

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
c) said
- b) Boys
d) young
9. Some circuses tell a story or have a theme.
- a) theme
c) tell
- b) a
d) have
10. Chumbo was a big clown who rode a tiny unicycle.
- a) Chumbo
c) unicycle
- b) big
d) rode
11. Before there were lights, the ringmaster told the crowd where to look.
- a) before
c) told
- b) lights
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
c) when
- b) Barnes Brother's Circus
d) seats
13. The word *circus* comes from a Greek word that means *circle* or *ring*.
- a) word
c) Greek
- b) means
d) comes
14. The seven Ringling brothers turned a small-time act into a big time show.
- a) Ringling
c) act
- b) turned
d) big
15. The gorilla drew big crowds to the circus.
- a) drew
c) gorilla
- b) big
d) to
16. Fewer folks went to the circus after World War II due to a crazy new thing called TV.
- a) folks
c) went
- b) World War II
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