Proper Nouns

Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:
• Identify proper nouns.
• Brainstorm proper nouns.
• Use proper nouns in sentences.

Preparation

Materials Needed
• Chart paper and markers
• Proper Nouns (BLM 3)
• Interactive whiteboard resources

Advanced Preparation
If you will not be using the interactive whiteboard resources, copy the modeling text, the Proper Nouns anchor chart, and the EL sentence frames onto chart paper prior to the mini-lesson.

1. Focus

Explain Proper Nouns

Say: Nouns can be common nouns or proper nouns. Common nouns name a person, place, or thing. Proper nouns name a specific person, place, or thing. Proper nouns include names of people, holidays, days of the week, cities, and many other things. Proper nouns always begin with a capital letter. Let’s look at some common and proper nouns.

Model Using Proper Nouns

Display the modeling text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources, and read it aloud to students.

Modeling Text

Say: I’m going to underline the proper nouns in these sentences. The first sentence is talking about the author’s brother, Matthew. I see that Matthew’s name is capitalized. I remember that proper nouns always begin with a capital letter. And, Matthew is the name of a specific person. So Matthew is a proper noun. In the next sentence, I see two words that begin with capital letters. Sunday is the name of a specific thing—a day of the week. It’s a proper noun. And the word June names another specific thing. June is the name of a month, so it’s a proper noun, too.

Record the proper nouns on an anchor chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proper Nouns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal Hernandez</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sample Proper Nouns Anchor Chart
2. Rehearse

Practice Using Proper Nouns

Say: Let’s think of a few more proper nouns that we can add to the anchor chart. Then we will use some of the words in sentences.

Work with students to add other proper nouns to the anchor chart. Encourage them to include proper nouns that name people, places, and things.

Invite students to work with partners to choose a proper noun and use it in a sentence.

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

Share Sentences with Proper Nouns

Invite pairs to share their sentences with the class. Ask pairs to identify the proper nouns in their sentences.

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: When you write personal narratives, you will often write about people, places, and things in your life. Remember that when you name specific people, places, and things in your writing, you use proper nouns, and proper nouns always begin with capital letters.

If you would like to give students additional practice recognizing and using proper nouns, have them complete BLM 3.

4. Share

Bring students together. Review and provide corrective feedback based on students’ answers to BLM 3. Ask students to share what they learned about proper nouns.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning

Help beginning ELs to understand how proper nouns are used. Write the sentence frames below on chart paper:

My name is ______.
My friend’s name is ______.
The name of my town is ______.
The name of my school is ______.

Read the sentence frames and orally model completing each sentence with an appropriate proper noun. Invite students to read each sentence frame with you and to take turns filling in the blank with their own proper nouns. As students suggest their proper nouns, help them write the proper nouns on the chart. Show them how all the proper nouns begin with capital letters.

Intermediate and Advanced

Pair ELs with fluent English speakers to develop sentences. Make sure students understand the meaning of each word before they begin the activity.