

Name: _____

Common and Proper Nouns

At the Circus

Reading Level 1

Part One - Common Nouns

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



- I went to the circus with my family.
 - with
 - family
 - the
 - went
- John Bill Ricketts brought the first circus to the U.S. in 1793.
 - circus
 - John
 - U.S.
 - in
- Isaac Van Amburgh was the first person to train lions.
 - train
 - Isaac Van Amburgh
 - lions
 - the
- My Aunt Jenny is afraid of lions for some reason.
 - lions
 - afraid
 - Jenny
 - for
- Trapeze artists do tricks on bars and ropes.
 - do
 - and
 - on
 - artists
- Albert the Juggler juggled 11 rings at the same time.
 - Albert
 - juggled
 - rings
 - at
- The Great Farini crossed the river on a tightrope.
 - crossed
 - Farini
 - a
 - river

8. Bob the Ringmaster got the kids ready for the show by saying, "Boys and girls, children of all ages..."

- a) Bob
- b) Boys
- c) said
- d) young

9. Some circuses tell a story or have a theme.

- a) theme
- b) a
- c) tell
- d) have

10. Chumbo was a big clown who rode a tiny unicycle.

- a) Chumbo
- b) big
- c) unicycle
- d) rode

11. Before there were lights, the ringmaster told the crowd where to look.

- a) before
- b) lights
- c) told
- d) look

12. We felt like we were climbing into a clown car when we took our seats at The Barnes Brother's Circus.

- a) took
- b) Barnes Brother's Circus
- c) when
- d) seats

13. The word *circus* comes from a Greek word that means *circle* or *ring*.

- a) word
- b) means
- c) Greek
- d) comes

14. The seven Ringling brothers turned a small-time act into a big time show.

- a) Ringling
- b) turned
- c) act
- d) big

15. The gorilla drew big crowds to the circus.

- a) drew
- b) big
- c) gorilla
- d) to

16. Fewer folks went to the circus after World War II due to a crazy new thing called TV.

- a) folks
- b) World War II
- c) went
- d) Fewer

17. Circus acts take place within a ring, and big circuses have many rings.

- a) take
- b) big
- c) have
- d) ring

18. Some clowns play roles like butcher or baker.

- a) play
- b) butcher
- c) like
- d) or

19. The whiteface clown leads the other clowns.

- a) leads
- b) clown
- c) other
- d) of

20. The red clown is the one who gets the pie in the face, sits in wet paint, or gets knocked on his or her back.

- a) wet
- b) sits
- c) in
- 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 was known for his skills as a clown.

- a) Charlie
- b) skills
- c) clown
- d) known

22. Americans call a clown's act a *gag*.

- a) gag
- b) act
- c) Americans
- d) call

23. I saw a circus from China that had an artist who spun plates on sticks.

- a) saw
- b) artist
- c) China
- d) plates

24. Hoppy the Clown pretended that it was very hard to ride the tiny bike.

- a) Hoppy
- b) hard
- c) pretended
- d) bike

25. Weary Willie was a famous hobo clown.

- a) hobo
- b) clown
- c) famous
- d) Weary Willie

26. When Irvin Feld noticed that they needed more clowns, he started a clown college.

- a) When
- b) Irvin
- c) circus
- d) needed

27. Animal trainers like the Great Paco spend most of their lives working with their pets.

- a) Animal
- b) spend
- c) pets
- d) Paco

28. We asked the man selling Coca-Cola how much they cost and what he said almost made me do a flip.

- a) Coca-Cola
- b) We
- c) asked
- d) flip

29. The Ringling Bros. promised to retire their elephants in 2015.

- a) promised
- b) Ringling Bros.
- c) elephants
- d) retire

30. Students did not have to pay to go to the Ringling Brothers Clown College.

- a) Students
- b) pay
- c) Clown College
- d) did