Name:

Common and Proper Nouns At the Circus

Reading Level 2

Part One - Common Nouns

Directions: Read each of the following sentences. Choose the **common noun** from the options below. Circle your choice.

- My family and I went to the circus yesterday.
 a) and
 b) family
 c) went
 d) to
- 2. John Bill Ricketts staged the first circus performance in the US on April 3, 1793.
- a) circusb) Aprilc) stagedd) U.S.
- 3. Isaac Van Amburgh began the tradition of taming jungle cats in 1830.
- a) ofb) Isaac Van Amburghc) traditiond) began
- 4. PETA is a group that believes that circus animals are treated cruelly.
- a) groupb) PETAc) cruellyd) treated
- 5. The static or fixed trapeze act is performed on bars and ropes that mainly stay in place.
- a) mainly b) is
- c) performed d) bars
- 6. Albert Petrovski set the record for juggling eleven rings at the same time.
- a) Albert b) same
- c) record d) performed
- 7. A tightrope walker known as The Great Farini crossed the Niagara Falls.
- a) knownb) Farinic) Niagarad) walker



8.	Forte the Ringmaster greeted the crowd, "Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, children of all ages"							
a)	greeted	b)	Ladies					
c)	Forte	d)	of					
9.	Modern circuses tell a story or convey a theme with traditional circus skills.							
a)	theme	b)	convey					
c)	traditional	d)	or					
10.	Chumbo was the biggest clown in the circus	Chumbo was the biggest clown in the circus but he rode the tiniest unicycle.						
a)	Chumbo	b)	biggest					
c)	unicycle	d)	rode					
11.	11. In the days before lighting, it was the ringmaster's job to tell the audience where to look.							
a)	where	b)	lighting					
c)	before	d)	look					
12.	2. The Barnes Brother's Circus was so tightly packed that we felt like we were climbing into a clown car when we filed into our seats.							
a)	tightly	b)	Barnes Brother's Circus					
c)	packed	d)	seats					
13.	3. The English word <i>circus</i> comes from the Greek word <i>kirkos</i> , which means <i>circle</i> or <i>ring</i> .							
a)	word	b)	means					
c)	Greek	d)	comes					
14.	. The seven Ringling brothers turned a small-time act into one of America's largest circuses.							
a)	Ringling	b)	turned					
c)	act	d)	largest					
15.	5. Gargantua was a gorilla who saved the circus by drawing big crowds.							
a)	drew	b)	big					
c)	gorilla	d)	Gargantua					
16.	6. Fewer people went to circuses after World War II, perhaps due to a crazy new device called TV.							
a)	people	b)	World War II					
c)	new	d)	called					

17. Circus activities take place within a ring, and large circuses have many rings.

a) take	b) large					
c) many	d) ring					
18. Character clowns play a role like butcher or baker.						
a) play	b) butcher					
c) like	d) or					
19. The whiteface clown usually leads the other clowns.						
a) leads	b) clown					
c) or	d) usually					
20. Red clowns are often the ones who get the pies in the face, accidentally sit in wet paint, or have their pants ripped off.						
a) accidentally	b) sit					

c) wet d) paint

Part Two - Proper Nouns

Directions: Read each of the following sentences. Choose the **proper noun** from the options below. Circle your choice.

21. Charlie Chaplin studied the art of clowning.						
a) Charlie	b)	art				
c) studied	d)	clowning				
22. Americans call a clown's act a <i>gag</i> while Europeans call it an <i>entree</i> .						
a) clown's	b)	act				
c) Americans	d)	entree				
23. I saw a circus from China featuring a performer who spun many plates on sticks.						
a) featuring	b)	plates				
c) China	d)	performer				
24. Hoppy the Clown exaggerated how hard it was to ride his unicycle.						
a) Hoppy	b)	unicycle				
c) exaggerated	d)	hard				

	-		eated \"Weary Willie,\" the hobo clown.			
a)	famous	b)	clown			
c)	hobo	d)	Weary Willie			
26. When Irvin Feld noticed that there were only 14 clowns left in the show, and that many of them were in their 50s, he started a clown college.						
a)	When	b)	Irvin			
c)	circus	d)	remaining			
27. Animal trainer, Gunther Gebel-Williams, appeared on many TV shows with his tigers.						
a)	Animal	b)	tigers			
c)	appeared	d)	Gunther			
28.	28. We asked the vendor selling Coca-Cola how much they cost and his response almost mad me do a backflip.					
a)	Coca-Cola	b)	We			
c)	asked	d)	backflip			
29. The Ringling Bros. began retiring their elephants in 2015 in a move that pleased animal activists but upset some fans.						
a)	fans	b)	Ringling Bros.			
c)	move	d)	activists			
30.	Students could attend the Ringling B	orothers and	Barnum & Bailey Clown College for fre			
a)	Students	b)	free			
u)						