

Unit Eight: Nouns and Their Uses

RECOGNIZING NOUNS

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

persons—doctor, sister, Harold, clerk
places—Europe, Colorado, garden, county
things—rock, pencil, hammer, car
ideas—beauty, gladness, courage, determination

8.2 A *compound noun* is two or more words used as a single noun. Some are written as separate words; some are hyphenated; some are solid. (Consult your dictionary.)

Matthew Henry *Life of Cromwell* mother-in-law barbershop

8.3 A *collective noun* names a group and is singular in form.

herd team swarm flock orchestra club

EXERCISE A. Circle the 55 nouns in the following paragraphs. Words such as *he, we, they, them* are not nouns.

James Clerk Maxwell, a famous Christian scientist, was born in 1831 in Edinburgh, Scotland. By the time Maxwell had graduated from high school, his genius was evident. After he had completed college, he served as a professor at various universities and conducted private experiments and research. His main research was done in the area of electromagnetic energy. Maxwell predicted the existence of electromagnetic waves, but he died before he could actually discover the waves. Radio, television, and radar are all results of the investigations of Maxwell. His research expanded even beyond electromagnetics into other areas. He disproved the atheistic theory of Laplace who said the universe was formed from gases, and he laid the groundwork for future advances in the field of thermodynamics.

Maxwell did not confine his activities to the laboratory, but worked for Christ in his church and community. He visited the sick and encouraged those who were downtrodden. Maxwell was a leader in his church and helped to establish it with both his time and money. James Maxwell gave his best to every endeavor and was a success both as a scientist and as a Christian.

EXERCISE B. (1) Circle the 6 compound nouns. (2) Draw a box around the 13 collective nouns. (3) Underline the 26 remaining nouns.

The large orchestral ensemble appeared about 1600, making its first notable appearance in *Orfeo*, an opera written by Claudio Monteverdi. Although composers such as Jean-Baptiste Lully conducted orchestral ensembles for the royalty in France, the growth of the large instrumental ensemble was very slow in its first one hundred years. Then in the 1800's, the basic composition and arrangement of the orchestra were standardized by the Mannheim school in Germany. This orchestral group contained approximately forty instruments and included kettledrums. Ludwig van Beethoven carried orchestral music from the serene Classical period to the tempestuous Romantic 1800's. It was during the Romantic period that the orchestral ensemble enjoyed immense success and became the forerunner of the modern orchestra. Today the American public can enjoy the world-famous orchestra in Philadelphia led by Eugene Ormandy, or the well-known New York Philharmonic. The orchestra has experienced great strides of growth since 1600, and the composer of today often uses the orchestra to express his most highly organized musical ideas.