

The Bet (page 295)**Grammar SkillBuilder: Proper Nouns**

Key Concept: Writers use proper nouns to identify a specific person, place, thing, or idea.

Proper Nouns

Proper nouns are nouns that give the name of a specific person, place, thing, or idea. Nouns that do not name a specific person, place, thing, or idea are common nouns. Look at the examples of proper nouns below. Notice how they are different from common nouns.

Common Nouns	Proper Nouns
person	Anton Chekhov
city	Moscow
story	"The Bet"

Common Nouns: The author wrote the story.

Proper Nouns: Anton Chekhov wrote "The Bet."

Activities

A. In each sentence, underline the proper nouns.

1. The lawyer read plays by Shakespeare and poems by Byron.
2. Chekhov grew up in Russia by the Black Sea.
3. The bet began in November, 1870.
4. Leo Tolstoy and Maxim Gorky lived in Russia in the late 1800s.
5. Henri Matisse and Vincent van Gogh were painters in Europe in the late 1800s.

B. Rewrite each sentence, supplying a proper noun to replace the underlined common noun. You may need to change other words so that your rewritten sentence makes sense.

1. The woman studied three languages.
2. We studied the history of another country.
3. We studied the artist's paintings at the museum.
4. Last night we heard the actor recite poems by the poet.
5. I liked the short story written by the author.