

Use of a Proper Noun.—A PROPER NOUN is used to distinguish the different persons or things, of the same kind, from one another; in short, to distinguish individuals. Its nature, therefore, is specific.

20. PROPER NOUNS may be regarded as **COMMON**,—

1. When an individual is taken as the type of a class. The limiting adjective will, in that case, be prefixed; as, He is a *Cicero*.

2. When works of art are spoken of; as, That is a *Claude*: this, a *Raphael*.

3. When family names are pluralized; as, The *Cæsars*, the *Georges*, &c.

21. A COMMON NOUN is a name common to all the members of a class of objects; as, *Man*, *horse*.

1. **Use of a Common Noun.**—A COMMON NOUN is used to denote, by one word, a class having a common resemblance. Its nature, therefore, is generic.

2. **Common Nouns** may be subdivided as follows:—

(1) **Class Nouns**—designating any one of a class; as, *Horse*.

(2) **Collective Nouns**—designating a collection of objects; as, *An army*.

(3) **Material Nouns**—designating materials as such; as, *Gold*.

(4) **Names of weights, measures, &c.**; as, *A pound*, *a bushel*.

3. **Common Nouns** may be made equivalent to **Proper Nouns**:—

(1) By placing some distinguishing word or words with them; as, *This book*; *the Norman invasion*.

(2) By personification; as, *Come, gentle Spring*.

4. The same word may at one time represent a whole class; at another time, an individual member of that class; as, *Man* is mortal. He is an upright *man*.

22. An ABSTRACT NOUN is a name of some *property* or *quality*, which can only be conceived of as having an existence; as, *Virtue*, *justice*.

1. **Abstract Nouns** derive their peculiar name from the fact that, by a certain mental operation, the property or quality is separated from the object in which it is inherent; and we think of the property or quality alone, without reference to the object to which it belongs.

2. They may be thus subdivided:—

(1) **Names of actions**, including verbal nouns; as, *Study*; *walking* is a pleasant exercise; *to err* is human.

(2) **Names of qualities**; as, *Courage*, &c.

(3) **Names of states, conditions, or periods**; as, *Health*, *warmth*, *morning*, &c.

(4) **Names of degree**; as, *Excess* in anything should be avoided.