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.

1. I went to the circus with my family.

a) with
b) family
c) the
d) went

2. John Bill Ricketts brought the first circus to the U.S. in 1793.

a) circus
b) John
c) U.S.
d) in

3. Isaac Van Amburgh was the first person to train lions.

a) train
b) Isaac Van Amburgh
c) lions
d) the

4. My Aunt Jenny is afraid of lions for some reason.

a) lions
b) afraid
c) Jenny
d) for

5. Trapeze artists do tricks on bars and ropes.

a) do
b) and
c) on
d) artists

6. Albert the Juggler juggled 11 rings at the same time.

a) Albert
b) juggled
c) rings
d) at

7. The Great Farini crossed the river on a tightrope.

a) crossed
b) Farini
c) a
d) river

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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

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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

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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

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