



Grammar I – Syllabus

Course Description: This course will introduce students to the first three parts of speech: nouns, pronouns, and verbs. Students will also be introduced to the three main verb tenses—present, past, and future—and their different forms. Finally, students will use their knowledge of nouns and verbs to learn about simple sentence structure.

Course Outline:

Week One: Nouns

- A. Concrete & Abstract Nouns
- B. Common Nouns
- C. Proper Nouns

Week Two: Nouns & Pronouns

- A. Nouns: Plural & Possessive
- B. Pronouns: Nominative & Possessive

Week Three: Action Verbs & Linking Verbs

Week Four: Helping Verbs & Simple Verb Tenses

Week Five: Simple Continuous Verb Tenses

Week Six: Perfect Verb Tenses

Week Seven: The Sentence

Week Eight: Final Review



Grammar I – Grading Outline

All grammar classes will be graded based on the number of answers in each assignment. Assignments will not be graded on creativity or writing skills, as most of the assignments are technical. Assignments will be graded similar to a test or quiz. For example, if a student must underline ten nouns in an assignment and misses two, the student would receive an 80% on that assignment.

As there are numerous assignments in each lesson, the total number of required answers per lesson will be added up. Any incorrect answers will be subtracted from the score, and the grade will be given accordingly. For example, if there are 50 answers in a lesson, and a student misses 4, the grade is as follows:

$$50 - 4 = 46 \text{ points}$$

$$46/50 = 92\%$$

Course Components	Percentage of Final Grade
Weekly Assignments	70%
Final Test	30%

EXAMPLE

assignment grades: 70, 80, 90, 75, 87, 92, 94, 86 = 84%

average test grade: 94 %

$$.84 \times 70 = 58.8$$

$$.94 \times 30 = 28.2$$

FINAL GRADE: 87%



Grammar I

Lesson One: Nouns

SAMPLE LESSON

The English language has eight parts of speech. We will begin with the **noun**. What is a noun? ***A noun names a person, place, thing, or idea.***

ABSTRACT & CONCRETE NOUNS –

We can separate nouns into two main groups: **concrete nouns** and **abstract nouns**.

Concrete nouns are nouns that we can touch with our hands, see with our eyes, smell with our nose, hear with our ears, or taste with our tongue. In other words, we use one or more of our five senses to experience the concrete noun.

Think about a cake. You can see the cake with your eyes, smell it with your nose, taste it with your tongue, and touch it with your hands. The cake may be chocolate with green frosting that smells like peppermint. When you touch it, the frosting is sticky and the cake is soft. If you put a bite of cake in your mouth, you can taste the chocolate and peppermint flavors mixed together. *Cake* is a concrete noun.

How about a drum? You can see the drum with your eyes, hear it with your ears, and touch it with your hands. The drum may be big and painted red. If you hit it with a stick, it will make a loud noise. When you touch it, you realize it is very heavy because it is so big. *Drum* is a concrete noun.

The other type of noun is an abstract noun. This is a noun that we cannot see, hear, feel, touch, or taste.

Happiness is an example of this. We cannot see, hear, smell, touch, or taste happiness. It is an idea or a concept. You cannot say what color happiness is or what it tastes like. If you tried to touch happiness, you would have a very hard time doing that because there is nothing to touch. Does happiness have a smell? No. *Happiness* is an abstract noun.

Freedom and *liberty* are two other examples of abstract nouns. Abstract nouns do not have color, sound, taste, etc.

Assignment 1A: Write whether each noun below is a concrete noun or an abstract noun. Write C for concrete nouns and A for abstract nouns.

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1. ice cream | 6. peace | 11. bed |
| 2. excitement | 7. socks | 12. bravery |
| 3. tractor | 8. fear | 13. pencil |
| 4. flower | 9. cat | 14. book |
| 5. computer | 10. friendship | 15. faith |

Assignment 1B: Write down five concrete nouns and five abstract nouns. Remember to ask yourself if you use one or more of your five senses (sight, smell, sound, taste, or touch) to experience the noun.

CONCRETE NOUNS:	ABSTRACT NOUNS:
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

COMMON NOUNS –

You can categorize nouns by abstract and concrete. But, there is also another way to categorize nouns: **common nouns** and **proper nouns**. We will start by naming some nouns:

mother	mailman	summer	playground	toy
bicycle	dog	uncle	fireman	kitchen
zoo	car	paper	tree	pumpkin

Notice that these nouns do not start with a capital letter. ***That is because they are not naming a specific person, place, thing, or idea.*** We call these types of nouns **common nouns or improper nouns**. ***We use common nouns when we are not referring to something by a specific name.***

For example, all of the underlined words in these sentences are common nouns:

A mother takes care of her children.

A playground can be very big.

A car has four tires.

A fireman puts out fires.

A dog barks.

The toy is old.

The kitchen needs to be cleaned.

The tree will be cut down.

The summer is hot.

The mailman brings letters.

In these sentences, none of the nouns listed have a specific name. They are **common nouns**.

Assignment 1C: Underline the common nouns in the following sentences. Some sentences contain only one common noun, while other sentences contain two common nouns.

1. The child played in the rain.

2. They had a box of candy.

3. The bed was soft.

4. He wears a red shirt.

5. The tree is tall.

6. A cat hunts mice.

7. The road was long.

8. The shoes were small.

9. The table was set for dinner.

10. She wanted a doll.

11. The cup fell from the counter.

12. The family moved into their home.

13. The computer ran slowly.

14. The bookshelf is full of books.

15. My mother is beautiful.

16. The clock is brown.

PROPER NOUNS –

In the previous section, we talked about common or improper nouns. These were nouns that did not have a specific name.

But, what if we decided to talk about a specific person, place, or thing? What kind of noun would that be? That would be a **proper noun**. ***A proper noun is a noun with a specific name.*** It is important to know that ***a proper noun always begins with a capital letter.***

Here are some examples of proper nouns:

Saturday	Mr. Watson	Zach	Amy	Highland Park
Texas	Nile River	Fido	France	Monday
Mary	Bell Theater	Boston	Australia	June

The following categories are always proper nouns.

1. Names of people and pets:

Mrs. Edwards	David	Snoopy	Garfield
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2. Names of places and buildings:

Madrid, Spain	Main Street	Washington Monument
Lake Ontario	Alaska	Pacific Ocean

3. Names of books, movies, newspapers, and magazines:

Charlotte's Web	Toy Story	The Orlando Times
Highlights	Monsters, Inc.	

4. Names of holidays, days of the week, and months:

Christmas	Sunday	April
Memorial Day	Thanksgiving	Friday

5. Names of languages:

Spanish	English	French	Italian
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6. Names of companies and brand names:

Google	Pepsi	Nike	Apple
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7. Titles of people when used in front of their names:

President Lincoln
Judge Peterson

King George
Prince William

Captain Hook
Doctor McNeish

But do not capitalize these titles when used alone. For example:

- “My uncle is a judge for the county.”
- “The doctor returned my phone call.”

8. Names of religions:

Baptist Protestant Jewish Catholic

SOME CONFUSING NOUNS –

Two groups of nouns that can be confusing when it comes to capitalizing them are the seasons (spring, summer, fall, and winter) and directions (north, south, east, west).

- The general rule for seasons is that you do not capitalize them unless they start a sentence or are part of the name of an event such as the "Winter Olympics."
- The rule for directions is also easy. If you are referring to a specific part or location of the country (such as the South, the Northwest, the East), then you should capitalize the noun. But, if you are just referring to a general direction, then do not capitalize the noun (such as *north of town*, *southeast of my house*, *go west on Woolridge Rd.*).

Assignment 1D: Write whether the following nouns are common (C) or proper (P). Correct the capitalization of the proper nouns.

1. mississippi river

2. the cat

3. the house

4. chinese

5. the kitchen

6. susan

7. winter

8. monday

9. protestant

10. the south
11. the road

12. lake erie

13. pepsi

14. king edwards

15. north

16. the summer olympics

17. the phone

18. taylor

19. australia

20. doctor

Assignment 1E: Write ten common nouns and ten proper nouns of your own.

COMMON NOUNS	PROPER NOUNS
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.
7.	7.
8.	8.
9.	9.
10.	10.