



# Growing Your Grammar Skills

**Understanding Parts of Speech**

**Grades  
4-6**



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# *Nouns*

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A *noun* names something.

love, water, Mississippi River, number, brother, New York, computers, boundary, thrill, player, book

Germany, arithmetic, basketball, neighborhood, school, homes, castle, Derek, music, peanuts, city

dog, teacher, space, canoe, freedom, George Washington, happiness, Mr. Johnson, group, friendship, guitar



As you can see, all of the examples have something in common: They all are *people*, *places*, *things*, or *emotions*.

## People

George Washington, Mr. Johnson, teacher

## Places

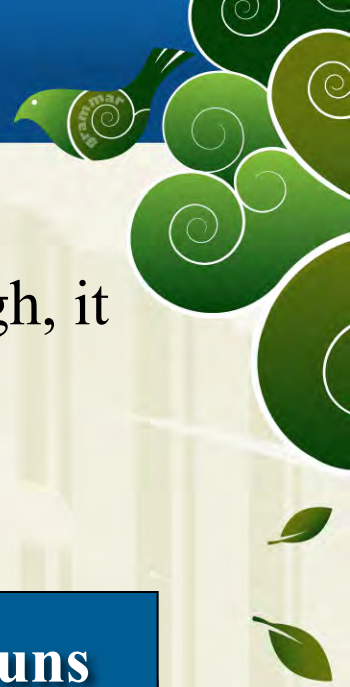
New York, Germany, Mississippi River

## Things

canoe, number, freedom

## Emotions

thrill, love, happiness



A noun that does not begin with a capital letter is called a ***common noun***. If a noun begins with a capital letter, though, it is called a ***proper noun***.

## Some Common Nouns from the List

brother  
water  
city  
teacher

## Some Proper Nouns from the List

Derek  
Mississippi River  
New York  
Mr. Johnson



# *Pronouns*

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**Understanding Parts of Speech**



What's wrong with this sentence?

**Henry gave Ann and Ann's twin sister Annette a birthday card, but Ann said to Henry that Ann and Ann's twin sister Annette's birthday was next week.**

There are too many repeated names in the sentence. It sounds awful!





Wouldn't the sentence sound better like this?

Henry gave Ann and **her** twin sister Annette a birthday card, but Ann said to **him** that **their** birthday was next week.

Of course it would! What happened was to replace the people's names with pronouns. *Pronouns* take the place of nouns.