

Noun or Pronoun: Function

A noun is a person, place, thing, or idea. A pronoun is a word that takes the place of a noun.

Here is an example of how a noun and a pronoun can be used.

- Ex. JOHN walked down the street. (*John* is a noun.)

- Ex. HE walked down the street. (*He* is a pronoun taking the place of a noun.)

Nouns and pronouns can function several ways in a sentence.

1) A pronoun can function as a noun.

- Ex. ALL the rooms needed to be cleaned.

(*All* is an indefinite pronoun.)

2) A noun can function as an adverb.

- Ex. We are coming HOME late tomorrow.

(*Home* is a noun, but here it is being used to describe the verb *coming*, so it is an adverb.)

3) A pronoun can function as an adjective.

- Ex. I thought HER essay was the best.

(*Her* is usually a pronoun, but here it describes the *essay*, so it is an adjective.)

4) A noun can function as an adjective.

- Ex. The STREET sign was difficult to read.

(*Street* is a noun, but here it is used to describe the noun *sign*, so it is an adjective.)

Practice

In order to help the student understand how nouns and pronouns function in a sentence, use the following exercise. Have the student choose a fiction book, and make a copy of one page. Ask the student to choose and highlight ten nouns and ten pronouns. Work with the student to decide how each noun and pronoun is functioning in the sentence.