

## Words that can be both nouns and adjectives

**A** Look at the underlined words and choose the correct part of speech.

- 1 All meetings are attended by representatives from the student union. *noun/adjective*
- 2 He offered to help, with his characteristic good humour. *noun/adjective*
- 3 They offer specialist advice on training your pet. *noun/adjective*
- 4 The chief cause of the problem is boredom amongst young people. *noun/adjective*
- 5 She enjoys reading English classics by authors such as Dickens or George Eliot. *noun/adjective*
- 6 We promise to find the people who were responsible for these evil actions. *noun/adjective*
- 7 All students must take exams in the core subjects: English, maths and science. *noun/adjective*
- 8 The task will take a minimum of five hours to complete. *noun/adjective*
- 9 I always wear rubber gloves when I am washing the dishes. *noun/adjective*
- 10 Twenty miles per hour is the maximum speed for driving on this road. *noun/adjective*
- 11 His unusual physical characteristics will help you to recognize him immediately. *noun/adjective*
- 12 Community participation is at the core of her work. *noun/adjective*

**B** Complete the sentences using nouns from the box. You may need to make the noun plural.

characteristic chief classic core evil maximum  
minimum representative rubber specialist

- 1 The ball is made of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Police \_\_\_\_\_ are having an emergency meeting to discuss the problem.
- 3 The school has small class sizes and allows a \_\_\_\_\_ of 15 students in a class.
- 4 Although they are twins, they have quite different personal \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 You must watch the film *Casablanca*. It's such a \_\_\_\_\_!
- 6 Customer service is vitally important to our business – in fact, it's the \_\_\_\_\_ of what we do.
- 7 Many traditional fairy tales are based on the fight between good and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 Each country sent two \_\_\_\_\_ to the meeting.
- 9 Please keep noise to a \_\_\_\_\_ after 11 p.m.
- 10 She is a \_\_\_\_\_ in Italian literature and teaches graduate students at the university.

**C Complete the sentences using adjectives from the box.**

characteristic   chief   classic   core   evil   maximum  
minimum   representative   rubber   specialist

- 1 He has always had a passion for \_\_\_\_\_ cars, and recently started a business that hires them out for weddings and events.
- 2 The police will catch him and he'll be punished for his \_\_\_\_\_ deeds.
- 3 The photo in the advertisement for the school was not really \_\_\_\_\_ of the variety of students in the school.
- 4 Equal opportunities for all people is one of our \_\_\_\_\_ beliefs, at the heart of our company policy.
- 5 The article is written by the \_\_\_\_\_ political editor.
- 6 Whenever this song comes on, I turn the stereo up to \_\_\_\_\_ volume.
- 7 One \_\_\_\_\_ feature of his paintings is his use of different shades of red.
- 8 Have the shoes got a leather sole or a \_\_\_\_\_ sole?
- 9 The \_\_\_\_\_ age for entry to the club is 18.
- 10 She regularly reads a \_\_\_\_\_ magazine written by people with expert knowledge of birds.

**D Write two sentences for each word. In one sentence, use the word as a noun. In the other sentence, use the word as an adjective. You may change the noun to make it plural. Use a dictionary if necessary.**