States to every town and village. Watch for the circus to come to your town.