

Nouns Using Specific Nouns

Since a noun names something, the more specific your nouns are, the more colorful and more precise your writing will be. Specific nouns pin down exactly **whom** and **what** you are writing about. Proper nouns (names of actual people, places, and things) are the most specific nouns you can use. Always capitalize proper nouns.

Vague and Dull

The guy walked out of the building and handed me the papers.

Specific and Interesting

The policeman walked out of the courthouse and handed me the subpoena.
The exterminator walked out of the basement and handed me the bill.

Extremely Specific and Interesting

Albert Einstein walked out of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Physics and handed me the "General Theory of Relativity."

Try It!

Rewrite each numbered sentence, replacing the general nouns with specific ones. Create three versions of each sentence. Include some proper nouns.

Example: The person was a man.

The superhero was Sarcasm Man.

The Viking was Eric the Red.

The pirate was Three-Toed Jack.

1. The food was good.

2. The man climbed out of the car and waved the book.

3. The storm battered the house and the truck.

FYI

Besides being **common** or **proper**, nouns can be **concrete** or **abstract**. A concrete noun names a thing that is tangible (can be seen, heard, smelled, tasted, or touched).

loyalty	freedom	soccer	Coriolis effect
telephone	spaghetti	letters	Mia Hamm

An abstract noun names a thing that *cannot* be seen, heard, smelled, tasted, or touched.