

NOUNS

© Joy Goodwin



'How to be Top' English Work Book

CHAPTER 1

• NOUNS

TYPES

- ❖ common
- ❖ proper
- ❖ abstract
- ❖ collective
- ❖ compound
- ❖ noun agent

- Vocabulary
- Idioms/proverbs
- COMPREHENSION (Circe and Odysseus)
- Plurals
- Revision tests
- WRITING – paragraphs SYMBOLISM

NOUNS

DEF: Nouns are naming words – they answer the questions who? or what?

e.g. **Joe** tore open the **wrapping** excitedly.
Who tore open? - Joe
 He tore open **what?** - (the) wrapping.

TYPES of nouns:

- **common** [can be seen or touched – (a) desk; (a) race]
- **proper** [a name (has a capital letter) - Sylvia]
- **abstract** [cannot be seen or touched - noise, smell, love]
- **collective** [word for a collection of items or people - bunch, carton, swarm]
- **compound** [2 or more words joined by hyphens. I grow forget-me-nots.]
- **noun agent** [is a person who does something...writing = noun **writer** = noun agent
 action = abstract noun but **actor** = noun agent]

Exercise 1 Write down each of the underlined nouns and its type.



Joe was a strong swimmer. He dived into the sea from a high rock, frightening a small shoal of silver fish. But, when he surfaced, he was caught in a rip-tide and was powerless to swim back to shore. Fear gripped him as his morning dip became a nightmare. [10]

Exercise 2 This time **identify the nouns** yourself. Write them **and their type** down.

For a moment or two every person was paralysed. Then the crowd broke and rushed for cover, as if an air-raid-siren had gone. In ten seconds, when the Headmaster came out on the steps, the school yard was empty. I was hiding in the bicycle-shed with Ted, Nick and some other boys. I saw the Headmaster examine the broken window very deliberately. (15x2)[30]

Exercise 3 Complete these sentences by supplying **suitable nouns** from the list given. Use each **noun only once**.

lances	argument	secrecy	pattern	mist	widow
idea	attention	instant	audience	sound	drudgery

- a. The horse fell but was up in an _____
- b. Our _____ was attracted by a ripple on the sea.
- c. Queen Victoria wore black for ten years on becoming a _____.
- d. They flash like hurled _____ through the water.
- e. The poor woman led a life of _____ and misery.
- f. We stressed upon him the need for _____.
- g. Could you follow his _____?
- h. At the back of the hall the _____ found it difficult to hear.
- i. It is a _____ often used by dressmakers.
- j. It was indeed a peculiar _____.
- k. The heavy _____ prevented our seeing much of the scenery.
- l. That is an _____ worth investigating. [12]

Exercise 4 Only some of the blank spaces can be filled by a noun. **Fill in only those spaces with suitable nouns.**

- a. The _____ fell in torrents.
- b. Some _____ like living there.
- c. The accident happened one _____ last summer.
- d. He _____ as fast as he could.
- e. I prefer these _____.
- f. That _____ is the one I should like to _____.



- g. My _____ has just bought me a _____.
- h. There were five _____.
- i. Joe _____ his present with great anticipation.
- k. The _____ young girl is Joe's _____.
- l. At last the _____ opened and the men came out.

[10]

Exercise 5 Test your **vocabulary**. The spaces must be filled with nouns beginning with the letters supplied.

- a. He was standing on the e_____ of the cliff.
- b. The world is on the b_____ of war.
- c. This house is at your d_____ while you are in Cape Town.
- d. At first g_____ the house does not look impressive.
- e. They were unable to keep their attackers at b_____ for long.
- f. The escaped convict was still at l_____.
- g. I was confused and at a complete l_____ for words.
- h. A visiting team is always at a d_____.
- i. As a r_____ of the wash-away, all trains are behind schedule.
- j. It pays to be on good t_____ with your neighbours.

[10]

Exercise 6 Do you know these **idioms/proverbs**? Complete them by supplying the **missing noun** in each.

- a. He always sits on the _____ (He avoids taking sides.)
- b. He resigned at short _____ (He gave very little warning.)
- c. He has a medical check-up once in a blue _____ (very rarely.)
- d. Life is not always a bed of _____ (not always pleasant.)
- e. He organized a charity run off his own _____ (entirely unaided.)



[5]

Collective Nouns

Here is a list of some **collective nouns**.



sheep/birds - flock
whales - pod
oxen (in harness) - team
players - team
beautiful girls - bevy
actors - company
peacocks – muster
puppies - litter
sailors – crew
servants - staff
workmen/thieves – gang
pictures – collection
wild animals – menagerie
flowers – bunch/bouquet
lots of trees – forest
islands – group/archipelago
geese - gaggle

fish (in the sea) - shoal
fish (in a net) - catch/haul
bees/locusts - swarm
ants – nest/colony
monkeys - troop
dancers - troupe
disorderly people - mob
kittens - kindle
soldiers – army/regiment/troop
people in church – congregation
company directors – board
poems – anthology
eggs – clutch
warships – convoy
wood/hay – stack
machine-guns – nest
apples – box

porpoises - school
cattle - herd
bananas - hand
wolves - pack
lions - pride
angels - host/choir
savages - horde
cats – clowder
ships - fleet
Judges - bench
books – library
pearls – rope/string
chickens – brood
trees – clump
bread – batch
mountains – range
potatoes - pocket

Exercise 7 Complete the following expression using these **collective nouns**:

bundle	shoal	fleet	troupe	flight	litter	pack
string	chest	sheaf	swarm	suite	pocket	clutch

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|---------------------|
| a. | a _____ of locusts | h. | a _____ of puppies. |
| b. | a _____ of sticks. | i. | a _____ of steps. |
| c. | a _____ of rooms. | j. | a _____ of beads. |
| d. | a _____ of wheat. | k. | a _____ of fish. |
| e. | a _____ of drawers. | l. | a _____ of ships. |
| f. | a _____ of dancers. | m. | a _____ of eggs. |
| g. | a _____ of oranges | n. | a _____ of cards. |

Comprehension Practice

Circe the Enchantress – the story tells of one of Odysseus’ adventure.

After his terrible adventure with the ogres, Odysseus had only one ship left of the twelve with which he had set sail from Troy. He was quite lost but a wind from the north carried him into warm and sunny seas and to a beautiful island called Aeaëa. He divided his men into two bands of twenty each and they cast lots as to which band should set out to explore the island. The band which drew the lot was led by one of the bravest of his companions, Eurylochus.

He and his men went through a wood and came to a beautiful palace where they were met by wolves and lions who were wagging their tails and jumping up like friendly dogs or cats. They would have turned back, feeling they had come to a place of enchantment, but they heard a sweet voice singing, which seemed to draw them inside. But Eurylochus hid outside the palace and waited to see what would happen to his companions. A beautiful enchantress called Cice met them at the door and made them welcome. She led them into the dining hall and gave them a wonderful meal of cheese and honey and barley and the strong, sweet



Pramnian wine, fiery and dark – but in it she had mixed a magic drug. When they had drunk, Circe touched each one of them with her wand, and at once they were turned into pigs, which she drove outside and shut in a sty.

When he saw this, Eurylochus fled weeping back to Odysseus and told him all that he had seen. The rest of the Ithacans were filled with fear and wanted to board their ship and sail away at full speed but Odysseus would not leave his enchanted followers without making some attempt to save them. He girded his sword, took his bow and a quiver of arrows and set off for the palace of Circe the enchantress. As he went through the wood, Hermes, the messenger of the gods and son of Zeus, stopped him.

“Odysseus, without help you cannot overcome this beautiful witch or save your companions from her evil spells. Zeus has sent me to give you this magic herb. When Circe gives you her cup of wine to drink, squeeze this into it and the drug will have no effect on you.”

Hermes sped back to Olympus on his winged sandals and Odysseus went forward full of hope to the palace of Circe. She met him at the door, greeted him kindly and led him to the table where she waited upon him, heaping his plate with delicious food and filling his cup with Pramnian wine. Odysseus managed to squeeze the magic herb into the wine before he drank it. When he had drained the cup, Circe touched him with her wand and said, “Now go to the sty and rest there for ever with your comrades.”

But Odysseus did not change a hair. Instead, he drew his sword and sprang at Circe as if eager to slay her. She sank to the ground and clasped his knees, saying, “Who are you that you could drink the charm and take no hurt? You must be Odysseus whom Hermes has often told me will come to this island on his way home from Troy. Forget all else and stay here and be my love.”

Scroll down for the questions

Questions

1. Odysseus chose Eurylochus and his band of men to explore the island because Eurylochus was the bravest of his men. Why did he need to be brave? (2)
2. How many ships had Odysseus set sail from Troy with? (1)
3. He was left with one ship. What do you think happened to the rest of them? (2)
4. Do you think Eurylochus was braver than Odysseus? Explain your answer. (3)
5. Find a **synonym** for *enchantress* in this passage. (1)
6. Do you think that this was the first time Circe had turned men into animals? Explain your answer. (3)
7. Why do you think Hermes sped back to Olympus (Mt Olympus)? (1)
8. What evidence is there in this story that Odysseus did not land on this island by accident, that Zeus, king of the gods, had brought him to the island to test him? (2)
9. Find a **synonym** for *charms* in this passage. (1)
10. Provide a **synonym** (not in this passage) for *pigs*. (1)
11. Find **3 abstract nouns** in this passage. (3)

[20]

PLURALS

RULES

- Most nouns plurals --- s [toy(s), valley(s), way(s), ghost(s) house(s)]
- Nouns ending in **s, sh, ch, x, z** -----es [bus(es), class(es), bush(es), coach(es), tax(es), fizz(es)]
- Nouns ending in a **consonant + y** -----ies [baby - babies, pony – ponies, fly – flies, lady – ladies]
- Nouns ending in **f or fe** -----ves [calf – calves, sheaf – sheaves, knife – knives] **Except** proofs, beliefs, sheriffs.
- Nouns ending in **o** ---- oes [cargoes, heroes, potatoes, tomatoes] **Except** pianos, sopranos.
- **Unusual** changes – [foot – feet, goose – geese, mouse - mice, louse – lice, man – men, woman – women, child – children, ox – oxen, tooth – teeth, criterium – criteria, index – indices, radius – radii, analysis – analyses, crisis – crises, stimulus – stimuli, syllabus – syllabi, person – people etc.]
- **Nouns with no singular** [trousers, fish, sheep, buck, money, sugar, rand, pliers, billiards, scissors, tongs etc.]
- **Compound nouns** [mothers-in-law, passers-by, spoons-full, cups-full] **BUT** mouthfuls, godmothers.

Exercise 8 Give the plurals of:

- a. duty _____
 b. niece _____
 c. fortnight _____
 d. actress _____
 e. gulf _____
 f. mosquito _____
 g. tablespoon-full _____
 h. loaf _____
 i. enquiry _____
 j. dormouse _____

- k. piano _____
 l. crisis _____
 m. reply _____
 n. joy _____
 o. ruby _____
 p. policewoman _____
 q. passer-by _____
 r. volcano _____
 s. syllabus _____
 t. radius _____



[20]

How much have you learnt and remembered?
Revision Test [40]

1. Identify the **types of nouns** that have been underlined.

The a) Gilmers took their b) children to the c) fun-fair last d) Monday. They all joined the e) queue of f) people at the g) ticket-office for the h) merry-go-round, hoping they would not have a long i) wait for their j) turn to ride on it.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>a. _____</p> <p>b. _____</p> <p>c. _____</p> <p>d. _____</p> <p>e. _____</p> | <p>f. _____</p> <p>g. _____</p> <p>h. _____</p> <p>i. _____</p> <p>j. _____</p> |
|---|---|

2. Give the **collective nouns** for each of the following:

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| a. thieves | f. potatoes | k. actors | p. cubs |
| b. singers | g. warships | l. girls | q. directors |
| c. poems | h. locusts | m. monkeys | r. ships |
| d. whales | i. birds | n. islands | s. geese |
| e. carrots | j. dancers | o. fish | t. sailors |

[20]

- | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| a. _____ | h. _____ | o. _____ |
| b. _____ | i. _____ | p. _____ |
| c. _____ | j. _____ | q. _____ |
| d. _____ | k. _____ | r. _____ |
| e. _____ | l. _____ | s. _____ |
| f. _____ | m. _____ | t. _____ |
| g. _____ | n. _____ | |

3. Give the **plurals** of:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------|
| a. half | f. donkey |
| b. goose | g. ox |
| c. guess | h. crisis |
| d. father-in-law | i. enemy |
| e. echo | j. Eskimo |

[10]

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| a. _____ | e. _____ |
| b. _____ | f. _____ |
| c. _____ | g. _____ |
| d. _____ | h. _____ |
| | i. _____ |
| | j. _____ |

