

# Grade 5 English Language Arts

Week of October 5 – October 9

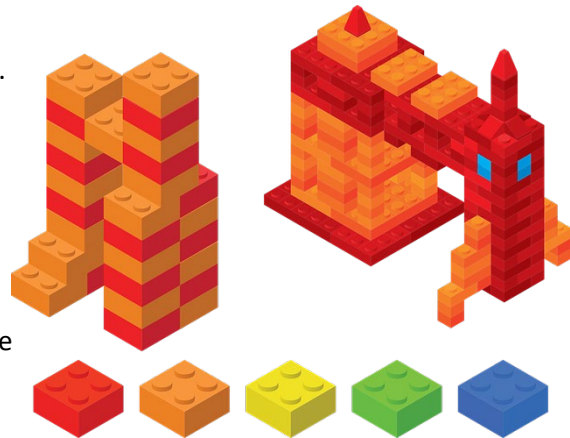
## Lesson 3: Parts of Speech 1

### Words Create Worlds

When you are writing, think of each word like a Lego piece.

Words are building blocks you can use to create worlds. To be the best builder you can be, you should know about the tools and materials you are working with.

The parts of speech are your key building blocks. They can help you write exciting descriptive text that comes alive for your readers.



### Common & Proper Nouns

Nouns are the heart of descriptive writing. A noun is a person, place, thing, or idea – and that’s what you are describing in descriptive writing. Nouns can be broken down into the following groups:

- common nouns
  - proper nouns
  - concrete nouns
  - abstract nouns
1. Most nouns are **common nouns** and refer to people, places, animals, and things.  
Examples: student, cat, school, language
  2. **Proper nouns** are the names of specific people, places, animals and things. They begin with a capital letter.  
Examples: Naomi Silver, Squamish, University of Victoria, Halq'eméylem



Check out this video about Common and Proper Nouns: <https://youtu.be/bmZA90W53Rk>

REMEMBER to capitalize proper nouns! This makes English teachers happy. (Notice how *English* is capitalized – all languages and nationalities are capitalized.)

### **Concrete & Abstract Nouns**

3. **Concrete nouns** are objects which we can see or touch.

Examples: chair, computer, mountain, bead, electrician, flower, hand

\*\*You want to have a variety of concrete nouns in descriptive writing. Concrete nouns are the easiest kind of nouns for people to visualize.\*\*

4. **Abstract nouns** are ideas, feelings, and situations. You cannot touch them.

Examples: intelligence, happiness, homelessness, democracy, truth, beauty

### **Properly Print Proper Nouns**

A proper noun is a specific person, place, or thing. It needs to be CAPITALIZED.

Directions: Below is a list of common nouns. Your job is to write down a proper noun that would match. Remember to CAPITALIZE your answer.

Example: Your favourite planet Earth

1. Your school \_\_\_\_\_

2. Your favourite chocolate bar \_\_\_\_\_

3. Your doctor \_\_\_\_\_

4. Your favourite movie \_\_\_\_\_

5. Your favourite country to visit \_\_\_\_\_

6. Your province \_\_\_\_\_

7. Your premier \_\_\_\_\_

8. Your favourite music band \_\_\_\_\_

9. Your favourite brand of chips \_\_\_\_\_

10. Your favourite video game \_\_\_\_\_

11. Your street \_\_\_\_\_

12. Your favourite clothing brand \_\_\_\_\_

13. Your favourite sports team \_\_\_\_\_

14. Your favourite language \_\_\_\_\_

## Pronouns

A pronoun is used instead of a noun. It's used as a shorter alternative to a longer noun and to avoid repeating the noun too often.

Examples: I, you, he, she, we, it, they



Pronouns Song!: <https://youtu.be/ZADSyQZlvCc>

## Nouns Before Pronouns

Use the common or proper noun in the first instance, before you use a pronoun in your descriptive writing.

Example: **Ahmed** won an award for his nature photographs. **He** beamed with excitement as he walked up to the stage.

Pronoun as Subject	Pronoun as Object	Possessive Pronoun	Reflexive Pronoun
I	me	mine	myself
you (singular)	you	yours	yourself
she	her	hers	herself
he	him	his	himself
it	it	its	itself
we	us	ours	ourselves
you (plural)	you	yours	yourselves
they	them	theirs	themselves

Know what pronouns are and keep track of how many you use. Combine sentences if you notice a repeat of pronouns.

Example: Her name is Taina. She has black hair. She has brown eyes. She has a ponytail.

Try instead...

Taina has brown eyes, and black hair in a ponytail.

## Use Concrete & Specific Nouns



You want specific, concrete nouns to help your reader see what you are describing. Beware of vague nouns and overusing pronouns.

- Example: Kaloni threw some stuff into her backpack. (Stuff is a vague noun.)

Try instead...

Kaloni threw a sword, her dragon-hunting manual, and a parachute into her backpack. (This tells the reader more and makes you interested in finding out what she is going to do next.)

- Example: She saw it beside him. She took it from him. She walked away with it. (There are too many pronouns. This is pretty ho-hum.)

Try instead...

Minh saw the piece of chocolate cake sitting beside her sleeping father. The five-year-old girl couldn't resist and snatched up the plate. Her mouth was full of frosting as she walked away with the delicious dessert.

(Check out all the specific nouns. This tells a much more interesting story.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Keep an Eye on Pronoun Use!

**A pronoun replaces a noun. Ex.) he, she, they, it**

Directions: Below are a series of sentences. For each question, combine them to make just one sentence to eliminate repetitive pronoun use.

Ex.) Her name is Taina. She has black hair. She has brown eyes. She has a ponytail.

**Taina has brown eyes and black hair in a ponytail.**

1. The horse is black. It is running. It is in the field. It is neighing.

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2. The book was dusty. It was old. It was on the table.

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3. She is the president. She is reading. She is on a plane.

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4. He is a nurse. He visits a school. He gives students their vaccines.

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5. It has mushrooms in it. It tastes delicious. It is spaghetti.

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6. The kids are in the forest. They pick berries. They eat berries.

## Adjectives

An adjective describes a noun. It tells you something about the noun and helps build a stronger picture in the reader's mind.

Ex.) humongous moose                      green eggs and ham  
caring counsellor                      First Nations' land  
Canadian women's hockey fan              fuzzy, red sweater

Let's look at the importance of good adjectives to create descriptive writing.

Ex.) This is a dog. (Very basic!)

Try instead...

This is a hyperactive, tail-chasing, three-legged dog. (Now you have a much more specific image of the dog to imagine.)



Adjectives Song!: [https://youtu.be/c\\_TmWCIYse0](https://youtu.be/c_TmWCIYse0)

## Use Active & Adventurous Adjectives

### **Adjectives: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly**

Bad is bad.

Good is bad.

Ugly is bad.

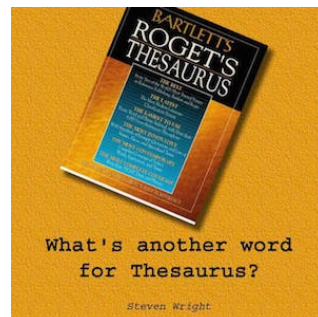
And one of the worst offenders is nice.

They're bad because they're overused. Avoid using these adjectives in your descriptive writing.

### **Choose more active and adventurous adjectives.**

To search out these new exciting adjectives, use the synonym feature in the spelling/grammar checker from your word-processing program or use one of the many free synonym finder sites online (with adult approval). You can also grab a thesaurus - yes, a real book! If you don't have one, see if you can sign one out from the local library.

P.S. A synonym is a word that has the same or nearly the same meaning as another word.



# Adjective Challenge

**An adjective describes a noun.**

1. Write three adjectives to describe a carrot.

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2. Name two adjectives to describe your favourite dessert.

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3. List three adjectives that describe the person you last spoke with.

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4. Write four adjectives that start with the letter p.

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5. Name three adjectives to describe a caterpillar.

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6. Name two adjectives to describe your favourite shirt.

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7. Name three adjectives to describe a dragon.

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8. Name two adjectives to describe how you are feeling today

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