Noun, Pronoun, or Adjective?

2a. A noun is a word or word group that is used to name a person, a place, a thing, or an idea.

2b. A pronoun is a word used in place of one or more nouns or pronouns.

2c. An adjective is a word that is used to modify a noun or a pronoun.

NOUNS When will Tracy ride her bicycle in Central Park and relieve some stress?

PRONOUNS She will go when he can go with her, and I will watch the baby.

ADJECTIVES I usually prefer mild cuisine, but I’ll try this spicy Southwestern dish.

Exercise Identify each underlined word in the following sentences by writing above it N for noun, P for pronoun, or A for adjective.

Example 1. The museum is featuring an exhibit on Egyptian mummies.

1. Many have heard about how the pony express carried the mail in 1860 and 1861.
2. However, the pony express lasted only eighteen months.
3. Among its young riders was William Cody, later known as Buffalo Bill.
4. The arrival of transcontinental telegraph lines put an end to the pony express.
5. Even the fastest riders could not compete with the telegraph.
7. A scarf made of wool may be warmer than a silk scarf.
8. These plants have poisonous leaves.
9. I can’t believe you said that!
10. This is just a summer shower, so it won’t last long.
11. Louis Braille invented a special alphabet that allows people with visual impairments to read.
12. The alphabet uses raised dots that the visually impaired can feel.
13. The dots are arranged in patterns, with different patterns standing for individual letters or sounds.
14. A person reads Braille by rubbing one or two fingertips over the elevated dots.
15. Using a pointed stylus and a metal slate, a person can write Braille by hand.
16. People also use Braille typewriters and computers.
17. These are the short stories that my friends and I wrote.
18. This story is especially funny, and I wrote it.
19. All of us are going to enter the annual short story contest.
20. One of us is sure to win the prize, which is a scholarship to a summer writing workshop.
**EXERCISE A**  Underline the nouns in the following sentences.

**Example 1.** O. Henry wrote “The Gift of the Magi,” a short story.

1. William Sydney Porter had talent.
2. The man was a writer.
3. His pen name was O. Henry.
4. Porter spent three years in prison.
5. Funds were found missing from a bank where he had worked.
6. Some people believe he was a sloppy bookkeeper but not a criminal.
7. His first story was published by St. Paul Pioneer Press while he was a prisoner.
8. After leaving the penitentiary, O. Henry became famous as a writer.
9. When he died, he was hailed as a master of the modern short story.
10. The home where O. Henry lived in Austin, Texas, is now preserved as a museum.

**EXERCISE B**  Decide whether each underlined noun in the following sentences is common or proper, concrete or abstract. Then, on the line provided, write **COM** for common or **PROP** for proper and **CON** for concrete or **ABS** for abstract.

**Example**  COM, CON  1. You can find maps in encyclopedias and on the Internet.

____________________  11. Maps change over time.

____________________  12. Some changes are caused by human beings.

____________________  13. Old maps do not show the Suez Canal.


____________________  15. The Caspian Sea demonstrates this principle.

____________________  16. This small inland sea is filling up with sediment.

____________________  17. Centuries ago, the Caspian Sea was larger.

____________________  18. The Red Sea seems to be growing.

____________________  19. Many different forces affect the surface of the earth.

____________________  20. Wind, water, and movement of the earth’s crust are powerful forces.
Review B: Pronouns and Antecedents

**Exercise A** In the following sentences, underline each pronoun once. If a pronoun has a stated antecedent, underline the antecedent twice. Then, identify the type of pronoun by writing above it P for personal, R for reflexive, or I for intensive.

**Example 1.** Did Maria buy herself a silver bracelet yesterday?
1. The instructor herself first demonstrated the dive.
2. Aaron cooked the entire meal himself.
3. The proud athlete will display her trophy in the school’s trophy case.
4. A frightened hedgehog curls itself into a ball.
5. The artist wanted you to come to the gallery opening.
6. Tyra baked two loaves and then sliced them.
7. The swim team outdid itself in the freestyle relay.
8. Consuela smiled and said, “I know the words to the song.”
9. The senator herself signed the letter.
10. Is the sponge you bought natural or artificial?

**Exercise B** Underline each pronoun in the following sentences. Then, identify each by writing above it DEM for demonstrative, INT for interrogative, IND for indefinite, or REL for relative.

**Examples 1.** This is the dog that Marcus found last weekend.
2. Who is the person most admired by all?

11. Who is the boy who wore the red wig in the first act?
12. Hairstyle is one of the personal details that Janet always notices.
13. Everyone who enters the lab must wear a coverall.
14. Whom will the class choose as a representative?
15. Lily was the only person who voted against the measure.
16. These are the best photographs that Pat has ever seen!
17. Jamal called the house, but no one answered.
18. Please put away the boxes that are on the floor, and then help Marvin move this.
19. What should Susan bring to the party?
20. Of all the fruits, these have the most vitamin C.
EXERCISE A  Underline each article in the following sentences. Identify each article by writing above it D for definite or I for indefinite. Then, circle each adjective that is not an article.

Example 1. Most people consider the rose a beautiful flower.

1. Have you ever seen the huge rosebush in Tombstone, Arizona?
2. Every spring, the bush is covered with white flowers.
3. The bush was brought over from Great Britain.
4. It is a popular attraction for tourists.
5. It has a thick trunk and many branches.
6. The plant is very old now.
7. Many people travel to Tombstone to see this bush.
8. It grows beside the old Rose Tree Inn.
9. The rosebush covers a large area.
10. One source calls it the largest rosebush in the world.

EXERCISE B  In the following sentences, underline each adjective and draw an arrow from the adjective to the noun or pronoun it modifies. Do not include the articles a, an, and the.

Example 1. Aunt Laurie has a beautiful cameo that is quite old.

11. A cameo is a carving often on a striated gemstone.
12. A striated gem has veins of different colors.
13. The artist cuts the carving on the lighter color.
14. The darker color forms a complementary background.
15. Nowadays most cameos feature the profile of a head.
16. The history of cameos traces back to ancient civilizations in Egypt, Greece, and Etruria.
17. The ancient Egyptians placed carved stone seals in their tombs.
18. The carved pattern on these seals was the scarab beetle.
19. The scarab was a mystic symbol.
20. Ancient Egyptians sometimes wore a carving of a scarab as a charm.