

Activity Type

Reading, matching and speaking activity, pairwork

Language Focus

Common and proper nouns

Aim

To sort common and proper nouns into their respective groups and to make sentences with the nouns.

Preparation

Make one copy of the cards for each pair of students and cut as indicated. Keep the two heading cards and noun cards separate.

Level

Elementary

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

This common and proper nouns game is useful for illustrating the difference between the two types of noun.

Procedure

Tell the students that they are going to sort common nouns and proper nouns into their respective groups.

Divide the students into pairs.

Give each pair the two heading cards and a set of noun cards. Tell the students to place the heading cards face up on the table and to shuffle the noun cards and place them face down in a pile.

Students take it in turns to turn over a noun card and place it under the correct heading.

When the students have finished, elicit the correct category for each noun. The correct answers can be seen on the uncut worksheet.

For each correctly matched noun, pairs score a point.

Pairs then race to score an extra point by making a meaningful sentence with the common or proper noun. The first pair to do this scores the extra point.

The pair with the most points at the end of the game wins.

If you feel the students need extra practice, have the students play a pelmanism game using the noun cards.

Have the pairs shuffle the noun cards and spread them out face down on the table.

Students then take it in turns to turn over two cards.

If the two cards match (i.e. the proper noun gives a specific example of the common noun, e.g. drink - Coca-Cola), the student keeps the two cards and has another turn.

If the cards don't match, the student turns them back over, keeping them in the same place. The game continues until all the common and proper nouns have been matched together.

The student with the most pairs of cards at the end of the game wins.



Common nouns	Proper nouns
man	James
woman	Katie
mountain	Mount Everest
company	Samsung
shop	7-Eleven
website	Facebook
drink	Coca-Cola
car	Ferrari
laptop	MacBook
toy	Lego
film	Superman
singer	Taylor Swift
month	July
holiday	Christmas
language	English