



A: Dictation Passage¹

Read through the dictation passage. Note any words, capitalizations, or matters of punctuation that require special attention.

Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not see. That is what the people of long ago were praised for. We have faith. So we understand that everything was made when God commanded it.

5-Minute Mechanics

A **noun** is a word that names a person, place, thing or idea. A **proper noun** names a specific person, place, thing or idea, such as Pittsburgh, Mary, or Brightflash, and **common nouns** name something non-specific: tomato, pencil, park. Proper nouns are always capitalized, whereas common nouns are not.

Did you know that nouns can also denote **gender**? Nouns can be *feminine, masculine, neuter* or *indefinite*? For example:

	Example:
Feminine: (female)	mother, aunt, hen, waitress
Masculine: (male)	father, uncle, rooster, waiter
Neuter: (neither male nor female)	table, lamp, car
Indefinite: (either male or female)	teacher, children, horse

Nouns may either be **concrete** objects (like a *pool* or a *trampoline*) or an **abstract** idea (like love, sadness, or justice). **Compound nouns** are made up of two or more words (like *firetruck*, *step-sister* or *middle school*), and a **collective noun** names a specific kind of group (like a *gaggle*, *herd*, or *team*).

1. Take a moment to underline all of the nouns in the passage above. When you find a proper noun, underline it twice.

2. Once the nouns are underlined, label the gender of each one. Use **F** for feminine, **M** for masculine, **N** for neuter and **I** for indefinite.
3. List one of each of the following types of nouns—if they exist—that you find in the passage:

concrete: _____

abstract: _____

compound: _____

collective: _____

B: Dictation Application

Yesterday's dictation passage features an eloquent explanation of faith. Reread yesterday's dictation passage and then spend a few minutes contemplating faith. What does the word mean to you? How would you explain faith to a friend? Do you agree with the author of Hebrews?

Using the lines below, write your own definition of faith. How would you sum up the word? What is the essence of faith? What does the word mean to you personally?

1. Hebrews 11:1–3 (NirV®).

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C: In a Nutshell

Have you ever listened to someone retell a story and it seems like they just go on and on and on? Sometimes, it's enough to hear just a summary of something that really happened. This week, you will practice your summarization skills by writing a book commercial to encourage others to read a book you've enjoyed recently. Feel free to read the book's cover or reviews online to get some ideas of what your book commercial may look like. Answer the questions below to collect a summary of facts about the book and to prepare for tomorrow's commercial.

1. Who are the main characters?

2. When and where does the story take place?

3. What problem did the characters in the story face?
What steps did they take to solve it?

4. How was the problem resolved? What was the outcome of the story?

D: Book Commercial

Today, your assignment is to write a short book commercial about a book you've read recently. It doesn't matter which book you choose.

Your book report should contain the title of the book and the author. It should also contain a brief summary of the book's storyline (plot). Finally, the book commercial should end with a brief description of your thoughts about the book. Did you enjoy it? Why or why not?

If it helps, you may want to put together an outline of what you'd like to say in your book commercial before you write the final draft.
