Nominalisation: Building Noun Groups

**Learning Intention:** The purpose of this exercise is to practice analysis and building complex descriptive noun groups by taking a simple word and turning it into an extensive descriptive phrase. This can be a particularly useful skill for narrative hooks, scientific reports, poetry or simply to sound more impressive.

**Example Process**

**Simple word:** field

1. Formal base word (choose a broader, more complex variant): Field is a location; locale.
2. Description and uses (what it looks like, who uses it, how it’s used, when it’s used): Big open green space, full of grass, play games on it.
3. Nominalise/formalise descriptions (work with the separate descriptive ideas and choose appropriate formal language of a higher vocabulary to use as adverbs or adjectives): Green, grassy – verdant. Big – vast. Play games – entertainment provision.
4. Combine words (piece together the descriptive phrase): Vast, verdant entertainment provisioning locale.
* Do an example of your own.
* In teams of 4: engineer a complex noun group and then challenge another group to deconstruct (interpret) their descriptive phrase to try and work out the original word (or a synonym).
* Balderdash round: Small teams or individuals compete to come up with descriptive noun groups for a single word.