
Nominalisation

Lesson plan

Topic: nominalisation (changing verbs to nouns)

Rationale: This lesson introduces a process to create more complex grammar structures to help students be more formal and academic in their writing.

Procedure

1. Presentation: write on board or display this sentence and highlight key verbs

- We **analysed** the data from the experiment, and it revealed that children **react** when they have too much sugar.

2. Tell students that this type of sentence is ok but could be improved by a process of changing the verbs to nouns known as 'nominalisation'.

Show the transformed sentence and highlight nouns

- The **analysis** of the data revealed children's **reaction** to excessive sugar intake.

Explain that noun phrases 'the analysis of the data' are common aspects in academic writing and help to prevent informality.

3. The first practice (1) is for students to identify what nouns they know and fill in the table. Feedback as whole class and practice pronunciation by highlighting stress patterns.

4. Rewrite the sentences practice (2). Ask students to rewrite the first sentence nominalising the verbs in bold. Feedback on the first sentence together as a class, then monitor and guide the other sentences individually.

5. Guided writing / sentence heads (3). Do the first sentence as a class. Then monitor and guide students individually as they complete each sentence or take in and mark.

6. Freer practice (4) – explain the idea of the exercise that they should write a sentence using the key noun. Do the first one together as a class. Ask students to write a sentence in the context of their academic discipline (business, engineering, media studies). Feedback individually, or take in and mark. This can be a good homework task for consolidation.

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Nominalisation

The technique of nominalisation (changing **verbs** to **nouns**) can be very helpful to make your writing more academic and concise.

- We **analysed** the data from the experiment, and it revealed that children **react** when they have too much sugar.

REWRITTEN IN NOMINALISED FORM

- The **analysis** of the data revealed children's **reaction** to excessive sugar intake.

1. Fill in the corresponding nouns

verb	noun	verb	noun
analyse		hypothesise	
approach		identify	
assess		indicate	
assume		interpret	
authorise		Investigate	
conceptualise		implicate	
Consist of		legislate	
contextualise		occur	
create		proceed	
define		require	
distribute		respond	
establish		Signify	
emphasise		specify	

2. Rewrite these sentences

1) We **evaluated** the results and this **explains** the loss in revenue.

2) We **define** a business strategy as a long-term plan of action designed to **achieve** a particular goal.

3) When you **predict** the trend of retail sales it requires information such as to **analyse** market demand and information about the company's demand.

4) The one primary issue to **create** value in a business is profits.

3. Writing practice – guided writing

There is a **conception** that men are _____

Several **hypotheses** for global warming have _____

The latest **indications** of the economic recession provide _____

By **definition**, academic ability can be seen as _____

Teachers need to place more **emphasis on** _____

The authors gave several **hypotheses** to explain _____

There are many **indications** that China is heading _____

There are varying **interpretations** of _____

The **implications** are profound for today's _____

4. Freer writing

Use the noun in a sentence (try to write sentences based on your academic discipline):

Procedure: _____

Requirement: _____

Response: _____

Significance: _____

Nominalisation **Answers**

verb	noun	verb	noun
analyse	analysis	hypothesise	hypothesis
approach	approach	identify	identification
assess	assessment	indicate	indication
assume	assumption	interpret	interpretation
authorise	authority	Investigate	investigation
conceptualise	conception	implicate	implication
Consist of	consistence	legislate	legislation
contextualise	context	occur	occurrence
create	creation	proceed	procedure
define	definition	require	requirement
distribute	distribution	respond	response
establish	establishment	Signify	significance
emphasise	emphasis	specify	specification

Rewrite these sentences **ANSWERS** (suggested)

1) We **evaluated** the results and this **explains** the loss in revenue.

An **evaluation** of results provides an **explanation** to the loss in revenue

2) We **define** a business strategy as a long-term plan of action designed to **achieve** a particular goal.

The **definition** of **business strategy** is a long term plan of action designed to reflect **the achievement** of a particular goal.

3) When you **predict** the trend of retail sales it requires information such as to **analyse** market demand and information about the company's demand.

The **prediction** in the trend of retail sales requires different information such as an **analysis** of market demand and information about the company's demand

4) The one primary issue to **create** value in a business is profits.

Value **creation** in a **business** is connected to one primary issue—profits

Writing practice & freer writing = student's own answers