



Abstract Nouns

Área Lectura y Escritura

Resultados de aprendizaje

Conocer sustantivos abstractos.

Utilizar sustantivos abstractos en contextos de escritura formal.

Contenidos

1. General vocabulary words

Debo saber

- Simple present
- Present continuous
- Simple past
- Past continuous

Abstract Nouns

An abstract noun is one which is used to mean an idea, experience or quality rather than an object.

This **happiness, intention** and **shock** are abstract nouns whereas, for example, pen, bed and trousers are not.

There are a number of suffixes which are used particularly frequently in the formation of abstract nouns. Some of the most common are - **ment**, -**ion**, -**ness** and -**ity**.

Note: -**ment** and -**ion** are usually used to make verbs into abstract nouns whereas - **ness** and -**ity** are added to adjectives; -**ion** sometimes becomes -**tion**, -**sion**, -**ation** or -**ition**.

Here are some examples of abstract nouns using those suffixes.

<i>Achievement</i>	<i>action</i>	<i>aggressiveness</i>	<i>absurdity</i>
<i>Adjustment</i>	<i>collection</i>	<i>attractiveness</i>	<i>anonymity</i>
<i>Amazement</i>	<i>combination</i>	<i>bitterness</i>	<i>complexity</i>
<i>Discouragement</i>	<i>illusion</i>	<i>carelessness</i>	<i>curiosity</i>
<i>Improvement</i>	<i>imagination</i>	<i>consciousness</i>	<i>generosity</i>
<i>Investment</i>	<i>production</i>	<i>tenderness</i>	<i>prosperity</i>
<i>Retirement</i>	<i>reduction</i>	<i>ugliness</i>	<i>sensitivity</i>



Less common suffixes associated with abstract nouns are **-ship**, **-dom**, **-th** and **-hood**.

Note: **-ship** and **-hood** are usually used in combination with other nouns whereas **-th** combines with an adjective to form an abstract nouns and **-dom** can combine with either a noun or an adjective.

Here are some examples of abstract nouns using those suffixes.

<i>Apprenticeship</i>	<i>boredom</i>	<i>breadth</i>	<i>adulthood</i>
<i>Companionship</i>	<i>freedom</i>	<i>depth</i>	<i>brotherhood</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>kingdom</i>	<i>length</i>	<i>childhood</i>
<i>Ownership</i>	<i>martyrdom</i>	<i>strength</i>	<i>motherhood</i>
<i>Partnership</i>	<i>stardom</i>	<i>warmth</i>	<i>neighborhood</i>
<i>Relationship</i>	<i>wisdom</i>	<i>width</i>	<i>(wo) manhood</i>

There are also a large number of abstract nouns which do not use any suffix at all. Here are some examples of these.

<i>Anger</i>	<i>belief</i>	<i>calm</i>	<i>chance</i>
<i>Faith</i>	<i>fear</i>	<i>humour</i>	<i>idea</i>
<i>Luck</i>	<i>principle</i>	<i>rage</i>	<i>reason</i>
<i>Sense</i>	<i>sight</i>	<i>speed</i>	<i>thought</i>



Exercises

1. What is the abstract noun related to each of the following adjectives? All the nouns are formed in ways described on the opposite page although not all are listed opposite.

Example: affectionate affection

- a. Affectionate
 - b. Excited
 - c. Kind
 - d. Secure
 - e. Amused
 - f. Graceful
 - g. Original
 - h. Stupid
 - i. Attentive
 - j. Happy
 - k. Popular
 - l. Weak
 - m. Equal
 - n. Hopeful
 - o. Resentful
 - p. Wise
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2. Which abstract noun on the opposite page is a synonym of each of the following?
Example: animosity hostility or aggressiveness
- a. Animosity
 - b. Astonishment
 - c. Inquisitiveness
 - d. Fraternity
 - e. Substitution
 - f. Fame



- g. Decrease
- h. Area
- i. Vision
- j. Liberty
- k. Fury
- l. Wealth

3. Complete the following table:

Abstract Noun	Adjective	Verb	Adverb
Contentment	Content (ed)	To content	Contentedly
Argument			
Emptiness			
Intensity			
Satisfaction			
Sentiment			
Strength			

4. Which of the words in the list below is being described in the following quotations?

Love permanence hope jealousy happiness beauty

- a. ' _____ is no more than feeling alone among smiling enemies.'
- b. ' _____ is like coke; something you get as the by – product of making something else.'
- c. ' _____ is the power of being cheerful in circumstances which we know to be desperate.'
- d. ' _____ is a universal migraine.'
- e. 'The British love _____ more than they love _____.'

5. Write your own quotations to describe the following abstract nouns.

- a. Freedom b. friendship c. life d. Curiosity e. imagination



Key

1. What is the abstract noun related to each of the following adjectives? All the nouns are formed in ways described on the opposite page although not all are listed opposite.
 - a. Affection
 - b. Excitement
 - c. Kindness
 - d. Security
 - e. Amusement
 - f. Grace
 - g. Originality
 - h. Stupidity
 - i. Attentiveness
 - j. Happiness
 - k. Popularity
 - l. Weakness
 - m. Equality
 - n. Hope
 - o. Resentment
 - p. Wisdom

2. Which abstract noun on the opposite page is a synonym of each of the following?
 - a. Hostility or aggressiveness
 - b. Amazement
 - c. Curiosity
 - d. Brotherhood
 - e. Replacement
 - f. Stardom
 - g. Reduction
 - h. Neighborhood
 - i. Sight
 - j. Freedom
 - k. Rage
 - l. Prosperity



3. Complete the following table:

Abstract Noun	Adjective	Verb	Adverb
Contentment	Content (ed)	To content	Contentedly
Argument	Argumentative	To argue	Arguably
Emptiness	Empty	To empty	Emptily
Intensity	Intense	To intensify	Intensely
Satisfaction	Satisfied, satisfactory	To satisfy	Satisfactorily
Sentiment	Sentimental	To sentimentalize	Sentimentally
Strength	Strong	To strengthen	Strongly

4. Which of the words in the list below is being described in the following quotations?

- a. Jealousy
- b. Happiness
- c. Hope
- d. Love
- e. Permanence; beauty

5. Write your own quotations to describe the following abstract nouns.

- a. Freedom is an indivisible word. If we want to enjoy it, and to fight for it, we must be prepared to extend it to everyone.
- b. Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art ... It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things that gives value to survival.
- c. Life is a foreign language; all men mispronounce it.
- d. Four be the things I'd be better without:
Love, curiosity, freckles and doubt.
- e. Where there is no imagination, there is no horror.