

Activity Type

Vocabulary Exercises:
identifying, gap-fill,
unscrambling, matching,
binary choice

Focus

Abstract nouns

Aim

To learn and practice
abstract nouns.

Preparation

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

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

Here is an abstract nouns worksheet for upper-intermediate students.

Procedure

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

Students start by underlining things that are classified as abstract nouns.

Exercise A - Answer key

conditions, events, qualities, states of being, theories

Next, students cross out words in a box that are not abstract nouns and complete sentences with the abstract nouns that remain.

Exercise B - Answer key

Remaining abstract nouns:

poverty, beauty, innocence, strength, hatred, life, success, safety, absence, health, interest, pride.

- | | | |
|------------|--------------|------------|
| 1. success | 5. interest | 9. absence |
| 2. life | 6. innocence | 10. hatred |
| 3. poverty | 7. strength | 11. pride |
| 4. beauty | 8. safety | 12. health |

Students then move on to unscramble letters to create abstract nouns and then match each noun with its opposite from the sentences in Exercise B.

Exercise C - Answer key

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. ugliness (4) | 5. weakness (7) | 9. shame (11) |
| 2. presence (9) | 6. love (10) | 10. wealth (3) |
| 3. guilt (6) | 7. danger (8) | 11. sickness (12) |
| 4. death (2) | 8. failure (1) | 12. boredom (5) |

(continued on the next page)

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

Abstract Nouns Practice

Activity Type

Vocabulary Exercises:
identifying, gap-fill,
unscrambling, matching,
binary choice

Focus

Abstract nouns

Aim

To learn and practice
abstract nouns.

Preparation

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

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

25 minutes

Procedure continued

After that, students complete sentences using the abstract nouns from Exercise C and underline the additional abstract noun in each sentence.

Exercise D - Answer key

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. failure | 5. sickness | 9. sickness |
| 2. guilt | 6. presence | 10. boredom |
| 3. wealth | 7. love | 11. shame |
| 4. death | 8. ugliness | 12. weakness |

Additional abstract nouns:

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|---------------|
| 1. night | 5. voyages | 9. cure |
| 2. accident | 6. meeting | 10. lecture |
| 3. fortune | 7. sight | 11. crime |
| 4. funeral | 8. habits | 12. distances |

Lastly, students complete sentences with abstract nouns from word pairs.

Exercise E - Answer key

- | | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|
| 1. permission | 5. pain | 9. advice |
| 2. night | 6. trouble | 10. way |
| 3. talent | 7. news | |
| 4. use | 8. nap | |

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

Abstract nouns are nouns that cannot be seen, felt, or perceived with any of the senses.

A. Underline the things below that are classified as abstract nouns.

conditions events people qualities objects states of being animals theories

B. Cross out the words below that are not abstract nouns. Then, use the abstract nouns to complete the sentences.

water	musician	poverty	fire	beauty	gym	innocence	trophy
wheel	strength	teenager	hatred	sauce	life	butcher	success
circle	safety	absence	brain	coin	health	interest	pride

- The event was a great and lots of money was raised.
- He had a long and happy
- We lived in and often had nothing to eat.
- The first time he saw her, he was captivated by her
- I have no in gaming. I'd rather read a book.
- We tried to prove his, but sadly we didn't succeed.
- Watching him lift the piano, I was amazed by his
- The fence is there for your, so that you don't fall.
- Sandra returned to the office after a long
- Her of snakes started when she was a child.
- She takes in her success as a business leader.
- Although his memory is poor, his is good.

C. Unscramble the letters to create abstract nouns. Then, match each noun with its opposite from the sentences in Exercise B.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1.
SSUGNELI | 4.
EAHTD | 7.
REDNAG | 10.
THEAWL |
| 2.
RESEPNCE | 5.
SSWEKAEN | 8.
ERFAUIL | 11.
KCNESSSI |
| 3.
UILTG | 6.
OELV | 9.
HAMES | 12.
MOODERB |

D. Complete the sentences using the abstract nouns from Exercise C and underline the additional abstract noun in each sentence.

1. Because of his to fix the tap, it dripped water all night.
2. I felt terrible for having caused the accident.
3. Despite his and good fortune, the millionaire is unhappy.
4. His funeral was held in a small church soon after his
5. Many travellers experience sea during long voyages.
6. Your is requested at the meeting.
7. I don't believe in at first sight.
8. She loved the unfortunate creature, despite its and disgusting habits.
9. The cause of his is unknown, so sadly there is no cure.
10. The students couldn't hide their during the lecture and nearly fell asleep.
11. His involvement in the crime brought upon his family.
12. His was obvious as he was unable to climb stairs or walk long distances.

E. Complete the sentences with the abstract nouns from the word pairs.

way / map	nap / coffee	night / bed	talent / paint brush	pain / hospital
permission / a key	advice / flour	noise / news	use / vase	trouble / jail

1. I asked for to unlock the gate.
2. Because of our uncomfortable in the hotel, we were tired the next day.
3. If I had his, I would paint all day.
4. I have no for these flowers. Do you want them?
5. He was in for a long time, as doctors tried to find out what was the matter.
6. Gary was in for breaking a window.
7. We became very concerned when we heard the
8. I was feeling tired, so I had a
9. I knocked on Jill's door to ask for some
10. I always lose my when trying to navigate around a new city.