

## Common and Proper Nouns

A **common noun** names any one of a group of persons, places, things, or ideas and is generally not capitalized. A **proper noun** names a particular person, place, thing, or idea and begins with a capital letter.

**COMMON** pilot, book    **PROPER** Willa Brown, *The Once and Future King*

**EXERCISE A** Underline each common noun once and each proper noun twice in the sentences below.

**Example 1.** My favorite book, *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, was written by Jules Verne.

- Jules Verne must have loved adventure.
- Born in France, he worked on a ship when he was a boy.
- Later he studied law in Paris, but he preferred a career in literature.
- He wrote a popular play, which provided only a little income.
- Verne found a job as a stockbroker, but he also pursued his literary dreams.
- He wrote books about imaginary adventures, such as *A Journey to the Center of the Earth*.
- The public loved these stories and eagerly awaited each new novel.
- Many of his books, including *Around the World in Eighty Days*, have been made into movies.
- These novels by Verne influenced another famous writer, H. G. Wells.
- Wells wrote over one hundred books, including *The War of the Worlds*.

**EXERCISE B** Revise the following sentences by substituting a proper noun for each common noun. You might have to change some other words in each sentence. You may make up proper names.

**Example 1.** That parrot belongs to my sister. Oscar belongs to Lucinda

- Don't forget to take this book to your next class. \_\_\_\_\_
- I would love to travel to two other countries. \_\_\_\_\_
- To get to that city, you need to get on a highway. \_\_\_\_\_
- Before we go to the theater, I should tell my uncle where we'll be. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am learning to speak two more languages. \_\_\_\_\_