

28th June 2024

Language – Nominalisation

Can you complete these sentences?

1. Nouns are always the **subject** or the **object** of a sentence.
2. When we use the +ing form of a verb as a noun, it is called the **gerund**.
3. Brother-in-law, car park, teapot, French fries, well-being and website are all examples of **compound** nouns.
4. Noun **phrases** consist of a noun and other connected words such as articles, determiners, adjectives, prepositions, relative clauses and quantifiers:

a red house, the house on the right, a lot of big houses, the big house which we live in

5. Another way to write this sentence:

“Mrs Greenhaven has a baby who is six weeks old.”

Is...

“Mrs Greenhaven has a **six-week-old** baby.”

OET writing needs to be **concise** and **professional**. Sometimes the phrasing is tricky – but **nominalisation** can really help! Here are some examples of turning words into nouns:

Compliant / compliance with

Word	Noun	Suffix
inform	information	+ tion
encourage	encouragement	+ ment
complain	complaint	+ t
lose	loss	double the consonant
depend	dependence	+ ance/ence
sore	soreness	+ ness
able	ability	+ ity
member	membership	+ ship
neighbour	neighbourhood	+ hood

Nominalisation

Nominalisation is the process of changing words/phrases into 'nouns'

It is a paraphrasing technique

Paraphrasing relies on two major things:

- **good vocabulary**
- **good grammar**

Example:

- She reported that her weight loss was considerable.

Use a noun phrase:

- She reported considerable weight loss.

Example:

- He had soreness in his eyes.

Use a noun phrase:

- He had sore eyes
- He had eye soreness.

There are a few ways that this can be done but we'll focus on four main techniques, which can often go together:

- 1) **moving the adjective**
- 2) **converting adjectives/verbs into nouns**
- 3) **removing prepositional phrases and placing final word before noun**
- 4) **removing relative clauses and placing final word before noun**

*Using these techniques is not the only thing you need to do – sometimes you need to *insert a new verb*.

1) **move the adjective in front of the noun**

Her toe was swollen.

She had a swollen toe.

2) **converting adjectives/verbs into nouns**

Her toe was swollen.

Admission: toe - swollen

She had toe swelling / swelling in her toe

3) **removing prepositional phrases and placing final word before noun**

He had ulcers **in his mouth**.

He had mouth ulcers.

4) **removing relative clauses and placing final word before noun**

He had **bags, which were under his eyes**.

He had eye bags.

Exercise 2

1. Mrs Smith has issues with her memory.
Mrs Smith has memory issues.
2. Mr Gardener is worried that his dad has Alzheimer's, which is in the early stages.
Mr Gardener is worried about his dad's early-stage Alzheimer's.
Mr Gardener is worried that his dad has early-stage Alzheimer's.
3. He reported that his eyesight is failing.
He reported failing eyesight.

Exercise 3

How can you nominalise in these sentences?

Don't forget to type a sentence for each!

1. We discussed changes in her short-term memory, which had been reported.
We discussed the short-term memory changes she reported.
We discussed the reported changes in her short-term memory.
We discussed the reported short-term memory changes.
2. Her parents need to be instructed on how to manage her diet.
Her parents need to be instructed on her dietary management.
Her parents need instructions on her dietary management.
Her parents need to be instructed on the management of her diet.
Her parents need her dietary management instructions.
Her parents need instructions on managing her diet.
3. She reported diarrhoea which was persistent, stools which were greasy and pain in her abdomen.
She reported persistent diarrhoea, greasy stools and abdominal pain.

Exercise 4

Use the prompts to make sentences.

- 1) upon / puffy / Mrs Johnson / presentation / eyes / had
- 2) pain / report / Mr Farrar / knee
- 3) check / pulse / reveal / irregular
- 4) examination / weak / Mrs Harris / tricep / reveal
- 5) recommend / physiotherapy / 8 weeks / Mr Gordon / course

Email your answers to: laurence@set-english.com