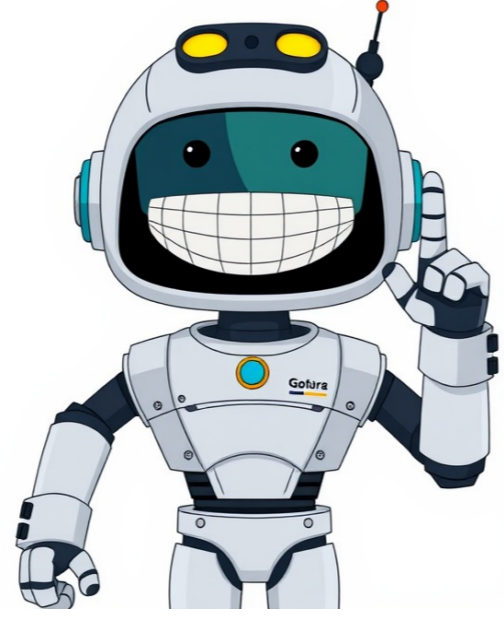


I'm not a bot



===== Nominalization is the process of changing a verb or adjective into a noun, as seen in the transformation from "destruct!" to "destruction". This technique can make sentences less clear by hiding who performs the action. In scientific writing, nominalization is often used to focus on actions like "experimenting" instead of the person performing them. In English grammar, nominalization refers to the creation of a noun phrase from an underlying clause. For example, in the sentence "The destruction of the city", the noun "destruction" corresponds to the main verb of the clause, while "city" represents its object. According to Geoffrey Leech, a renowned linguist, this type of nominalization is a common phenomenon in English. English has an impressive capacity for constructing nouns from verbs, adjectives, and other nouns by adding various suffixes. For instance, "democracy", "patronage", and "maniac" are all created using these suffixes. Bloggers often use such formations to sound trendy and ironic, as seen in terms like "blogosphere" and "foodie". However, this trend can lead to confusion in writing. There are several forces that drive nominalization in scientific and technical writing. These include the need to isolate abstract concepts, such as "experimenting", from concrete actions, and a preference for passive constructions over active ones. This results in phrases like "A similar experiment was carried out using the material" or "Sigma preparation was carried out as described". The use of general-purpose verbs like "carried out" has become so common that it is often seen as a hallmark of scientific writing. Fortunately, nominalization can be corrected by identifying and turning back into verb phrases. Whenever you see generic verbs like "carry out", "perform", or "undertake", look for the action being described and rephrase it using an active verb. nominalizations can drain the vitality of speech and prose, eliminating context and obscuring agency. Moreover, they may render ambiguous concepts stable and mechanical. . . . Nominalizations prioritize actions over individuals responsible for them, often to obscure power dynamics and reduce transactional complexity. By emphasizing products and results rather than processes, nominalizations serve as a tool for manipulation in politics and business. Nominalization types vary in terms of their level of abstraction, with three main categories distinguished: - nominalizations at the word level (e.g., teacher, Sam's washing of the windows) - nominalizations that nominalize structures between verbs and full clauses (e.g., Sam's washing the windows) - nominalizations consisting of full clauses (e.g., that Sam washed the windows) The latter two categories deviate from conventional unit hierarchies, featuring nominals or phrases with clause-like structures. They have been viewed as problematic, with some arguing that true nominalization does not exist (e.g., Dik 1997; McGregor 1997). Nominalizations can refer to third-order entities, such as processes, or second-order entities, like countable tokens of processes. A third type, often referred to as improper, involves first-order entities with physical substance and spatial extension. Understanding nominalizations is essential for effective communication. They are created from adjectives or verbs, transforming action words into nouns (e.g., interference, decision). The table below provides common nominalizations along with their original forms: | Nominalization | Original Form | |-----|-----| | Nouns | Verbs | | Intention | Intend | | Intervention | Intervene | | Distortion | Distort | | Evolution | Evolve | | Interference | Interfere | | Discrimination | Discriminate | | Decision | Decide | | Assumption | Assume | | Collection | Collect | | Investigation | Investigate | | Expansion | Expand | | Disagreement | Disagree | | Discussion | Discuss | | Argument | Argue | | Failure | Fail | The significance of nominalized forms ending in "-ion/tion", "-ment", "-ity/-ty", and "-ness" lies in their impact on understanding and clarity in writing. ===== Many nominalizations are easily recognizable, yet others can be challenging to comprehend. Recognizing the two most basic units of a sentence - subject and verb - is essential for effective communication. A clear structure, such as Subject - Verb, helps convey meaning. However, nominalizations often disrupt this simplicity, resulting in sentences that require more words. The difference between straightforward structures like Subject - Verb and long strings of nominalizations is striking. For example: The group discussed how to plan the surprise party. Here, the verb "discussed" follows a subject-verb relationship, making it clear what action was taken. In contrast, sentences with multiple nominalizations can be difficult to follow: The discussion of the group was about how to surprise the girl with the birthday without her knowing. This sentence's structure is harder to understand due to the complexity introduced by nominalization. Are nominalizations always a bad choice? No, they can be useful. When familiar to readers as concepts like happiness or ideas, nominalizations can enhance clarity. Example: Happiness has many causes and effects. In these situations, nominalization serves its purpose without hindering comprehension. However, overusing nominalizations in short spaces can lead to confusing texts. To effectively use nominalization, it's crucial to strike a balance between conveying abstract ideas and maintaining clarity. For practice with this concept, please refer to our two-sentence clarity quizzes. ===== The process of nominalization is crucial in English writing, involving the transformation of verbs and adjectives into nouns, thereby enabling abstract thought and complex expression. ===== Nominalization plays a vital role in diverse expression, influencing sentence rhythm, and impacting formal tone. By converting actions and qualities into entities, nouns can be manipulated as subjects or objects in complex structures, thus granting the language more flexibility. In scientific, technical, and academic writing, nominalization is frequently used to express nuanced ideas and concepts. ===== For example, the verbal sentence "She decided to leave" becomes the nominalized version "The decision to leave was hers." This transformation enables the abstraction of actions and qualities, allowing for more precise and concise communication. Nominalization brings focus to ideas or concepts rather than the actions themselves, making it an indispensable tool in academic writing. ===== There are two broad categories of nominalization: verb and adjective nominalization. Verb nominalization involves the addition of suffixes such as "-ment", "-ion", or "-ence" to convert verbs into nouns, while adjective nominalization involves the addition of suffixes like "-ness" or "-ity". Understanding these transformations is essential for ESL learners to enrich their vocabulary with complex ideas and states. ===== Nominalization also results in changes to stress patterns and pronunciation, making it crucial for ESL learners to practice intonation. Moreover, it sometimes affects spelling, as seen in pairs like "relieve" and "relief" or "decide" and "decision". The context often dictates suitability, highlighting the importance of understanding both syntax and semantics. ===== By learning these transformations, ESL learners can enhance their communication skills in various settings. In academic writing, nominalization is preferred due to its ability to consolidate arguments, discuss theoretical concepts, and present research findings in an objective tone. Nominalizations enable authors to adopt an impersonal tone, pack information into fewer words, and express nuanced ideas effectively. The Importance of Nominalization in ESL Writing: Balancing Rigor with Clarity ===== Transforming actions into nouns can shift the spotlight to larger ideas, making discourse around abstract concepts more accessible. However, overusing nominalization can lead to verbosity that alienates readers. It's crucial for ESL writers to strike a balance between nominalization and other expressive techniques. Overnominalizing can occur when writers aim for formality but end up creating dense sentences. This can be seen in excessive phrases like "The occurrence of the announcement of results..." which should be simplified for clarity. Another challenge is losing agency, where overzealous conversion obscures meaning by omitting actions' agents. Sentences become less dynamic and harder to decode. Additionally, learners may struggle to connect abstract nouns to their concrete meanings, resulting in confusion or incorrect application. To use nominalization effectively, ESL writers must be aware of these potential issues and employ strategies such as detailed analysis, text transformation exercises, and engaging with academic literature. By incorporating self-written essays and swapping verb-dense sections with nominalizations, writers can refine their skills and recognize the importance of balance in nominalization. Mastery of nominalization is critical for academic writing, where complex ideas demand precise and concise expression. With consistent practice and strategic approaches, ESL learners can transform nominalizations into versatile tools that enhance their writing and reading skills. Effective writers appreciate simplicity's virtue by using nominalization to convey ideas in a concise manner that resonates with diverse audiences. Nominalization transforms verbs, adjectives, or adverbs into nouns, actions, or events, making writing more creative, varied, and interesting. ===== The use of nominalization is crucial in academic writing as it helps to: Prevent repetition of the same verb or word, making the writing more engaging Make writing less personal by focusing on actions rather than individuals To academic writing so it's worth looking at a specific example of how it could be used to improve style. Papers and Articles When writing papers and articles in the natural and social sciences, for example, it's expected that you don't refer to yourself. Take a look at the difference between these two sentences: I analysed the data, which revealed the numbers of obese people had increased. An analysis of the data revealed an increase in obesity. You will see how the writing has been depersonalised by omitting 'I' and making the verb 'analysed' into a noun. In addition, the verb 'had increased' has been changed as this makes the whole sentence shorter (this has also involved reducing the relative clause). Shortening sentences whilst retaining academic style and not changing the meaning is important when you are trying to write a paper within a limited number of words! IELTS Test Nominalisation is also something a writing examiner will notice if you are taking the IELTS test. It's something that would be expected of someone getting band 7 or higher for grammar. It can of course be used in essays, but also for IELTS graphs. Nominalising some sentences will give you a greater variety of structures. For example, the first sentence below is common written by candidates, but it can be rephrased as: The number of visitors increased sharply from 2005 to 2010. There was a sharp increase in the number of visitors from 2005 to 2010. In the second sentence, the verb becomes a noun and the adverb becomes an adjective. Both are ok but it's better to have a mix rather than relying on one too much. Now check what you have learned in this nominalisation practice exercise >>> Join Us and get Free Grammar Tips into your Inbox! New! Comments Any questions or comments about the grammar discussed on this page? Post your comment here. Nominalization is changing a verb or adjective into a noun, like making 'destruct' into 'destruction'. Nominalizations in writing can make sentences less clear by hiding who does the action. Scientific writing often uses nominalization to focus on actions like 'experimenting' instead of who does them. In English grammar, nominalization refers to using a verb as a noun. The verb form is nominalize. In transformational grammar, nominalization refers to the process of creating a noun phrase from a clause. In this sense, an "example of nominalization is the destruction of the city, where the noun destruction corresponds to the main verb of a clause and the city to its object" (Geoffrey Leech, "A Glossary of English Grammar", 2006). "English is truly impressive . . . in the way it lets you construct nouns from verbs, adjectives, and other nouns; blogger and blogosphere are examples. All you have to do is add one of an assortment of suffixes: -acy (democracy), -age (patronage), -al (refusal), -ama (panorama), -ana (Americana), -ance (variance), -ant (deodorant), -dom (freedom), -edge (knowledge), -ee (lessee), -eer (engineer), -er (painter), -ery (slavery), -ese (Lebanese), -ess (laundress), -ette (laundrette), -fest (lovefest), -ful (basketful), -hood (motherhood), -iac (maniac), -ian (Italian), -ie or -y (foodie, smoothy), -ion (tension, operation), -ism (progressivism), -ist (idealist), -ite (Israelite), -itude (decripitude), -ity (stupidity), -ium (tedium), -let (leaflet), -ling (earthing), -man or -woman (Frenchman), -maniaNominalization: The Silent Saboteur of Clear Communication ===== Everybody seems to be going a bit nuts with noun creation these days. Journalists and bloggers claim that using suffixes like -fest, -athon, -head, -oid, -orama, and -palooza makes you seem ironic and hip. But is this trend just a fad or is there something more at play? The forces behind nominalization are understandable. Scientists and technical writers tend to isolate activities as abstract units in their minds, making them more likely to use passive constructions like "a similar experiment was carried out using the material." These constructions can make writing seem more formal and objective, but they also lead to a loss of agency and context. Nominalization can be corrected by turning general-purpose verbs back into active verbs. For instance, instead of saying "the preparation was carried out as described," say "we carried out the preparation as described." This makes sentences more direct and easier to read. The darker side of nominalization is that it can eliminate context and mask power relationships. By focusing on actions rather than people, nominalizations can make something seem stable and mechanical when it's actually nebulous or fuzzy. In reality, nominalizations often conceal the people responsible for things and reduce our sense of involvement in a transaction. There are different types of nominalization, ranging from single-word nouns like "teacher" to full-clause constructions like "that Sam washed the windows." While some may argue that -structures don't qualify as nominalizations, they still represent a deviation from the normal rank scale of units. By recognizing and avoiding these constructions, writers can maintain clarity and agency in their communication. The Concept of Nominalization in English ===== Nominalizations in english can be confusing because they refer to third-order entities, such as "Cooking involves irreversible chemical changes," where cooking is a process abstracted from a particular token instance at a specific time. There are also second-order entities, like "The cooking took five hours," which refers to countable tokens of processes. The third kind of nominalization has been called improper and refers to first-order entities, such as "I like John's cooking," where the food resulting from the cooking is the focus. Nominalization is a process of changing a verb or adjective into a noun, like turning 'destruct' into 'destruction'. In scientific writing, nominalization often focuses on actions like 'experimenting' instead of who does them. The verb form is called nominalize, and it's also known as nouning. In english grammar, nominalization is the creation of a noun phrase from an underlying clause. For example, "the destruction of the city" corresponds to the main verb of a clause and its object, the city. This process allows for creative constructions of nouns from verbs, adjectives, and other nouns, using various suffixes such as -acy, -age, -al, or -mania. However, some critics argue that nominalization can make sentences less clear by hiding who does the action. Journalists and bloggers often use nominalization to create new nouns with suffixes like -fest, -athon, or -palooza, which can be seen as a sign of irony and hipness. Despite this, the forces pushing towards nominalization are understandable, given the desire to isolate activities and step aside from one's work. ===== Nominalization - The Art of Turning Verbs into Nouns In scientific writing and television news bulletins, a common construction is to use the verb "carried out" when describing experiments or tasks. However, this practice has become so widespread that it's now recognized as a hallmark of scientific reporting. According to experts, nominalization can have several negative effects on language, including making text less direct and harder to read. Nominalization can also obscure context and agency, giving the impression that actions are more stable and precise than they actually are. Furthermore, it often prioritizes actions over people, hiding power dynamics and reducing complexity in transactions. In addition, nominalization can be an instrument of manipulation, emphasizing products and results over processes. There are different types of nominalizations, including those at the level of individual words, structures, and full clauses. However, not all linguists agree on the classification of these categories, with some arguing that certain constructions should not be considered nominalizations. Nominalization can also refer to higher-order entities, such as processes or abstract concepts, rather than concrete objects or actions. Overall, understanding nominalization is essential for effective communication in writing and other contexts. The process of nominalisation is a fundamental aspect of complex grammar, resulting in the creation of nuanced noun-phrase structures that elevate academic writing to new heights. By virtue of this grammatical process, writers are able to convey abstract ideas and technical concepts with greater precision. Nominalisation has become an indispensable feature of academic discourse. ===== A thorough understanding of nominalisation is essential for effective communication in various fields of study. This worksheet provides a comprehensive introduction to the subject, covering the basics of nominalising verbs and adjectives into nouns, as well as four exercises designed to hone one's skills in this area. Suitable for learners at all levels, from B1 to C1, this activity offers an engaging and challenging experience that fosters excellent writing practice. ===== The noun forms of common academic verbs are crucial to understanding nominalisation. One can identify these nouns by examining the following examples: Nominalise the sentence below using the verb in bold: **assume** that inflation will rise no higher than 2%. Nominalise the sentence below using the verb in bold: **create** value in a business is profits. Nominalise the sentence below using the two verbs in bold: **evaluated** and **explains** the loss in revenue. Nominalise the sentence below using the adjective in bold: bonds are attractive for investors seeking predictable returns on their investments. ===== A deeper exploration of nominalisation reveals its significance in both formal and informal contexts. The impersonal passive structure 'it is said that...' and the infinitive passive form 'it is claimed to be...' offer a glimpse into this phenomenon, as do examples of how nominalising verbs can enhance formality in writing. In recent years, nominalisation has gained prominence as a key aspect of academic style, particularly in STEM fields. The "Academic Style 4: STEM Vocabulary 2" lesson provides an in-depth examination of AWL and nominalisation, comprising three worksheets with numerous activities designed to refine sentence-level and paragraph-level skills. ===== The effect of nominalisation on written communication cannot be overstated. By transforming verbs and adjectives into nouns, writers can convey complex ideas with greater clarity and precision. However, this subtle process can also lead to ambiguity or obscure the intended message. As such, it is essential to consider the value added by nominalisations in one's writing. Looking forward to seein everyone at the meeting tomorrow and discuss our strategies in detail. ===== It allows for concise expression of complex ideas:it simplifies lengthy descriptions.It condenses information effectively.However, overuse can make writing dense and harder to read. Striking the right balance is key; use nominalizations purposefully to maintain clarity while enhancing your message.Nominalization can take various forms, each affecting writing in unique ways. Understanding these types enhances clarity and precision in your communication.Derivational nominalization involves creating nouns from verbs or adjectives by adding prefixes or suffixes. This process often simplifies complex actions into concise terms, making your writing clearer. For example: "Decide" transforms into "decision." "Create" turns into "creation." "Happy" becomes "happiness."These transformations help convey ideas more succinctly while maintaining meaning.Inflectional nominalization focuses on grammatical changes rather than new word formations. It typically involves pluralizing nouns or adjusting verb forms to fit within a sentence structure. Consider these examples:The noun "cat," when pluralized, becomes "cats." Changing the verb "run" to its noun form yields "running."This type keeps the message intact while allowing flexibility in usage, thus enhancing readability and flow in your writing.Nominalization significantly alters sentence structure by transforming verbs and adjectives into nouns. This process affects how information is organized in a sentence, influencing readability and engagement.Nominalization plays a crucial role in organizing ideas within sentences. By converting actions or qualities into nouns, it allows for more concise expression. For example: "The committee decided on the proposal." becomes "The decision of the committee on the proposal." "She felt happy about her achievement." changes to "Her happiness about the achievement was evident."These transformations often make sentences appear more formal but can lead to complex structures that may obscure meaning if overused.Nominalization can enhance clarity but also pose risks to style. It condenses information, allowing for efficient communication. However, excessive nominalization might confuse readers. Consider these effects:Clarity: "His failure to submit the report caused issues" versus "His submission failure caused issues."Style: Using "evaluation" instead of "evaluate" can sound sophisticated but may complicate understanding.As you navigate nominalizations, balance is key; use them purposefully for clear and engaging writing without overwhelming your audience with dense language.Nominalization appears frequently in everyday language and professional settings. Here are some common examples that illustrate its use.In daily conversations, nominalization simplifies complex ideas. For instance: "I decided to leave." becomes "My decision to leave." "She explained the rules." transforms into "Her explanation of the rules."These changes help convey thoughts more concisely. They also focus attention on the noun rather than the action.In academic writing, nominalization often enhances formality. Examples include: "The experiment showed results." changes to "The results of the experiment were significant." "They analyzed data." shifts to "The analysis of data revealed trends."Such transformations clarify points and emphasize findings over actions. In reports or presentations, this technique can convey authority and precision effectively.