

Nominalisation

What is Nominalisation?

The word 'nominal' is the adjective form relating to the word 'noun'. Therefore, the term nominalisation refers to changing a verb, adjective or adverb into a noun. In English, nouns can be formed by adding prefixes or suffixes to words belonging to other parts of speech. Through this process, qualities, actions and events are turned into things, ideas or people.

Word	Nominalisation
is walking	the walk
final	finality
melodiously	melody

When the verb, adjective or adverb is nominalised, the sentence to which the words belong to sounds more formal and abstract.

(a) After the septic tank leaked into the drinking water reservoir, an epidemic broke out.

(b) After the leakage of the septic tank into the drinking water reservoir, there was an outbreak of an epidemic.

Compared to Sentence (a), Sentence (b) sounds more formal.

More examples:

(a) The scientists demonstrated how to extract DNA from the pulp of the tooth.

(b) The scientists conducted a demonstration about the extraction of DNA from the pulp of the tooth.

(a) They discussed whether the claims were authentic or not.

(b) They had a discussion on the authenticity of the claims.

Common Suffixes of Nouns

Suffix	Noun Form
-ion	demonstration, continuation, fixation
-ity	duplicity, possibility, complexity
-ness	firmness, happiness, blindness
-ment	enjoyment, replacement, arrangement
-ance, -ence	absence, importance, appearance
-ship	friendship, kinship, partnership
-hood	neighbourhood, motherhood, childhood
-er	runner, speaker, leader

Changing Verbs to Nouns

- To change verbs into nouns, suffixes such as ‘-ion’, ‘-sion’, ‘-er’, ‘-ing’, ‘-th’ or ‘-ment’ can be used.

Verb	Suffix	Noun
determine	-ion	determination
ascent	-sion	ascension
swim	-er	swimmer
knit	-ing	knitting (gerund)
grow	-th	growth
abandon	-ment	abandonment

- The verb can be converted into a noun by adding an **article**.

Verb	Noun
reading	the reading
walking	the walk
taste	the taste
kill	the kill

Steps:

- Underline the verbs in the sentence.

Crime was increasing and this was worrying the police.

- Write down the noun forms of the verbs.

Increasing: The increase
Worrying: Worry

- Replace the verbs with the noun forms. Use them in the sentence either as subjects or as objects.

The increase in crime caused worry among the police.

Changing Adjectives to Nouns

- Adjectives can be changed into nouns by adding suffixes such as ‘-ness’, ‘-ity’, ‘-ency’, ‘-ancy’, ‘-ance’, ‘-ism’ and ‘-th’.

Adjective	Suffix	Noun
happy	-ness	happiness
able	-ity	ability
efficient	-ency	efficiency
deviant	-ancy	deviancy
defiant	-ance	defiance
favourite	-ism	favouritism
warm	-th	warmth

- Adjectives can also be turned into nouns by dropping suffixes.

Adjective	Suffix	Noun
traumatic	-ic	trauma
magical	-al	magic
dangerous	-ous	danger
questionable	-able	question
zealous	-ous	zeal
painful	-ful	pain
guilty	-y	guilt

Steps:

- Underline the adjectives in the sentence.

The fact that you are reliable makes me happy.

- Write down the noun forms of the adjectives.

reliable: reliability
happy: happiness

- Replace the adjectives with the noun forms. Use them in the sentence either as subjects or as objects.

Your reliability brings me happiness.

Changing Adverbs to Nouns

- Changing adverbs to nouns is a three-step process.
- First, the suffix ‘-ly’ is dropped from the adverb (beautifully).
- The result would be an adjective (beautiful).
- Follow the rules for converting adjectives into nouns by adding or removing suffixes.

Adverb	Adjective	Noun
specially	special	specialty
truthfully	truthful	truth
viciously	vicious	viciousness
confusingly	confusing	confusion
completely	complete	completion

Steps:

1. Underline the adverbs in the sentence.

The enemies retreated fearfully.

2. Write the noun forms of the adjectives.

fearfully: fear

3. Replace the adverbs with the noun forms. Use them in the sentence with prepositional phrases.
(preposition + noun phrase)

The enemies retreated in fear.

Examples

- (a) She has been erring a lot lately.
(b) She has been committing a lot of errors lately.
- (a) Michelle is an intelligent girl.
(b) Michelle is blessed with intelligence.
- (a) The immigrants thronged towards the city rapidly.
(b) The immigrants thronged towards the city with rapidness.
- (a) Ravi's business expanded in India.
(b) Ravi's business underwent expansion in India.
- (a) King Mahendra's stoic demeanour during trying times made his subjects courageous.
(b) King Mahendra's stoicism during trying times instilled courage in his subjects.
- (a) The messenger spoke of the soldier's death sorrowfully.
(b) The messenger spoke of the soldier's death with sorrow.
- (a) He spoke of the problems plaguing his country to the people gathered.
(b) He delivered a speech about the problems plaguing his country to the people gathered.
- (a) George was absent during the meeting and that was noticed by everyone.
(b) George's absence during the meeting was noticed by everyone.
- (a) He jumped joyfully.
(b) He jumped for joy.

