

Common and Proper Nouns

A **common noun** names any person, place, or thing. A **proper noun** names a particular person, place, or thing. Proper nouns begin with capital letters. The names of days, months, places, and holidays are proper nouns. Historical periods and special events are also proper nouns.

Common Nouns You can see penguins at some zoos.

Proper Nouns On Labor Day, a penguin from Africa was displayed at the New York State Fair.

Capitalize each important word in a proper noun: Fourth of July, Civil War.

Directions Write *C* if the underlined noun is a common noun. Write *P* if the underlined noun is a proper noun.

1. There are not many emperor penguins in our country. _____
2. A sea park in San Diego has an emperor penguin. _____
3. Jon went to the zoo on Independence Day. _____
4. He saw penguins and other unusual animals. _____
5. Whales and penguins are popular sea park attractions. _____

Directions Underline the common nouns and circle the proper nouns in the sentences.

6. Alaska became a state on January 3, 1959.
7. Penguins do not come from the United States.
8. Seals and polar bears like the cold weather.
9. The Millers will visit Juneau at Thanksgiving.
10. The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race is held in March.

