

## NOTES ON NOUNS

Noun-Person, place, or thing

Proper noun: name of a particular person, place, or thing

EX: Miami, FBI, Tuesday, Pacific Ocean

Common noun: general name of any one of a class of persons or things

EX: girl, city, dog, plane, editor-in-chief

Collective nouns: name of the whole group or persons or things. Even though each noun contains more than 1 element, it is thought of as 1 group- which means it is **singular**.

EX: furniture, family, class, team, herd, flock, gang, fraternity

Abstract nouns: name of a quality of an object or of a general characteristic of a person or thing.

EX: redness, smelliness, honesty, beauty, brotherhood, loneliness, loyalty, grace

Rule #1 Spotting a noun is very important because the **subject** of the sentence is always a noun or pronoun. (Subject =who or what does the verb)

Rule #2: If you aren't sure whether a word is a noun, put the article "a" or "the" in front of the word. If it makes sense, the word is a noun!

EX: a mistake, the machine, the danger

Gerund: often a word/group of words looks like a verb but it acts as a noun. In other words, it is the **subject of the verb**

EX: *Skiing* is Willy's favorite sport.

*Reading* is my favorite pastime.

Plural nouns: not every plural noun ends in -s. These are called *irregular nouns*.

<b>SINGULAR</b>	<b>PLURAL</b>
Alumna	Alumnae (F)
Alumnus	Alumni(M)
Bacterium	Bacteria
Criterion	Criteria
Datum	Data
Medium	Media

## NOTES ON ADJECTIVES

- \* Descriptive words which describe, or modify nouns
- \* Adjectives that show quantity or which one: *that* man, *his* dessert, *enough* meatloaf, *every* sock

### Rules for Adjectives:

Rule #1: An adjective like *ugly* can relative- you can be *ugly* in degrees. To show this kind of comparison, there are 3 forms:

<b>Positive</b>	<b>Comparative</b>	<b>Superlative</b>
<i>Ugly</i>	<i>Uglier</i>	<i>Ugliest</i>

Rule #2: IF you are only comparing one thing to another, form the comparative by adding -er to the adjective:

My dog is **uglier** than your dog.

Rule #3: IF you are comparing more than 2 things, form the superlative by adding -est.

My dog is the **ugliest** dog on earth.

Rule #4: Some adjectives do not add -er or -est to the stem. In that case, use *more* =comparative and *most*=superlative. (Your ear should help you decide) When in doubt, use more or most.

Your doll is **more beautiful** than my doll. That us the **most unbelievable** thing I ever heard!

Rule #5: Some adjectives are absolute-you either have the quality or you don't: perfect, final, dead, ultimate

### **Absolute Adjectives:**

Absolute, basic, certain, complete, empty, entire, final, devoid, square, harmless, obvious, immortal, meaningless, pure, excellent.

Rule #6: Adjectives that describe how much or how many are often misused. If you are talking about something that you can count individually, use **fewer** or **many** . If you are discussing something that cannot be counted individually use **less**, **a lot of**, or **much**.

I ate **fewer** French fries than you did. You ate **less** mint jelly on your lamb than I did.