

Abstract nouns

On page 75 we studied **abstract nouns**, which are used to describe ideas and qualities; for example: *goodness*. Can you remember any of the **nouns**? What do we add to **adjectives** in order to make **abstract nouns**?

1 Look at the adjectives below. In pairs, check their meanings, then write the noun form for each in the spaces below. Each dash \_ represents one letter.

- Example: a shy s h y n e s s  
 b timid \_\_\_\_\_  
 c angry \_\_\_\_\_  
 d weak \_\_\_\_\_  
 e happy \_\_\_\_\_  
 f confident \_\_\_\_\_  
 g thirsty \_\_\_\_\_  
 h tired \_\_\_\_\_

2 Complete each of the following sentences with an abstract noun from the box below. Be careful! You do not need all of the nouns.

- Example: a To prevent the problem of lateness we do not allow people into the theatre after the play has started.  
 b Thanks to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the burglars, it was easy for the police to catch them.  
 c The townspeople felt a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ that nothing was being done about homelessness.  
 d My idea of \_\_\_\_\_ is a hot bath, a good book, and a box of chocolates. There's nothing better!  
 e It's time for the rich countries to do their bit to fight \_\_\_\_\_.  
 f Some people think animals are naturally kind, but there's a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ in nature.  
 g To do a job, you must be sure you can do it - \_\_\_\_\_ in yourself is very important!

~~lateness~~    anger    carelessness    happiness    poverty    cruelty  
 weakness    confidence    kindness    intelligence

3 Divide into two teams, **A** and **B**. Each team looks at the list of abstract nouns below. Using a dictionary, write down the true definition of each word on your team's list and invent two false ones for each. When both teams are ready, each team reads out a word and its three definitions. The other team must guess which definition is correct. If it guesses correctly, it wins a point.

**Team A**  
 vagrancy  
 clarity  
 scorn  
 hunger  
 coincidence

**Team B**  
 haste  
 fame  
 deprivation  
 frailty  
 destitution

Complex sentences

On page 80 we saw how we can use **what** to emphasise part of a sentence. For example:

*What really upset me was his racist attitude.*  
 what + verb clause + verb to be + indirect object

Here, **what** has the same meaning as *the thing that*.

1 Work in pairs. Make six sentences, using one word or phrase from each box below.

What	made him late I love most about Italy she was looking for in the library I really enjoyed in the film makes life difficult for some women they went on holiday for I'm hoping to buy in the sales we really need	are is was were	racial equality and justice for all. the beautiful photography. combining a career and a family. a flat tyre. the sunshine. some cheap shoes. books on American history. the delicious pasta dishes.
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2 Using the key words below, write sentences expressing your own preferences.

- Example: a like my country What I like about my country is the weather.  
 b hate about studying English \_\_\_\_\_  
 c annoyed me this morning \_\_\_\_\_  
 d makes me laugh \_\_\_\_\_  
 e look for in a boy or girlfriend \_\_\_\_\_  
 f wanted for my birthday \_\_\_\_\_  
 g enjoy doing at the weekend \_\_\_\_\_  
 h detest about computers \_\_\_\_\_

3 Vocabulary. Look at the list below and match each word with the correct definition. All the words appear on pages 78-81.

- Example: a racism → i the old political system of South Africa where people were treated differently according to race  
 b ethnic group → ii to fit in with society  
 c integrate → iii policy which favours someone because of his/her race  
 d apartheid → iv a right-wing racist political party in Britain  
 e i/c3 → v dislike for others because of the colour of his/her skin  
 f positive action → vi people linked by a common race or culture  
 g National Front → vii a marriage between people of different races  
 h mixed marriage → viii the police identification for a black person

4 Imagine you belong to an ethnic minority in your country. What problems do you have in your daily life at home, at school or at work? Make notes then write a letter to a friend explaining your problems and feelings.