

## Common and Proper Nouns

A common noun is a noun which is not the name of any particular person, place or thing, e.g. **dog, cup, curtain**. We can usually point at something with the name of a common noun – if we can see it. A common noun does not usually begin with a capital letter – unless, of course, it is the first word in a sentence.

Name the **common nouns** in these sentences. Be careful not to name any nouns that are not common nouns – and there will be lots of them.

- 1 On Sunday I enjoy a boiled egg with my breakfast.
- 2 Both Bill and Ben scored two goals each.
- 3 Suzie bought a lovely pink blouse at Primark.
- 4 The seagulls at Island Wall often make a terrible racket.
- 5 WJS is situated near the library in Oxford Street.
- 6 Cats, in my opinion, are more independent than dogs.

A proper noun is a noun which is the name of a person, place or thing e.g. **Tom, London, Phillips Screwdriver**. In the passage below, identify as many common and proper nouns as you can.

### The Titanic

The Titanic was a passenger liner and the biggest ship of its time. It carried over 2000 passengers and crew. Its first journey was from Southampton to New York but the ship never reached America. Titanic was built in Belfast. It took three years to build and cost millions of dollars. Titanic had four funnels. Only three of these funnels worked; the other was for kitchen ventilation and to make the ship seem more powerful.

The boat deck was the highest on the Titanic. It was called the boat deck because this is where the lifeboats were kept. It was a large open space where first and second class where first and second class passengers could walk, rest on benches and play games. The grand staircase was covered by a beautiful glass dome. The centerpiece of the staircase contained a clock. In addition, there were barber shops, libraries, a gym, a squash court, Turkish baths and a private.