**Grammar: Common and Proper Nouns**

A common noun is a word that identifies a person, animal, place, thing, or idea.

A common noun is not capitalized.

Examples: teacher, park, car, desk, cloud, dog.

A proper noun is a noun that refers to specific person, place, animal or thing.

Proper nouns have two distinct features:

1. They name specific one-of-a-kind items

2. They begin with capital letters, no matter where they occur within a sentence.

Examples: Miss Jones, Vancouver Canucks, Stanley Park, Port Coquitlam, Pepsi, Starbucks.

Remember that all [nouns](http://www.gingersoftware.com/content/grammar-rules/nouns/) are words naming people, animals, places, things, and ideas.

Every noun can be further classified as either common or proper.

Proper nouns are specific and unique, while the common nouns are much more general in nature.

1. ***Common noun****: I want to be a* ***writer****.*

***Proper noun****:* ***Kenneth Oppel*** *wrote many books.*

1. ***Common noun****: I’d like to adopt a* ***dog****.*

***Proper noun****:* ***Stella*** *is the cutest puppy ever.*

1. ***Common noun****: Would you like a* ***cookie****?*

***Proper noun****: I’m craving* ***Oreos****.*

1. ***Common noun****: Let’s go to the* ***city****.*

***Proper noun****: Let’s go to* ***Vancouver****.*

1. ***Common noun****: My* ***teacher*** *starts spelling next week.*

***Proper noun****:* ***Miss Jones*** *loves teaching science.*







