

Lesson 5. Nouns and Pronouns

1. A **common noun** is a person, place, or thing. It begins with a lowercase letter.

The **lake** was filled with **boats**.
We ate **popcorn** and watched a **movie**.
The **girl** wore a blue **dress**.

2. A **proper noun** is a particular or special person, place, or thing. It always begins with a capital letter.

Toni lives in **Alaska**.
Melissa and **Helen** are best friends.
The **Great Pyramid of Giza** is located in **Egypt**.

3. A **possessive noun** uses an apostrophe (') to express ownership or show a relationship.

- Add **'s** to make a **singular** or **plural noun possessive**.

Ralph's bicycle is bright red.
The **children's** books are downstairs.

- Add only **'** to make a noun that ends in **s possessive**.

Ms. Woods' grammar lessons are easy to understand.
The **lawyers'** offices are on the third floor.

4. A **pronoun** is a word used in place of one or more nouns.

Sue and **Jake** went to the library today.
They went to the library today.

Ben borrowed **his** sister's car.
He borrowed **his** sister's car.

5. Use a **noun** or a **pronoun**, but not both together, in a sentence.

Incorrect

The **fly** it landed on my food.

Correct

The **fly** landed on my food.
It landed on my food.

6. A **pronoun** must agree with the noun it replaces.

Incorrect

The **mountain** has lots of snow on **her**.
Bob won! We were happy for it.

Correct

The **mountain** has lots of snow on it.
Bob won! We were happy for **him**.

Lesson 5. Nouns and Pronouns (continued)

7. Use the correct form of the possessive pronoun with a noun or by itself. Chelsea is **my** dog.
Chelsea is **mine**.

8. When there is more than one subject or object, put the first person pronoun in the last place (I, me, we, us). Lucinda and I play the piano.
Dad tossed the ball to Pete and **me**.

PRONOUNS

I	their	it	she	we	he	you	my	her	hers
your	yours	me	us	them	our	mine	his	him	they
himself	herself	myself	itself	themselves					yourself

9. **I** and **me** are pronouns that are used in place of your name.

- Use **I** when you are doing the action. I missed the bus.
- Use **me** when you are receiving the action. Nanook brought the bone to **me**.

• To decide when to use **I** or **me**, add an “invisible verb” to the sentence. Saying the verb to yourself will help you decide which word to use.

Beth swims better than ___ (do).
Beth swims better than **me** (do). (incorrect)
Beth swims better than **I** (do). (correct)

• **I** or **me**? When in doubt, leave one out!
Leave out “Jeremy” and then say the sentence to yourself.

The cat scratched Jeremy and ___. (I or me?)
The cat scratched **I**. (incorrect)
The cat scratched **me**. (correct)

10. Use **myself** after you use the pronoun **I** in a sentence. I had to prepare the meal **myself**.
I fixed **myself** a sandwich.
I prefer to walk the dog **myself**.