

## The Noun System

If we scan Lincoln's address to see what kinds of words (parts of speech) he relied upon, we discover that he relied very heavily upon the noun system: the noun, the pronoun replacing it, and the adjective modifying either the noun or pronoun. In fact, 198 words in the address were either nouns, pronouns, adjectives or verbs, leaving only 69 words from the other four parts of speech. This means that Lincoln was talking about *things*: brave men, new nation, unfinished work, freedom, government, people, earth. He was talking to the United States about our real world, about life—about people, and a government of, by, and for them.

