

A Form-Function English Grammar

Level 1

Published by Rock Pickle Publishing
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First Edition
Originally published April 21, 2021
Last updated September 4, 2026

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KDP ISBN: 9798729960163

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by

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Lesson 1

Nouns

A **noun** is a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea. But not all things and ideas are nouns.

One test for finding nouns is that the word *the* can go before a noun.

Examples

person: boy, girl, child, man, woman, parent, teacher, writer, nurse, doctor, artist

place: house, school, park, zoo, library, beach, playground, airport, town, city

thing: chair, table, tree, cat, dog, toy, book, crayon, pen, tablet, phone, glass

idea: happiness, joy, sadness, anger, love, hope, friendship, fear, patience, envy

(A) Circle the words that can be nouns.

pig	cup	of	room
-----	-----	----	------

paper	a	wall	box
-------	---	------	-----

the	marker	baker	and
-----	--------	-------	-----

snow	so	rain	boot
------	----	------	------

singer	bath	owl	to
--------	------	-----	----

no	basket	gift	shirt
----	--------	------	-------

queen	love	when	walrus
-------	------	------	--------

(B) Underline the noun(s) in each sentence.

1. My head hurts.
2. Her hat is striped.
3. The jogger runs fast.
4. The duck saw a frog.
5. He drinks some juice.
6. The flamingo is a bird.
7. That squirrel ate a nut.
8. The park is by the river.
9. Snow falls in the winter.
10. The kitten meows softly.
11. The lion lives at the zoo.
12. A bug walked on a plant.
13. Our puppy barked loudly.
14. A fish swam in the ocean.
15. Her pumpkin is enormous.
16. The teacher read the book.
17. The cookies were delicious.
18. The child watched television.
19. Her family went to the beach.
20. The farmer put the horse in the field.

(C) Circle the noun. Write the noun in the blank.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| 1. The _____ is tall. | there |
| | tree |
| | long |
| 2. I feel _____ for you. | love |
| | does |
| 3. That _____ is pretty. | dress |
| | park |
| 4. We went to the _____. | above |
| | eye |
| 5. I spy with my little _____. | you |
| | teacher |
| 6. The _____ answered me. | under |
| | could |
| 7. Mom washed the dirty _____. | cup |
| | toy |
| 8. She put her _____ away. | too |

- (D) Find and circle the words that can be nouns in the box. Write the nouns on the lines.

neck	mom	of	guy	soap
off	into	road	a	bat
our	joy	my	job	went
boat	awake	song	pretty	moon
quickly	an	fly	the	starry
mat	spoon	been	map	my

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Review

A noun is a word that names a person, place, thing, or idea.

The word *the* can go before a noun.

About the Author

Heather Marie Kosur earned a BA in English studies with a minor in creative writing in May 2007 from Illinois State University, an MS in library and information science in May 2009 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and an MS in English studies with an emphasis in linguistics in December 2011 from Illinois State University. She wrote her English studies thesis on multiple modals in American English entitled *Structure and Meaning of Periphrastic Modal Verbs in Modern American English: Multiple Modals as Single-Unit Constructions*. She is also the author of the Teach a Student to Read reading program and the Teach a Student to Spell spelling curriculum. Her academic passions include English grammar and English spelling. She also writes the Linguistics Girl website and curates the Morphodex. Her academic passions include English grammar and English spelling.

A Form-Function English Grammar

A Form-Function English Grammar consists of two levels of grammar workbooks and texts: Elementary Series and High School Series. The Elementary Series consists of eight workbooks. The High School series consists of a two-volume textbook and two workbooks.

This grammar series approaches the description of English morphology and syntax through two frameworks: the Form-Function Method and Construction Grammar.

The Form-Function Method of grammar is based on four principal tenets:

- (1) Languages contain a finite number of grammatical forms.
- (2) Languages contain a finite number of grammatical functions.
- (3) Grammatical forms perform one or more grammatical functions.
- (4) Grammatical functions can be performed by one or more grammatical forms.

The Construction Grammar framework approaches language as consisting of grammatical constructions that form the basic units of language. Construction Grammar analyzes language as expressed, positing no underlying form.

A Form-Function English Grammar: Elementary Series is an elementary workbook series for kindergarten through eighth grade that builds up to A Form-Function Description of the Grammar of the Modern English Language, a textbook and workbook that provides a descriptive grammar that strives to provide an objective description of English as used without value judgements. Each workbook teaches the forms and functions of the English language through text and activities. The answers to all the activities are located at the end of each workbook.

A Form-Function English Grammar: High School Series is a high school textbook and workbook series for ninth grade through twelfth grade. Book 1 (Level 9A) covers the introduction and chapters 1 to 11. Book 2 (Level 9B) covers chapters 12 to 18 and the conclusion. The included workbook contains questions and answers for each chapter in the textbook including the introduction. The glossary in Book 2 provides an alphabetical list of the definitions of the bold terms throughout the textbook. The appendices in Book 2 offer quick references on English forms and functions, strong verbs, adjective phrase complements, prepositional verbs, catenative verbs, and phrasal verbs. Level 10 is an additional workbook that reinforces the information taught in A Form-Function Description of the Grammar of the Modern English Language. Each lesson in Level 10 correlates to a chapter including the introduction in the Level 9 textbook.

Language is like an onion, complex and layered.