

## **Abstract Nouns**

### **What are Abstract Nouns**

Abstract nouns are words that name things that are not concrete. Your five physical senses cannot detect an abstract noun – you can't see it, smell it, taste it, hear it, or touch it. In essence, an abstract noun is a quality, a concept, an idea, or maybe even an event.

Abstract nouns and concrete nouns are usually defined in terms of one another. Something that is abstract exists only in the mind, while something that is concrete can be interacted with in a physical way. Qualities, relationships, theories, conditions, and states of being are some examples of the types of things abstract nouns define.

### **Types of Abstract Nouns**

It's not always easy to determine if a noun is abstract or concrete. Many grammar experts argue over whether certain terms, making things even worse. The line separating abstract nouns from concrete nouns is often quite blurry. For example, many abstract noun lists include the word laughter, but others leave it out, as it's something that can be heard, seen, and physically felt.

### **Abstract Noun Examples**

The following lists contain different types of abstract nouns. Certain abstract nouns, especially the ones describing feelings and emotions, easily fit into multiple categories, as they can be used in different ways. Get to know them, and it'll be easier for you to spot an abstract noun when you see one.

**Feelings :** Anxiety, Confusion, Fear, Pain, Pleasure, Satisfaction, Sensitivity, Stress, Sympathy, Warmth

**States :** Being, Chaos, Freedom, Liberty, Luxury, Misery, Nervousness, Openness, Peace, Pessimism

**Emotions :** Anger, Despair, Happiness, Hate, Indifference, Joy, Grief, Love, Sadness, Sorrow

**Qualities :** Beauty, Beauty, Brilliance, Courage, Dedication, Determination, Generosity, Honesty, Patience, Trust

**Concepts :** Charity, Comfort, Culture, Deceit, Energy, Failure, Faith, Motivation, Opportunity, Perseverance

**Ideas :** Beliefs, Communication, Curiosity, Democracy, Friendship, Interest, Knowledge

**Events :** Adventure, Birthday, Career, Childhood, Death, Future, Holiday, Life, Marriage

### **More Examples**

Although you may not realize it, you experience abstract nouns every day and in many different types of situations. Once you've read these abstract noun examples, you'll probably find it very easy to come up with some abstract nouns of your own.

- Love, fear, anger, joy, excitement, and other emotions are abstract nouns.
- Courage, bravery, cowardice, and other such states are abstract nouns.
- Desire, creativity, uncertainty, and other innate feelings are abstract nouns.

## **ENGLISH : GRAMMAR –1-b : abstract nouns-exercices**

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These are just a few examples of non-concrete words that are sensed. The following sentences contain abstract noun examples which have been italicized for easy identification. Notice that although the ideas expressed are real, they are things you can't see, touch, taste, smell, or hear.

- I want to see *justice* served.
- I'd like the *freedom* to travel all over the world.
- Joe felt a nagging sense of *doom*.
- When Sarah jumped into the lake to rescue a drowning cat, her *bravery* astonished onlookers.

### **Abstract Nouns Exercises**

Many abstract nouns are formed from adjectives, though some are formed from verbs or nouns. You'll find one of these words in parenthesis at the end of each sentence. Use it to form an abstract noun to fill in the blank.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is something almost everyone appreciates. (kind)
2. The wrestlers exhibited immense \_\_\_\_\_. (strong)
3. As the sun dipped below the horizon, \_\_\_\_\_ came over the city. (dark)
4. It is my \_\_\_\_\_ to welcome the mayor. (please)
5. Our \_\_\_\_\_ will last forever. (friend)

**Answer Key: 1 – Kindness 2 – Strongness or strength 3 – Darkness 4 – Pleasure 5 – Friendship**