

## Concrete, Abstract, and Collective Nouns

**11e.** A **concrete noun** names a person, place, or thing that can be perceived by one or more of the senses (sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell).

**11f.** An **abstract noun** names an idea, a feeling, a quality, or a characteristic.

**CONCRETE NOUNS** friend, restaurant, garlic, *Star Trek*

**ABSTRACT NOUNS** friendship, danger, loyalty, Judaism

**11g.** A **collective noun** is a word that names a group.

**EXAMPLES** orchestra, herd, bunch, Ecology Club

**EXERCISE A** In the following sentences, underline the concrete nouns once and the abstract nouns twice.

**Example 1.** Victor is an expert on Zen Buddhism.

- Christa read a book about increasing her self-confidence.
- Please bring me a box of pencils from the closet.
- Time moves slowly for people caught in a traffic jam.
- An editorial is an essay, usually in a newspaper, in which the writer expresses his or her opinion.
- Tito, do you believe his story is the truth?
- Professor Said is writing a book about art history.
- Jennifer learned to overcome her fear of dogs.
- Dr. Melfi is a specialist in the treatment of certain illnesses.
- My brother, the playwright, is working on a new play.
- He likes to talk about what he calls the principles of comedy.

**EXERCISE B** Underline the collective nouns in the following sentences.

**Example 1.** We picked Sam from a litter of black and white kittens.

- My sister Sandra received a set of drums and a collection of stamps for her tenth birthday.
- The fleet left the harbor under full steam, followed by a flock of seagulls.
- The faculty voted to change the requirements for graduation.
- As the magazine photographer came over the ridge, he saw a herd of water buffalo that stretched to the horizon.
- The audience applauded so fervently that the band and the chorus returned to the stage for an encore.