**NOMINALISATION**

**This is the process by which verb groups are changed into noun groups. So what were once ‘activities’ become ‘things’, represented by dense noun groups. It’s a way of making writing more formal and less personal.**

Verbs – more spoken style

Humans keep messing around and destroying the environment.

Nouns – more formal

Human intervention results in environmental destruction.

Noun group

Noun group

**The verb in a nominalised sentence illustrates the relationship between the ideas in the sentence. Often formal writing takes ‘results in,’ ‘led to,’ ‘increase,’ ‘produces’ or some such verb/al phrase.**

**One easy way to tell if something has become a noun is to add ‘the’ or ‘a/an’ in front of the word:**

The destruction An intervention A decision The population

**This compacts the language by changing activities into abstract nouns:**

populate – population decide – decision pollute – pollution

**Often this is done simply by adding one of a variety of different suffixes. Here are some of the more common suffixes used:**

-age (leakage)

 -al (refusal)

 -ance (absorbance)

-ant (deodorant)

-edge (knowledge)

-er (painter)

 -ful (careful)

-ion (operation)

 -ity (reflectivity)

-man (stuntman)

 -ment (government)

-ness (quarrelsomeness)

-able (sustainable)

-ed (developed)

-ous (poisonous)

-ing (emitting)

-ive (destructive)

-ation (contamination)

**Sometimes multiple different suffixes (or prefixes) can be used on the same word:**

*decontaminate, contamination, contaminated, contaminating – contaminate.*

Activity:

Change these verbs by adding as many of the suffixes to each of them as is possible. Then identify which ones are nouns and which are adjectives.

