

Nominalisation TASKS

Grammar – Grammatical Accuracy

Change verbs into nouns, and make your academic writing and speaking noun rich.

Introduction - Formal written English uses nouns more than verbs. For example, "judgement" rather than "judge", "development" rather than "develop", "admiration" rather than "admire". Changing a verb or other word into a noun is called nominalisation. The process of nominalisation turns **verbs** (actions or events) into **nouns** (things, concepts or people). By nominalising, the text no longer describes actions but focuses on objects or concepts. **For example:** *We walked for charity. We raised money for the Leukaemia Foundation. /The charity walk raised money for the Leukaemia Foundation.*

The meaning is the same. In what way does the second sound more 'academic'?

Task 1: Making noun phrases from verbs

- i.) Change all the following verbs into nouns – make sure you know their meaning.
- ii.) When changed into a noun – what preposition usually follows? Add another noun that commonly collocates with the word.
- iii.) Write a short sentence to illustrate its meaning.

For example: to transform = transformation (n) = transformation in + attitudes / behaviour

Sentence: ***The transformation in attitudes to cohabitation has been remarkable.***

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|---------------|----------------|
| a) to compete | b) to restrict |
| c) to respond | d) to develop |
| e) to reduce | f) to maintain |
| g) to depend | h) to comply |
| i) to retain | j) to predict |



k) to perceive

l) to employ

m) to oppose

n) to adhere

o) to introduce

p) to be concerned

q) to permit

r) to disagree

s) to intend

t) to solve

u) to succeed

v) to involve

NOMINALISATION

Next we look at how to turn the thoughts in your head into academic writing. To do this, we move from your thought, change it into the passive and then use nominalisation to produce a noun phrase which is often more concise, or just sounds more academic!

Task 2 Fill in the following table:

Active	Passive	Nominalisation
<i>e.g. I'm interested in how... companies adapt their products</i>	<i>products are adapted</i>	<i>The adaptation of products is...</i>
<i>I think it's important to... enforce the laws on human trafficking</i>		
<i>I think we should... develop the animation industry in this country</i>		
<i>I think the first thing we need to do is... reduce the level of drink- driving in this country</i>		
<i>The first thing we do is... switch off the computer</i>		
<i>I think... the author discussed the character really well</i>		

<i>I think... mobile phones have really influenced the way we live</i>		
<i>First, we... evaporate the liquid by heating it</i>		
<i>I think... the scandal erodes people's trust in the government</i>		

The passive is often used in academic writing, but the above exercise shows that it is not the only way of making your writing more formal. Nominalisation is also an important characteristic of academic writing, which leads to greater formality.

WRITING SENTENCES

Task 3 Think about some ideas you have about your essay topics – aim for 5 different points. Then:

- ❖ Write down your thoughts in the form of the first column above e.g. I think /We should/The first thing we need to do is...
- ❖ Now swap the thoughts you have put down on paper with your partner
- ❖ Then try to turn those thoughts into a more academic sentence – use nominalisation if possible/appropriate

Example:

ASK TUTOR WRITES: *'I think we send* too many people to prison for minor crimes in my country'

STUDENT WRITES: Too many people *are sent* to prison for minor crimes = The imprisonment of people committing minor crimes seems inappropriate // The sending of minor criminals to prison seems unjustifiable

Task 4 Further work on Noun Phrases – Combining Nouns

Look at the following types of noun combinations:

1) the movement of labour/the liberalisation of trade/the invention of vaccines/the rise in population

2 nouns or noun phrases connected by a preposition

2) a day's labour/a year's struggle/a lifetime's work/a son's duty/an artist's talent

2 nouns connected by apostrophe (') + s

3) the unemployment rate/migrant labour/a factory worker/health and safety laws/university administration



2 nouns / noun phrases combined (no preposition)

Task 5

i) Think about some common terms in *your subject area*. Which pattern do they come under?

Are there any you are not sure of – check with your ASK Tutor.

ii) Now write some sentences about your subject using these noun phrases – try to put the noun phrase at the start of the sentence

Materials used:

Introductory explanation from UniLearning. Retrieved 29/4/14:

<http://unilearning.uow.edu.au/academic/3b.html>