

# Exercises in Grammar

Grade 8

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The Exercises in Grammar program has been devised to introduce a new “back-to-basis” curriculum. This resource emphasizes the teaching of the fundamentals of grammar and the rules needed to implement it.

Recognizing that many teachers, particularly new teachers, may have gone through a school system which did not teach formal grammar, this resource attempts to simplify the grammatical process as much as possible.

This book is the third of a series of three books called *Exercises in Grammar*. These books cover the grammar objectives for grades 6, 7 and 8. Students are expected to master the work in each book; therefore, if a particular student has difficulty in mastering the exercises, there are often similar exercises in the other books which the teacher may provide to ensure mastery. Teachers may, therefore, wish to purchase the other books in the series, so that they may use them with students who are having difficulty.

The grade eight curriculum is essentially a review of grammar taught in the earlier grades. The only new grammar is Case in Pronouns. This book, then, reviews the grammar taught in earlier grades and then provides practical exercise work. The teaching is set up through overheads, followed by exercises, followed by tests.

The grade eight curriculum does prescribe a great deal of new work in punctuation, but for reasons of space, this work is not included in this book. These books should be used in conjunction with the current Language text so that the grammar study may be integrated with the writing. For the teaching of grammar to be meaningful, students must carry over their knowledge to their writing.

## PART A: THE PARTS OF SPEECH

Overhead #1

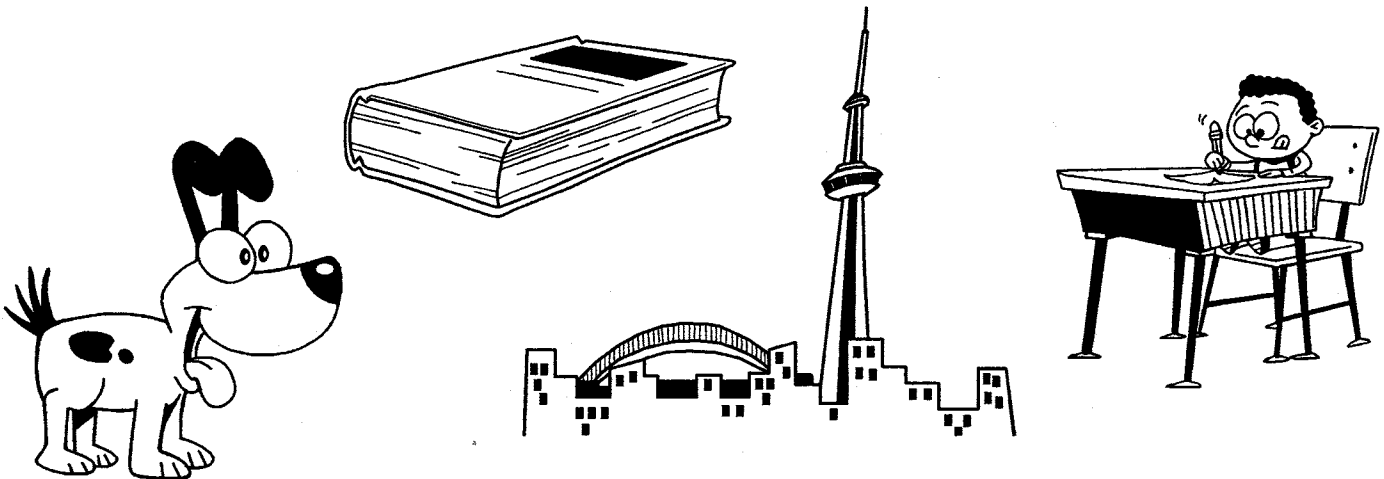
### NOUNS

What is a noun?

A noun is a word that **NAMES** a person, place, thing or idea.

What are some examples of nouns?

Person	Place	Thing	Idea/Quality
David a Canadian student lawyer	Toronto town lake street	CN Tower bicycle book dog	dignity honesty feeling happiness



How to spot a noun:

except for the names of persons, places or animals  
you can put the words “the”, “a” or “an” before a noun  
and it will still make sense.



**PART A: THE PARTS OF SPEECH**

**EXERCISE 1: NOUNS**

What follows is a passage from A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens. It contains twenty nouns. Find each noun and write it in the space provided in the order you find it.

His active little crutch was heard upon the floor, and back came Tiny Tim before another word was spoken, escorted by his brother and sister to his stool before the fire; and while Bob, turning up his cuffs--as if, poor fellow, they were capable of being made more shabby--compounded some hot mixture in a jug with gin and lemons, and stirred it round and round and put it on the bob to simmer; Master Peter and the two ubiquitous young Cratchits went to fetch the goose, with which they soon returned in high procession.

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____  | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____  | 15. _____ |
| 6. _____  | 16. _____ |
| 7. _____  | 17. _____ |
| 8. _____  | 18. _____ |
| 9. _____  | 19. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ |



**PART A: THE PARTS OF SPEECH**

Overhead #2

**NOUNS: KINDS OF NOUNS**

**All nouns are either COMMON or PROPER.**

**What is a PROPER noun?**

**A PROPER NOUN NAMES A PARTICULAR  
PERSON, PLACE or THING.**

**PROPER NOUNS ALWAYS BEGIN WITH  
A CAPITAL LETTER.**

**EXAMPLES:**

**Debbie**

**New York**

**Titanic**

**A COMMON NOUN DOES NOT NAME A PARTICULAR  
PERSON, PLACE, THING OR IDEA.**

**ALL NOUNS THAT ARE NOT PROPER NOUNS  
ARE COMMON NOUNS.**

**EXAMPLES:**

**girl**

**city**

**ship**



**PART A: THE PARTS OF SPEECH**

**EXERCISE 2: COMMON AND PROPER NOUNS**

Often using a proper noun in place of a common noun can make a person's writing more exact and precise. Rewrite each of the following sentences, replacing the underlined common noun with a proper noun of your choice. Try using proper nouns in your own writing.

1. My aunt invited me to go on a trip to an island with her.

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2. Because the boy was a fan of the baseball team, he went to the stadium to see his favorite team play the opposing team.

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3. My country has some interesting places to visit, including its cities, its attractions and its lakes.

---

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4. An explorer discovered a country before another person arrived there.

---

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5. The river is one of the longest in the country.

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## PART A: THE PARTS OF SPEECH

Overhead #3

### PLURALS OF NOUNS

1. Most nouns in English form the plural by adding *s*:

*Examples: boy – boys, house – houses, teacher – teachers*

2. Nouns ending in *s*, *x*, *ch* or *sh* form the plural by adding *es*:

*Examples: class – classes, fox – foxes, peach – peaches,  
dash – dashes*

3. Nouns ending in *y* preceded by a consonant form the plural by changing the *y* to *i* and adding *es*:

*Examples: baby – babies, story – stories, library – libraries*

4. Nouns ending in *y* preceded by a vowel form the plural by adding *s*:

*Examples: day – days, monkey – monkeys*

5. Some nouns change the vowel to form a plural or even add letters:

*Examples: woman – women, child – children, tooth – teeth*

6. Nouns from foreign languages form the plural as they do in their original language:

*Examples: datum – data, appendix – appendices*

7. There are exceptions to most of these rules.