

Using nouns, adjectives and prepositions

Use this sheet to remind you how and when to use nouns, adjectives and prepositions

Nouns

A **noun** is the name of 'something' in a sentence:
church, supermarket, park

Most nouns can be singular or plural.

However, some nouns are only singular:
butter, cotton, electricity, money

Other singular nouns are called **abstract nouns** because they are concerned with ideas or feelings:

happiness, sorrow, peace, enjoyment

A **proper noun** is the name of a person, place, or important event. Proper nouns begin with capital letters:
Freda Simpson, Middleton, The Armada

A group of people, animals or objects sometimes have a **collective noun**:
a crowd of people; a flock of sheep

A **noun phrase** is a group of words which contains a noun:

a lot of traffic; his older brother; a new car; the stone wall next to the playground

Adjectives

Adjectives describe nouns. They come before a noun:
a busy street; a hungry dog; the beautiful flowers;
two happy children

They can also be placed after verbs, like to be, get, seem, feel or look:

The shopkeeper was busy.
The old man felt tired.
The supermarket looks crowded.

Comparative or **superlative adjectives** make writing more precise.

The bakery was busy.
The bakery was busier than the supermarket.
The bakery was the busiest shop in the street.

The church is an impressive building.
The church is more impressive than the café.
The church is the most impressive building in the village.

Prepositions

A **preposition** is a word which is usually followed by a noun phrase, giving extra detail.

It can show:

● time: The supermarket stayed open late on Fridays.

- position: I'll meet you **outside** the supermarket.
- direction: The red car sped away **towards** Newtown.
- means: They arrived in the town **by** train.
- accompaniment: Billy Henshaw marched up the street **with** his gang.

