



Nouns: Concrete and Abstract



Nicky is playing a game called 'touch the concrete and feel the abstract'.

Anything that you **can** see, touch, smell, taste, or hear is **concrete**.

Anything that you **cannot** see, touch, smell, taste, or hear is **abstract**.

Read the words given in the box. Tick only the words that name **concrete** objects and write them under the given pictures.

mountain anger love noodles idea peace trumpet
cheetah fear rain beauty incense-sticks



cheetah



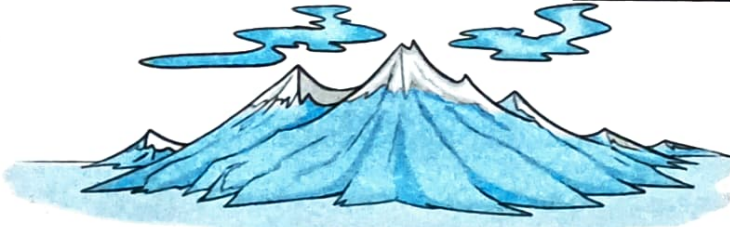
noodles



rain



incense-sticks



mountain



trumpet

Read the remaining words in the same box. They name **abstract** concepts. Use the words to name the following descriptions.

- ▲ a thought that comes to your mind: idea
- ▲ a feeling when you are scared: fear
- ▲ a feeling when you are upset: anger
- ▲ a feeling that shows affection: love
- ▲ the quality of something being beautiful: beauty
- ▲ a feeling of something calm: peace

Say it aloud

Concrete nouns are words that refer to objects that we can experience with our five senses: by seeing, smelling, hearing, tasting, and touching.

Abstract nouns are **opposite** of concrete nouns; they can only be **thought of** (idea), **heard** (noise), **felt** (happiness). They **cannot** be seen or touched.

An abstract noun refers to **qualities** (kindness), **actions** (laughter), and **state of being** (beauty).

In short, they are words that name **ideas**, **feelings**, **experiences**, **qualities**, and **concepts**.



Many abstract nouns are formed by adding **suffixes**.

+ Add **-ness** or **-hood** to the following words to change them into **abstract nouns**.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ▲ dry : <u>dryness</u> | ▲ sweet : <u>ness</u> | ▲ sad : <u>ness</u> |
| ▲ child : <u>hood</u> | ▲ man : <u>hood</u> | ▲ mother : <u>hood</u> |
| ▲ selfish : <u>ness</u> | ▲ weak : <u>ness</u> | ▲ polite : <u>ness</u> |
| ▲ careful : <u>ness</u> | ▲ foolish : <u>ness</u> | ▲ forgetful : <u>ness</u> |
| ▲ good : <u>ness</u> | ▲ neighbour : <u>hood</u> | ▲ bright : <u>ness</u> |



Some abstract nouns end in **-y**, **-ty**, or **-ity**.

+ Read the sentences. Encircle the **abstract nouns**; underline the **concrete nouns**.

- The rich woman surprised everybody by her simplicity and generosity.
- The safety of his students was most important for the teacher.
- Responsibility is an important aspect of liberty.
- All Indians must be educated, so as to eradicate poverty.
- Men of greatness display immense modesty.



Some abstract nouns end in **-ion**, **-tion**, or **-ation**.

+ Read the sentences. Encircle the **abstract nouns**; underline the **concrete nouns**.

- Quick action by the police helped to catch the culprits red-handed.
- The teacher gave the children a collection of words to learn for dictation.
- Earthquakes cause huge destruction of life and property.
- Good health and education are of prime necessity.
- Raja's friends expressed their admiration when he got a double promotion.



+ Change the words in () into **abstract nouns** by adding a suffix to each. Complete the sentences.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ▲ Show <u>alertness</u> while travelling in a train. (alert) | |
| | ▲ Only <u>education</u> will remove poverty. (educate) |
| ▲ Raakhi's heart was filled with <u>sadness</u> when her pet cat died. (sad) | |
| | ▲ Cold weather causes <u>dryness</u> of the skin. (dry) |
| ▲ Tony showed such <u>forgetfulness</u> that he left the key hanging in the lock. (forget) | |



Nouns that refer to feelings, qualities, actions, or state of being are **abstract nouns**.

★ Select only the **abstract nouns** from the underlined nouns. Read and complete.
One has been done for you.

Abstract Nouns

justice

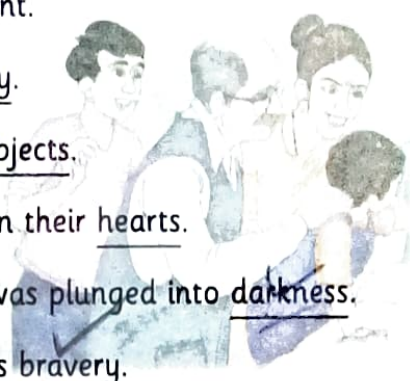
joy

knowledge

goodness

darkness

bravery



1. The lawyer sought justice for his client.
2. A baby is a source of joy for a family.
3. My teacher has knowledge on all subjects.
4. Children are blessed with goodness in their hearts.
5. When the light went out, the room was plunged into darkness.
6. The soldier was given a medal for his bravery.

★ Read the sentences and identify the nouns.

Encircle the **concrete nouns** and underline the **abstract nouns**.

1. Pet dogs are known to display loyalty towards their owners.
2. The illness of the patient puzzled the doctors.
3. People must value freedom and also show responsibility.
4. Have love and pride for your country.
5. Snowy mountains are a beautiful sight.
6. Mother Teresa showed kindness and affection towards the needy.



★ Complete these popular sayings with **abstract nouns** given in the box.

cleanliness beauty laziness knowledge faith unity work honesty

▲ Honesty is the best policy.

▲ In unity lies strength.

▲ Cleanliness is next to Godliness.

▲ Laziness leads us nowhere.

▲ faith can move mountains.

▲ work is worship.

▲ knowledge is power.

▲ Beauty lies in the eye of the beholder.

