

Lesson Plan: Abstract nouns and their collocations

Level	Advanced (C1–C2)
Time	60–90 minutes
Skills	Vocabulary, writing
Focus	Key abstract nouns in academic and professional English with their typical collocations

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Learn and use 20+ abstract nouns common in academic and professional English
- Use collocations with abstract nouns correctly (verbs, adjectives, prepositions)
- Understand how abstract nouns contribute to formal register
- Avoid collocation errors that undermine the formality of written English

TARGET LANGUAGE (EXAMPLES)

Key academic abstract nouns + collocations

- concern: raise a concern, express concern, concern about
- impact: have an impact, significant impact, impact on
- approach: adopt an approach, take a different approach
- evidence: provide evidence, lack of evidence, evidence to support
- challenge: pose a challenge, address a challenge, face challenges

Professional abstract nouns + collocations

- commitment: demonstrate commitment, commitment to
- outcome: achieve an outcome, desirable outcome, outcome of
- perspective: from a different perspective, take the perspective of
- transparency: ensure transparency, lack of transparency

Collocating verbs (make, do, give, take, have)

- make a decision / take a decision (BrE)
- give an impression / make an impression
- have an impact / make an impact
- take a stance / adopt a position

Common errors

- do a progress → make progress
- make a research → conduct research / do research
- a very big impact → a significant impact (register)

LESSON PROCEDURE

1. Warm-up (10 min)

Task: Students guess the abstract noun from its definition.

- 'The quality of being honest and clear, especially in a professional context.' → transparency
- 10 quick-fire definitions.

2. Presentation (15 min)

Task: Introduce abstract nouns in collocational groups.

- Focus on verb + noun collocations: make, give, have, take — which go with which?
- Register: significant impact (formal) vs. big impact (informal).

3. Guided practice (10 min)

Task: Choose the correct verb or adjective to complete collocations.

- 'The report ___ significant concern about data security.' → raised
- 'The committee ___ a new approach.' → adopted

4. Writing task (25 min)

Task: Write a formal paragraph on a professional or academic topic.

- Must include at least 6 abstract nouns with their correct collocations.
- Peer review: are the collocations natural and formally appropriate?

5. Error correction (5–10 min)

Task: Fix 5 collocation errors involving abstract nouns.

EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one:

1. Write a formal report paragraph using 8 abstract nouns with their typical collocations.
2. Replace informal language in a paragraph with appropriate abstract noun collocations.
3. Create a collocation record for 10 abstract nouns: write 3 collocating words for each.