Concrete and Abstract Nouns
Lesson 20
Abstract Nouns
An abstract noun is a type of noun that refers to something with which a person cannot physically interact. A noun that is abstract is an aspect, concept, idea, experience, state of being, trait, quality, feeling, or other entity that CANNOT be experienced with the five senses.

Recognizing When a Noun Is Abstract
If a noun is abstract, it describes something you cannot see, hear, touch, taste, or smell. Sometimes it can be difficult to recognize when the noun is abstract because there are a number of words that can function in different ways. For example, some words might function as verbs in some cases and abstract nouns in other cases.

Identify whether the underlined word is a verb or an abstract noun.

I love my husband.
Send them my love.
Sarah could taste pickles in the sandwich.
Jenny has great taste in clothes.
Abstract nouns can be *countable or non-countable (mass)*. They can also be in *singular or possessive* form. Abstract nouns follow the same grammar rules as other nouns.

**Common Abstract Nouns**

1. *Emotions / Feelings*
   - love
   - hate
   - anger
   - peace

2. *States/Attributes*
   - beauty
   - honesty
   - bravery
   - success

Can you give more example for each number?
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3. Ideas/Concepts/Ideals
   - dream
   - knowledge
   - culture
   - justice

4. Movements/Events
   - progress
   - education
   - leisure
   - friendship

Can you give more example for each number?

Abstract forms of nouns are very common and an important part of communication.
In many cases these types of nouns are derived from an addition of a suffix or alteration in the root word. Child is a concrete noun, for example, but childhood is an intangible state, so it is abstract.

Some nouns with the following suffixes are often abstract:

- -tion
- -ism
- -ity
- -ment
- -ness
- -age
- -ace
- -ship
- -ability
- -acy
- -ence

Provide a noun ending with each suffix above.

Examples of Abstract Nouns in Sentences

1. The education of children should be our number one priority.
2. He was willing to sacrifice his job in order to move to Hawaii.
3. Childhood memories are sources of great joy.
4. Music can change a mood or be a creative outlet.
1. Dylan got a certificate for bravery because he rescued his brother from the raging river.
2. It took a lot of dedication for Hannah to raise all that money for the food bank.
3. Tyler's curiosity is what makes him such a good detective.
4. If you students want my trust, you will have to earn it.
5. Luck can help, but success requires hard work too.
6. I'm hoping for some time for relaxation after I get home from school.
7. For this writing project, I want you to use your creativity.
8. Kaelin has a strong sense of justice.
9. My friend thinks that going to a psychic for advice is a bad idea.
10. When democracy is threatened, people must speak out.
11. A good education is needed to survive the current economic conditions.
12. My teacher needed a lot of patience to handle our class.
13. Childhood is supposed to be a time of happiness.
14. Holding onto anger tends to encourage violence.
15. The traffic was really slow when Matthew's mother drove him to the game.
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| 1. Long     | ___________ | 13. Vacant | ___________ |
| 2. Strong   | ___________ | 14. Sweet  | ___________ |
| 3. Wide     | ___________ | 15. Human  | ___________ |
| 4. Young    | ___________ | 16. Free   | ___________ |
| 5. Humble   | ___________ | 17. Proud  | ___________ |
| 6. Decent   | ___________ | 18. Brave  | ___________ |
| 8. Bitter   | ___________ | 20. Poor   | ___________ |
| 10. Dark    | ___________ | 22. Vain   | ___________ |
| 11. Wise    | ___________ | 23. Sane   | ___________ |
| 12. Good    | ___________ | 24. Ignorant | ___________ |
Concrete Nouns

A *concrete noun* is a noun which can be identified through one of the five senses (*taste, touch, sight, hearing, smell*).

Examples:

1. Would someone please answer the *phone*? [Phone is a concrete noun: I can touch it, see it, hear it, and maybe even smell it or taste it.]
2. What is that *noise*? [Even though noise can’t be touched – and the noise may even be coming from several places – I can hear the noise, so it’s a concrete noun.]
3. After his retirement, Mr. Bond pursued his dream of photographing *rainbows*. [Rainbows is a concrete noun: it can be seen. Mr. Bond is also a concrete noun, but dream and retirement are not.]
Identify the concrete nouns in the sentences.

1. The man had a lot of pride in his work.
2. I respected the honesty my friend showed.
3. Can you believe that woman’s brilliance?
4. To my delight, everyone arrived on time.
5. My mother admired your honesty.
6. She was in great despair when she lost her phone.
7. We have a lot of hope for the future.
8. They showed extreme joy when they helped others.
9. The men had much bravery on the battlefield.
10. My mother always shows great compassion for her children.
11. We have a ton of pride in our school.
12. The election was held in the auditorium.
13. Their excitement at the zoo was expected.
14. I felt pain when dentist took my tooth out.
15. An inventor must have a good imagination.
Identify nouns and tell whether they are abstract or concrete.

1. Nobody knew whether Kira was telling the truth about her brother.
2. My friends and I admired the beauty of the sunset over the lake.
3. Andrew had a lot of fun on the rides at the carnival.
4. Jamie doesn't have enough patience to babysit small children.
5. Take my advice and spend a few hours studying for that test.
6. Tanya got a really good sleep.
7. Why did you tell a lie about your test?
8. Have you got any ideas for what to name your new puppy?
9. How does your family celebrate Christmas at your house?
10. When were you planning to explain your great idea to the teacher?
11. Six months later the boys came back from their bike trip across the country.
12. Jason's plan to study for his history test got sidetracked when his friend came over.
13. Curiosity might have killed the cat, but it sure helps detectives solve mysteries.
14. I have no sympathy for students who wait until the last minute to write their reports.
15. Moving to a new school means saying goodbye to old friendships.
The End