

Identifying Kinds of 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 city, monarch

PROPER Boston, Queen Victoria

A **concrete noun** names a person, place, or thing that can be perceived by one or more of the senses (sight, hearing, taste, touch, smell). An **abstract noun** names an idea, a feeling, a quality, or a characteristic.

CONCRETE hat, water, finger

ABSTRACT shyness, fear, need

EXERCISE Identify each underlined noun in the following sentences by writing above it *COM* for *common* or *PRO* for *proper* and *CON* for *concrete* or *ABS* for *abstract*.

Example 1. Have you ever seen a ^{*COM, CON*} blindfish?

- Mrs. Perry was planning a field trip to Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico.
- Parts of Carlsbad Caverns are still unexplored.
- The giant formations produce feelings of awe in many visitors.
- She captured our interest by describing cave-dwelling animals and fish.
- Blindfish live in dark areas such as caves and underground streams.
- A distinguishing characteristic of these fish is blindness.
- They have nerves on their bodies that have a special sensitivity.
- When tiny animals such as amphipods move, the blindfish senses the movement.
- In this way, the fish can find and eat smaller animals without using sight.
- A blindfish may eat its own offspring if it senses their movement.
- These young fish stop moving when they feel something swimming nearby.
- Blindfish may be found in Mammoth Cave in Kentucky and in other caves across the U.S.
- Mammoth Cave is part of the longest known cave system in the world.
- As a result of our field trip to the caves, I developed a desire to learn more.
- I learned that geologists study caves and the stalactites and stalagmites within.
- The Geology Department at Idaho State University has an interesting Web site.
- It contains photos, information, and links to other Web sites about geology.
- All of this fascinating information has increased my enthusiasm and curiosity.
- My cousin belongs to a group of cave explorers.
- Before I join, I will have to conquer my fear of the dark.