

# A Form-Function English Grammar

## Level 2

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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.

(A) Circle the noun(s) in each sentence.

1. A bird ate a worm.
2. The kid ran two laps.
3. Most people sleep at night.
4. My sock has a hole in the toe.
5. Would the baby like a banana?
6. The woman put lotion on her skin.
7. The leaves on the trees are falling.
8. The fireman rescued a cat from a tree.
9. The librarian returned the book to the shelf.
10. The train drove through a tunnel in the mountain.

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

- |    |                                |          |
|----|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1. | A _____ rests on a log.        | bug      |
|    |                                | but      |
|    |                                | as       |
| 2. | The lumberjack used an _____.  | ax       |
|    |                                | raft     |
| 3. | That girl floated on a _____.  | ripe     |
|    |                                | summer   |
| 4. | Flowers bloom in the _____.    | suddenly |
|    |                                | until    |
| 5. | The boy visited his _____.     | uncle    |
|    |                                | owl      |
| 6. | An _____ hooted in the night.  | only     |
|    |                                | sure     |
| 7. | Dad needs some more _____.     | sugar    |
|    |                                | after    |
| 8. | Our teacher ate a juicy _____. | apple    |

Nouns show **number**. Nouns can be counted. English nouns are singular or plural. **Singular** means "one." **Plural** means "not one."

The number *one* can go before a singular noun. Other numbers including *zero* and *two* can go before a plural noun.

| <u>Singular</u> | <u>Plural</u> |            |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|
| one bag         | zero bags     | two bags   |
| one zoo         | zero zoos     | two zoos   |
| one baby        | zero babies   | two babies |
| one fox         | zero foxes    | two foxes  |
| one foot        | zero feet     | two feet   |

(C) Circle the best singular or plural noun. Write the noun in the blank.

- Put on a clean \_\_\_\_\_. (shirt, shirts)
- A \_\_\_\_\_ brushed her hair. (girl, girls)
- Those \_\_\_\_\_ have goats. (farm, farms)
- The boys got into a \_\_\_\_\_. (fight, fights)
- Some \_\_\_\_\_ threw a party. (pig, pigs)
- The baby is three \_\_\_\_\_ old. (month, months)
- I saw one \_\_\_\_\_ in the tank. (shark, sharks)
- My bedroom has zero \_\_\_\_\_. (closet, closets)
- The postman brought two \_\_\_\_\_. (package, packages)
- The world is covered in one giant \_\_\_\_\_. (ocean, oceans)

(D) Underline the singular nouns. Circle the plural nouns.

1. A waitress took our orders.
2. That fox lives in the woods.
3. Each year has four seasons.
4. A group of pigs threw a party.
5. Butterflies fly over the garden.
6. The brooms are in the garage.
7. The hungry cat wants to eat a fish.
8. A spider caught two flies in its web.
9. Snowflakes are falling on the ground.
10. Two rabbits eat leaves next to a rock.
11. A breeze blew softly through the trees.
12. The students saw many animals at the zoo.
13. Tiny ladybugs creep along the stems of flowers.
14. A wombat climbed up the hill and under some bushes.
15. Some days the woman hears raindrops on the window.

### *Review*

Nouns are words that name people, places, things, and ideas.

The word *the* can go before a noun.

Nouns show number. Nouns can be counted. English nouns are singular or plural. Singular means "one." Plural means "not one."

## **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.