



Common Nouns Explained for 1st Grade

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First grade is such a critical year for a child's reading and writing skills as this is when they learn the building blocks of language. Sure, they already know how to speak, but now they must learn grammar rules and sentence structure to help them put words together on paper.

One of the first grammar rules children must master is the parts of speech. This refers to how words are used in sentences; does the word describe an action, or does it describe a person, place or thing? Parts of speech consist of many different types of words, from verbs to adjectives, and beyond. The simplest first step in teaching parts of speech cover common nouns. These are everyday words that kids use all the time!

What Are Common Nouns?

A common noun is a word that names a person, place, animal, thing, or idea.

Some examples to help teach 1st graders include:

People: child, mom, dad, woman, man, teacher, chef, president, guard, person, etc.

Places: mountain, island, room, playground, basement, attic, school, street, etc.

Animals: cat, dog, monkey, fish, elephant, bear, frog, fly, snake etc.

Things: violin, wind, grass, tree, car, cake, juice, star, moon, sun, rose, etc.

Ideas: sadness, anger, hunger, language, friendship, family, bravery, confusion, sleepiness, etc.

While many people, places, animals, and objects have specific names, it's important to keep in mind that common nouns are general. Because they are nonspecific, common nouns do not require a capital letter.

Common nouns signify classes of those things, such as:

- Academic concepts like reading, science, or math;

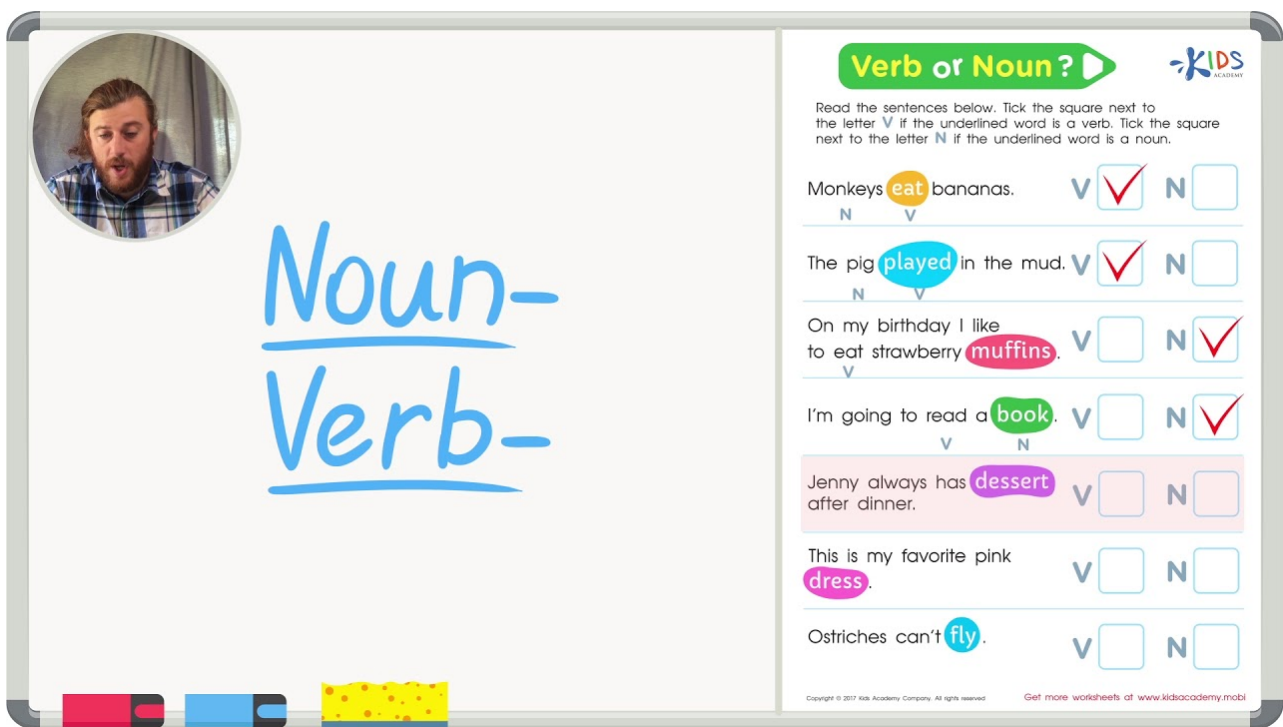
- Unspecific titles, professions and occupations, such as queen, king, doctor, or biker;
- Types of living and non-living things, like dog, cat, house, book, citizen, child etc.;
- Unspecific geographical features and places, like city, ocean, or hill.

Common nouns are one of the easiest grammar concepts to teach because most people or things in their world are nouns! Still, it can be tricky to learn because there are so many different types of nouns.

Common Nouns Learning Activities

To get started, it may be easiest to compare them to other parts of speech, like verbs. Since verbs are action words, it's for learners to spot the difference.

The [lesson](#) below consists of a [video tutorial](#) led by Teacher Mike, as well as two worksheets. In the video lesson, the teacher explains how to solve this [Verb or Noun worksheet](#). Students can follow along and complete it before tackling the remaining worksheets.



Verb or Noun?

Read the sentences below. Tick the square next to the letter V if the underlined word is a verb. Tick the square next to the letter N if the underlined word is a noun.

Monkeys <u>eat</u> bananas.	V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
The pig <u>played</u> in the mud.	V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
On my birthday I like to eat strawberry <u>muffins</u> .	V <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
I'm going to read a <u>book</u> .	V <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jenny always has <u>dessert</u> after dinner.	V <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
This is my favorite pink <u>dress</u> .	V <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Ostriches can't <u>fly</u> .	V <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>

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Watch on [YouTube](#)

All in all, the three things this lesson teaches are how to identify nouns, how differentiate between nouns and verbs and how to sort nouns by categories.

Estimated classroom
time: 10 min

Chapter: Nouns and
Pronouns

Unit: Conventions of
Writing

Click on any activity below to start learning.

1st

🕒 4:00 min



Nouns vs Verbs

Video

2nd

🕒 3:00 min



Count the Nouns
Worksheet

Worksheet

3rd

🕒 3:00 min



Noun Sort Printable

Worksheet

When students are ready for more practice, have them try the “Noun or Verb?” series of [exercises](#). These are quick, bite-sized drills that serve to check if they are on the right track, while solidifying their knowledge and boosting their confidence. Each set of drills are like mini quizzes that offer immediate feedback.

Check: Noun or Verb?

He wears a warm coat. <input type="button" value="Noun"/> <input type="button" value="Verb"/> Is the Word a Noun or Verb?	She will draw a sun. <input type="button" value="Noun"/> <input type="button" value="Verb"/> Is the Word a Noun or Verb?	The dog can run. <input type="button" value="Noun"/> <input type="button" value="Verb"/> Is the Word a Noun or Verb?	He has a blue hat. <input type="button" value="Noun"/> <input type="button" value="Verb"/> Is the Word a Noun or Verb?	We play outside. <input type="button" value="Noun"/> <input type="button" value="Verb"/> Is the Word a Noun or Verb?	I see a green leaf. <input type="button" value="Noun"/> <input type="button" value="Verb"/> Is the Word a Noun or Verb?
We eat lunch at noon. <input type="button" value="Noun"/> <input type="button" value="Verb"/> Is the Word a Noun or Verb?	The cat likes to sleep. <input type="button" value="Noun"/> <input type="button" value="Verb"/> Is the Word a Noun or Verb?	Put your pencil down. <input type="button" value="Noun"/> <input type="button" value="Verb"/> Is the Word a Noun or Verb?	Mom reads a book. <input type="button" value="Noun"/> <input type="button" value="Verb"/> Is the Word a Noun or Verb?	She eats an apple. <input type="button" value="Noun"/> <input type="button" value="Verb"/> Is the Word a Noun or Verb?	He likes to jump high. <input type="button" value="Noun"/> <input type="button" value="Verb"/> Is the Word a Noun or Verb?

Another helpful resource to check your child’s progress is this [Verb or Noun worksheet](#), which allows learners to match the words to the correct part of speech. Use this

worksheet as extra practice in between drills to keep students engaged or use it as a progress check or quiz before moving on to the next concept.

Verb or Noun?

Trace the line to **verb** or **noun**.



**V
E
R
B**

**N
O
U
N**

ate

corn

planted

beans

looked

catfish

turkey

helped



Once your first grader has mastered common nouns and is ready to move on to the different types, check out www.kidsacademy.mobi to find more lessons, worksheets, and drills to level up your child's grammar instruction! Use our web-based [Kids Academy Classroom](#) to create curated classes on different topics and share them with your students!

