

Activity Type

Vocabulary Exercises: identifying, unscrambling, gap-fill, multiple choice, providing vocabulary

Focus

Abstract nouns

Aim

To learn and practice identifying abstract nouns.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this abstract nouns worksheet, students learn and practice identifying abstract nouns.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

Students begin by identifying abstract nouns in sentences.

Exercise A - Answer key

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. problem, party | 2. job | 3. help |
| 4. Christmas | 5. respect, taxes | 6. trust, lie |

Next, students unscramble letters to create abstract nouns.

Exercise B - Answer key

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| 1. holiday | 4. fun | 7. work | 10. experience |
| 2. idea | 5. minute | 8. memory | 11. fashion |
| 3. use | 6. weather | 9. stress | 12. behaviour |

Students then complete sentences with the abstract nouns from Exercise B.

Exercise C - Answer key

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| 1. fun | 4. weather | 7. use | 10. behaviour |
| 2. idea | 5. memory | 8. minute | 11. holiday |
| 3. stress | 6. fashion | 9. work | 12. experience |

After that, students complete each sentence with an abstract noun by choosing from multiple-choice answers.

Exercise D - Answer key

1. c 2. a 3. a 4. c 5. a 6. b

Students then move on to underline two words in each word set that are not abstract nouns.

Exercise E - Answer key

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. wife, criminal | 2. child, school |
| 3. gym, money | 4. pillow, boss |

Lastly, in pairs, students think of and write down two abstract nouns for each prompt. When the students have finished, review their answers as a class.

Note: This resource can be edited using a PDF editor.

Abstract nouns are nouns that we cannot see, feel, taste, smell or hear. They can be a quality, a concept, an idea or an event.

A. Underline all the abstract nouns in the sentences below.

1. I had a problem with my car, so I was late for the party.
2. When he leaves school, Pedro will look for a job.
3. I wrote him a letter to thank him for his help.
4. The children received lots of presents at Christmas.
5. I have no respect for people who don't pay their taxes.
6. He had lost my trust after telling me a lie.

B. Put the letters in the correct order to create abstract nouns.

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|------------|
| 1. | 4. | 7. | 10. |
| LODIAHY | UFN | RKOW | XPEREINEEC |
| 2. | 5. | 8. | 11. |
| DEAI | TENIMU | EMORYM | HISOAFN |
| 3. | 6. | 9. | 12. |
| SEU | HEATWRE | SSSTRE | HBEVAOURI |

C. Complete the sentences with the abstract nouns from Exercise B.

1. We were having so much that we didn't want to come home.
2. I don't think that's a very good
3. Peter is under a lot of at work.
4. The was not very nice, so we had to stay inside all day.
5. Although his health is good, he is losing his
6. Alice is interested in, so she spends a lot of money on clothes.
7. I have no for this table anymore. Do you want it?
8. Don't worry. This will only take me a
9. Joe left the office early as he had finished all his
10. The children were punished for their bad
11. We have just got back from our in Spain.
12. They gave the job to the person who had had the most

D. Complete each sentence with an abstract noun by choosing from the multiple-choice answers.

1. She is so happy because it's her
a. cousin b. auntie c. birthday
2. Sam doesn't have as much as he did ten years ago.
a. patience b. money c. hair
3. Mary has always been afraid of
a. flying b. needles c. thunder
4. Mike is very proud of his
a. children b. car c. achievements
5. Ann is worried about her husband's
a. health b. heart c. cat
6. I tried to make a cake, but I didn't have much
a. flour b. success c. sugar

E. For each word set, identify two words that are NOT abstract nouns.

1. love, wife, marriage, relationship, law, criminal, crime, murder
2. child, childhood, life, death, education, study, school, learning
3. fitness, diet, exercise, gym, trust, honesty, money, happiness
4. sleep, dream, relaxation, pillow, employment, boss, career, qualifications

F. In pairs, think of and write down two abstract nouns for each prompt.

1. Write down two qualities important in a partner.
2. Write down two things money can't buy.
3. Write down two things many people are afraid of.
4. Write down two things that are illegal.
5. Write down two conversation topics that are boring.
6. Write down two qualities that you dislike in others.
7. Write down two occasions you look forward to.
8. Write down two positive emotions.