

## Exploring Abstract Nouns

### Activity Type

Vocabulary and Speaking  
Activity: completing,  
asking and answering  
questions from prompts,  
controlled and freer  
practice (group and pair  
work)

### Focus

Abstract nouns

### Aim

To complete, ask and  
answer abstract noun  
conversation questions.

### Preparation

Make one copy of the two  
worksheets for each pair  
of students.

### Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

### Time

25 minutes

### Introduction

This abstract noun conversation questions activity helps students practice completing, asking and answering conversation questions that contain abstract nouns.

### Procedure

Divide the students into two groups (A and B).

Give each student a corresponding worksheet.

First, students complete conversation questions with the abstract nouns shown.

Afterwards, go through the correct answers with each group.

#### Answer key

##### Student A

1. courage
2. anger
3. disappointment
4. freedom
5. honesty
6. patience
7. creativity
8. disagreement
9. cooperation
10. independence
11. characteristic
12. prediction

##### Student B

1. affection
2. jealousy
3. reputation
4. satisfaction
5. anxiety
6. motivation
7. ambition
8. approval
9. generosity
10. curiosity
11. confidence
12. intelligence

Students then pair up with someone from the other group.

Next, students take turns asking the conversation questions to their partner, noting down their answers and asking follow-up questions to gain more information when possible.

Finally, students report back to the class on the things they found out about their partner.

Any interesting findings can be discussed in more detail.

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

## Student A

### A. Complete the conversation questions with the abstract nouns below.

patience    independence    anger    characteristic    disappointment    creativity  
 disagreement    prediction    freedom    cooperation    honesty    courage

Conversation Questions	Your partner's answers
1. Why is it hard for people to have the ..... to fight back against bullies?	
2. Why is ..... a common response to being lied to or insulted?	
3. How do you deal with the ..... that comes from not achieving an important goal?	
4. Should people have the ..... to say whatever they want in public? Why or why not?	
5. In what situations is ..... not a good policy? What can happen when you say what you really think?	
6. What everyday situations test your .....? How do you deal with situations that annoy you?	
7. People say that musicians in the past had more ..... than artists today. Do you agree? Why or why not?	
8. Has a ..... you had at school or work turned into an argument? How can arguments be avoided?	
9. How can technology enable ..... among team members who are working in different locations?	
10. What are the benefits of having ..... and not relying on others? What do you think are the drawbacks?	
11. Apart from having confidence, what is another ..... a good leader needs?	
12. What is a ..... you have for the future? How confident are you that it will turn out to be true?	

### B. Now, take turns asking the questions to your partner and note down their answers in the last column. Ask follow-up questions to gain more information when possible.

## Student B

### A. Complete the conversation questions with the abstract nouns below.

reputation      motivation      curiosity      jealousy      intelligence      approval  
 generosity      confidence      anxiety      affection      ambition      satisfaction

Conversation Questions	Your partner's answers
1. Apart from a hug, how else can you show ..... to those you care about?	
2. What are common causes of ..... in romantic relationships?	
3. What are some companies that have a ..... for quality? Why do consumers trust their products or services?	
4. Why do people get a sense of ..... from achieving their goals?	
5. Why does speaking in public bring a feeling of ..... to most people?	
6. What role does ..... play in learning a language? What are your reasons for learning English?	
7. Getting married is an ..... shared by many people? What are some other important life goals	
8. Do you seek the ..... of others when making important decisions? Why or why not?	
9. Do you believe we should show more ..... to people who are less fortunate? Why or why not?	
10. Is there a time when your ..... led you to discover something new?	
11. Do you believe people who are quiet and shy lack ..... in themselves? Why or why not?	
12. An ability to solve problems is one sign of ..... What are some others?	

### B. Now, take turns asking the questions to your partner and note down their answers in the last column. Ask follow-up questions to gain more information when possible.