Nouns

Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:
- Identify nouns that name people, places, animals, and things.
- Sort nouns by what they name: people, places, animals, or things.

Preparation

Materials Needed
- Chart paper and markers
- Self-stick notes
- Nouns (BLM 4)
- Interactive whiteboard resources

Advanced Preparation

If you will not be using the interactive whiteboard resources, copy the Nouns chart, modeling text (without underlining), and practice text onto chart paper prior to the mini-lesson.

1. Focus

Explain Nouns

Say: Nouns are words that writers use to name people, places, animals, or things. A complete sentence will usually include at least one noun. For example, the words Jimmy and boy are both nouns that name people. The words California and school are both nouns that name places; the words dog and cat are nouns that name animals; the words book and tree are nouns that name things. Nouns that name specific people, places, or things—such as the words Jimmy and California—begin with capital letters. These are called proper nouns. Other nouns—such as the words boy and book—do not begin with capital letters. Writers of informational reports use both types of nouns in their writing.

Display the following chart on chart paper or by using the interactive whiteboard resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People</th>
<th>Places</th>
<th>Animals</th>
<th>Things</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy boy</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>dog</td>
<td>book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sargasso Sea</td>
<td>school</td>
<td>cat</td>
<td>tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Ocean</td>
<td>North America</td>
<td>eels</td>
<td>water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>coast</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example Nouns Chart

Model Identifying and Sorting Nouns

Display the modeling text (without underlining) on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources. Read the text aloud to students.

These eels are born in the Sargasso Sea. The Sargasso Sea is located in the Atlantic Ocean. The tiny eels float in the water for a year. When they reach the coast of North America the eels begin to grow and change.

Modeling Text

Say: As I read this paragraph, I notice several words that are nouns. When I see a noun I’m going to underline it. The word eels is a noun because it’s the name of an animal. The phrase Sargasso Sea is the name of a place, so it’s a noun. This noun names a specific sea, so it is capitalized. It’s a proper noun, and both words are part of the one name. The writer of this report wants to make sure I know which animals the report is talking about and where they live. Read the rest of the paragraph, underlining each noun. Then model writing each underlined noun in the correct category on the Nouns chart.
2. Rehearse

Practice Identifying Nouns

Display the practice text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources.

These marine mammals swim in the cold water near the North Pole. The Arctic Sea is filled with shrimp and tube worms. But the sea gets colder as summer comes to an end.

Practice Text

Ask students to work with a partner to read the practice text and identify the regular nouns and proper nouns in the sentences.

If your class includes English learners or other students who need support, use “Strategies to Support ELs.”

Share and Sort Nouns

Invite students to share the nouns they found. Discuss their responses by asking the following questions:

- What kind of nouns did you find? Give an example.
- Which nouns were proper nouns that named specific things?

When students have named all of the nouns in the practice text, have them tell you in which column to write them on the anchor chart.

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: We learned that nouns are words that writers of informational reports use to name people, places, animals, and things. Sometimes, nouns name specific people or places, such as Maria or California. These nouns begin with capital letters. Other times, nouns are words such as girl or state that do not name specific people or places.

If you would like to give students additional practice identifying and sorting nouns, ask them to complete BLM 4.

4. Share

Bring students together. Invite volunteers to read aloud their answers to BLM 4. Use students’ answers to provide corrective feedback. Discuss what students learned about nouns.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning

Help beginning ELs understand and recognize words that are nouns. Show students pictures of people, places, animals, and things (such as pictures of a baby, an ocean, a shrimp, a whale, and some sea ice). Say the name of each object aloud and label it with a self-stick note. Help students sort each picture into the correct column on the class Nouns chart.

Intermediate and Advanced

Pair ELs with fluent English speakers. Encourage them to work together to read the following sentences and underline the nouns in each sentence.

The whales swim in the ocean.
The people saw the whales.
The eels float in the water.

All Levels

If you have ELs whose first language is Spanish, share these English/Spanish cognates: animals/los animales; noun/el nombre; person/la persona.