A noun names a person, place, thing, or idea. There are many different kinds of nouns:

- **Common nouns** name any person, place, thing, or idea.
  Examples: boy, girl, school, city, ocean, democracy

- **Proper nouns** name a particular person, place, thing, or idea.
  Examples: Joseph, Mary, the United States of America, North America, Golden Gate Bridge, Atlantic Ocean

- **Singular Nouns** name one person, place, thing, or idea.
  Examples: student, day, kitten, church, potato

- **Plural Nouns** name more than one person, place, thing, or idea. Most plural nouns form their plural by adding –s or –es.
  Examples: students, days, churches, potatoes

- **Possessive Nouns** show ownership by adding an apostrophe and –s or just an apostrophe. They can be singular or plural.
  Examples: the cat’s pillow, the girls’ soccer team, the puppies’ dish, the children’s toys

- **Count nouns** name things that can be counted. These nouns have plural forms.
  Examples: trees, rivers, students, towns, books

- **Noncount Nouns**, also known as mass nouns, name things that are not usually counted. (Although noncount nouns have plural forms – for example, the sands of the world’s deserts – these forms are seldom used.)
  Examples: snow, anger, love, health, sand

- **Collective nouns** name a group of persons, places, or things.
  Examples: crowd, herd, team, audience
**1) Short Presidency (Nouns)**

This president had the shortest term of any president of the United States. He died after only one month in office. Who was he?

To answer the question, find the noun in each set of word below. Write the letter of the noun in the space next to its line number at the bottom of the page. You will need to divide the letters into words.

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2) **Big Animal (Nouns)**

About 110 feet long and weighing approximately 2120 tons, this mammal is the world’s biggest animal. What is its name?

Choose your answers from among the underlined words. Write the letter beneath the noun in the space above its sentence number at the bottom of the page. You will need to divide the letters into words.

1) Meagan chose a topic for her science report.
   E   A   O   U

2) She has always been interested in animals.
   S   N   R   B

3) She finds bears to be fascinating creatures.
   G   C   E   S

4) Bears were once found throughout the country.
   S   Y   D   E

5) Natalie, Meagan’s friend, is doing her report on sea life.
   L   H   T   C

6) Natalie finds sea life to be an interesting subject.
   N   L   B   H

7) The biggest animals in the world are found in the sea.
   R   L   U   C

8) The girls found much of their information on the Internet.
   M   R   T   U

9) They discovered many fascinating facts about animals.
   E   S   C   W

|   | 2 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 4 |
3) Early Computer (Nouns)

In the 1830's, this mathematician and inventor built a mechanical computing machine that many people consider to be an early computer. Who was he?
To answer the question, find the underlined common or proper noun in each sentence below. Only one noun is underlined in each sentence. Write the letter of the noun in the space above its sentence number at the bottom of the page. You will need to divide the letters into words.

1) Elisa has always been interested in computers.
   T D N S

2) She chose computers as the topic for her science report.
   N L R E

3) An early computing machine was built in England in the 1830's.
   E T W H

4) The inventor was a noted mathematician.
   M S E G

5) On Saturday, Elisa told her friend, Rachel, about this invention.
   L H C R

6) The girls decided to find more information on the Internet.
   T S K C

7) They finished their research late in the day.
   N D S E

8) Elisa's mom invited Rachel to stay and have dinner with them.
   I A J O

9) Elisa's mom prepared an excellent meal.
   B G T M

| 6 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 7 |
4)  **More Than an Inventor (Nouns)**

This man is famous for inventing one of the world's most important devices. But he also was one of the founders of the National Geographic Society. Who was he?

To answer the question, match the singular noun with its plural form. Write the letter of each answer in the space above its number at the bottom of the page. You will need to divide the letters into words.

1) dish  
   S. dishes   N. dishes   C. dishies

2) family  
   R. families   M. familys   L. familes

3) mountain  
   P. mountaines   M. mountains   T. mountainies

4) valley  
   H. valleyes   S. vallies   D. valleys

5) hero  
   V. heros   H. heroes   I. heroies

6) thief  
   B. thieves   E. thieves   M. thievs

7) country  
   U. countrys   A. countryes   E. countries

8) calf  
   T. calvies   J. calfs   G. calves

9) potato  
   A. potaotes   I. potatos   R. potato

10) roof  
    V. roofes   X. roofs   Z. rooves

11) journey  
    J. journeys   Y. journies   L. journeys

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| 9 | 11 | 7 | 10 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 11 | 11 |
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5) Early Flyers (Nouns)

According to Greek mythology, a father and son were imprisoned on the island of Crete. They attempted to escape by building wings and flying away. What were their names?

To answer the question, complete each sentence below with the correct form of the plural noun. Choose your answers from the words following each sentence. Write the letter of each plural noun in the space above its sentence number at the bottom of the page. You will need to divide the letters into words.

1) Greek mythology contains many fascinating _____________.
   L. stories   U. storys

2) Many myths were about the _____________ of heroes and heroines.
   N. lifes     S. lives

3) Some myths arose from the religious _____________ of the people.
   T. believes  N. beliefs

4) Gods and _____________ were characters in many myths.
   C. goddesss  R. goddesses

5) The characters in myths often had to perform great _____________ of courage.
   E. feats     I. feates

6) Many myths tried to explain the _____________ of nature.
   I. wonders   A. wonderes

7) Most myths ended as _____________ for the characters.
   E. tragedys  U. tragedies

8) A few myths had happy _____________.
   D. endings   M. endinges

9) _____________ believe that some myths may have been loosely based on real events.
   C. Historians J. Historianes

10) Myths tell us much about _____________ of the ancient world.
     E. societys   A. societies

|   |   | 8 | 10 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 10 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 4 | 7 | 2 |
Irregular Nouns Tip Sheet

The plural form of most nouns are made by adding -s or -es. The plurals of irregular nouns are not made in this way. Most irregular nouns change their form from the singular to the plural; some stay the same. The following are examples of the singular and plural forms of common irregular nouns:

child - children
foot - feet
mouse - mice
goose - geese
ox - oxen
man - men
woman - women
medium - media
parenthesis - parentheses

axis - axes
louse - lice
die - dice
crisis - crises
oasis - oases

Tooth - teeth
radius - radii

basis - bases
larva - larvae

The following are examples of nouns that have the same singular and plural forms:

sheep - sheep
do - cod
moose - moose
species - species
deer - deer
bass - bass
trot - trout
barley - barley
series - series
salmon - salmon
traffic - traffic
wheat - wheat
6) Paying for Parking (Nouns)

The first parking meter was installed in 1935. Where was it installed?
To answer the question, match each singular noun with its plural form. Write the letter of each answer in the space above its number at the bottom of the page. You will need to divide the letters into words.

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1) woman
   R. womans  A. women  U. womanes

2) mouse
   I. mouses  H. mousies  O. mice

3) sheep
   A. sheep  E. sheeps  M. sheepes

4) ox
   L. oxens  C. oxes  H. oxen

5) child
   O. childs  I. children  U. childrens

6) piano
   I. pianoes  L. pianos  N. piano

7) foot
   M. feet  R. feets  D. feets

8) goose
   T. geese  E. gander  I. geeses

9) traffic
   H. traffics  R. traffics  K. traffic

10) tooth
    N. toothes  S. tooths  C. teeth

11) deer
    O. deer  S. deers  B. doe

12) radius
    N. radiuss  Y. radii  radius

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"America the Beautiful" is often called the unofficial national anthem of the United States. Who wrote the original poem in 1895 that was eventually set to music and became this famous song? To answer the question, match each singular noun with its plural form. Write the letter of each answer in the space above its number at the bottom of the page. You will need to divide the letters into words.

1) moose
   E. meese  I. moose  U. mooses

2) crisis
   S. crises  D. crisi  N. crises

3) oasis
   L. oases  K. oasis  R. oasis

4) man
   Y. mans  E. mens  H. men

5) series
   I. seri  A. series  E. seriess

6) salmon
   Z. salmen  M. salmones  R. salmon

7) auto
   B. autos  Y. autoes  P. auti

8) die
   C. dies  N. dice  J. dices

9) wheat
   H. wheats  T. wheat  U. wheaties

10) species
    I. speci  A. specis  E. species

11) solo
    K. solos  S. soloes  M. solois

|   | 11 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 10 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 10 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 10 | 2 |
Possessive nouns show ownership. They indicate that a thing belongs to someone or something. Apostrophes are used to show the possessive case. Possessive nouns may be singular or plural.

- To write the possessive form of singular nouns, add an apostrophe and -s.

Examples: Sue's coat, Charles's book, the bird's cage, South Carolina's beaches

Exception: When a word of more than one syllable ends in an "s" sound, the singular possessive may be formed by adding only an apostrophe. This eliminates awkward pronunciations.

Examples: Moses' leadership, Mr. Rogers' office, the witness' account of the accident

- To write the possessive form of plural nouns that end in -s, add only an apostrophe.

Examples: the two sisters' bikes, the puppies' bed, the boys' locker room, the Johnsons' house

- To write the possessive form of plural nouns that do not end in -s, add an apostrophe and -s.

Examples: the men's ski team, the children's toys, the mice's nest
Superman (Clark Kent) was born on Krypton. His adoptive Earth parents were Martha and Jonathan Kent. What were the names of his real parents?

To answer the question, match each singular noun with its singular possessive or plural possessive form. Write the letter of each answer in the space above the number of the singular noun at the bottom of the page. You will need to divide the letters into words.

1) reporter (singular possessive)
   K. reporters'  S. reporters's  A. reporter's

2) spaceship (singular possessive)
   R. spaceship's  I. spaceships'  Y. spaceships's

3) Clark (singular possessive)
   U. Clarks'  E. Clarkes'  R. Clark's

4) planet (plural possessive)
   U. planet's  D. planets'  O. planetes'

5) farm (singular possessive)
   L. farms'  D. farms's  A. farm's

6) truth (plural possessive)
   I. truth's  O. truths'  U. truthes'

7) friend (plural possessive)
   E. friendes'  H. friend's  A. friends'

8) villain (singular possessive)
   Y. villains'  L. villain's  R. villaines'

9) child (plural possessive)
   S. childrens'  N. children's  P. child's

10) city (plural possessive)
    G. cities's  D. city's  L. cities'

11) Lois (singular possessive)
    J. Lois'  Y. Loises'  N. Loisies'

12) hero (plural possessive)
    I. hero's  E. heroes'  R. heros'

| 10 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 11 | 6 | 3 | - | 12 | 8 |
Great Organization (Nouns)

In 1881, Clara Barton founded an organization that has since helped millions of people. What organization did she start?

To answer the question, find the two correct possessive forms of nouns in each line. These two nouns may both be singular or plural, or they may be singular noun and a plural noun. Starting with the first letter of your answers, write the letters in order in the spaces at the bottom of the page. When you are done, reverse and divide the letters into words.

1) N. canyons's S. students' I. mens' S. family's
2) O. people's G. wifes' T. coachs' R. tourists'
3) C. museum's D. children's U. deers' M. turkies'
4) E. passengers' H. countrys' N. babys' R. diplomat's
5) W. wolve's N. continent's A. Lisa's S. citys'
6) C. foxes' D. womans' I. bridge's P. towns's
7) L. walruses's C. thieve's R. storm's E. schools'
8) M. officers' V. dentists's A. champion's U. classes's
On May 5, 1961, this man became the first American to fly into space. Although the flight lasted only fifteen minutes, it began the manned space program for the United States. Who was this astronaut?

To answer the question, find the singular or plural possessive noun in each sentence below. Decide whether the possessive noun is used correctly. If it is correct, write the letter for "correct" in the space above its sentence number at the bottom of the page. If it is incorrect, write the letter for "incorrect." You will need to divide the letters into words.

1) Jason's group presented an oral report to the class about the space program.
   E. Correct
   I. Incorrect

2) The dream of space flight has excited people's imaginations for thousands of years.
   R. Correct
   N. Incorrect

3) Each of the groupes' members presented a part of the report.
   X. Correct
   N. Incorrect

4) A rocket's powerful engines are needed to lift spacecraft into orbit.
   S. Correct
   T. Incorrect

5) The astronauts's training is long and difficult.
   S. Correct
   D. Incorrect

6) Danielle's portion of the report focused on the Apollo moon landings.
   L. Correct
   O. Incorrect

7) The Apollo missions have unlocked some of the moons' secrets.
   M. Correct
   P. Incorrect

8) The other students' questions were thoughtful.
   H. Correct
   R. Incorrect

9) The classes's presentations about the space program were enjoyable and informative.
   J. Correct
   A. Incorrect

| 9 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 5 |
A **concrete noun** names an object which can be perceived by the senses.

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

**Examples:**

Concrete: dress, fire, table, noise

Abstract: democracy, hatred, beauty, happiness

Underline the concrete nouns and circle the abstract nouns in each sentence.

1) His depression continued long after the death of his wife.
2) The beggar felt his hunger on a daily basis.
3) The people witnessed the collision on their way to church.
4) The computer was left on by his sister.
5) Yesterday was rainy and overcast.
6) Will you graduate before the end of the century?
7) The magazine rack was overstuffed.
8) The dictionary on the desk is unabridged.
9) The crystal goblet fell and shattered.
10) The door was locked, and I had forgotten the key.
A collective noun names a group as if it were one individual. The collective noun uses a singular verb when the group is referred to as a unit. It uses a plural verb when the individuals in the group are regarded separately.

**Examples:** The vote of the committee was unanimous. (singular)

   The committee have continued to argue among themselves. (plural)

Underline the collective noun. In the blank write "S" if it is used as a singular noun or "P" if it is plural.

1) The jury could not agree on a verdict in the case.
2) The jury has its own reserved parking spaces.
3) The new family next door has a West Highland White Terrier.
4) The family were seated around the television.
5) The crew has taken a vote and decided on a mutiny.
6) The crew are coming on board to prepare their stations for the cruise.

Write a sentence using the collective noun "class" in the singular form. Then, write a second sentence using "class" as a plural collective noun.

1) 

2)
Compound nouns form their plurals by adding -s to the most important word in the compound noun.

**Examples:**
- mother-in-law → mothers-in-law
- wineglass → wineglasses

Write the plural form of each compound noun. Use a dictionary to check the spelling.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound Noun</th>
<th>Plural Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. pogo stick</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. baseball</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. maitre d'hôtel</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. coup d'état</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. go-between</td>
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<td>6. standby</td>
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<td>7. printout</td>
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<td>8. hanger-on</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9. father-in-law</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. will-o'-the-wisp</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11. toothbrush</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12. paintbrush</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13. hand-me-down</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14. good-by</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15. stepmother</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16. backpack</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>17. passerby</td>
<td></td>
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<td>18. time-out</td>
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<td>19. foothold</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>20. talisman</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>21. get-together</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. two-by-four</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>23. handcuff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some nouns of foreign origin that are commonly used in English retain the plural form of the language from which they came. Some use the typical English plurals -s and -es. Others have English and foreign forms.

**Examples:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Foreign</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vertebra</td>
<td>vertebras</td>
<td>vertebrae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alumnus</td>
<td></td>
<td>alumni</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use a dictionary to determine the plural (or plurals) of each of the following nouns of foreign origin.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>English Plural</th>
<th>Foreign Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. stimulus</td>
<td></td>
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<td>2. synthesis</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. synopsis</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. emphasis</td>
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<td>5. diagnosis</td>
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<td>6. radius</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. datum</td>
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<td>8. crisis</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. genus</td>
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<td>11. agendum</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. parenthesis</td>
<td></td>
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<td>13. matrix</td>
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<td>14. paparazzo</td>
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<td>15. plateau</td>
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<td>16. cranium</td>
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<td>17. momentum</td>
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<td>18. nucleus</td>
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<td>19. prospectus</td>
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<td>20. antenna</td>
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<td>21. formula</td>
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<td>22. basis</td>
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<td>23. curriculum</td>
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<td>24. axis</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Nouns (Possessive Nouns)

To make a singular noun possessive, add -s. If the noun ends in -s and is plural in meaning, add only an apostrophe. If the noun is singular in meaning, but ends in -s, add -'s.

**Examples:**

Noun not ending in -s  the boy  the boy's basketball
Noun ending in -s  the boss  the boss's temper
Plural noun  the bosses  the bosses' meeting
Irregular Plurals  children  children's toys

An exception is made in the case of words in which an extra s would make pronunciation difficult such as "for goodness' sake." In that case, add only an apostrophe.

The singular form of each noun below is given. Write the other forms requested.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Singular Possessive</th>
<th>Plural</th>
<th>Plural Possessive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. book</td>
<td>Book’s</td>
<td>Books</td>
<td>Books’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. hem</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. exercise</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. company</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. piano</td>
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<td>6. movie</td>
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<td>7. waitress</td>
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<td>8. lady</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>9. dormouse</td>
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<td>10. life</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>11. costume</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12. church</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13. cloak</td>
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<td>14. test</td>
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<td>15. hurricane</td>
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<td>16. briefcase</td>
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<td>17. goose</td>
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<td>18. cliff</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>19. fedora</td>
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</tbody>
</table>