

# Lesson Plan:

## Abstract and concrete nouns

| LEVEL            | DURATION   | FOCUS                                                                     |
|------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Advanced (B2-C1) | 60 minutes | Understanding subtle distinctions, usage in academic and creative writing |

### 1. Lead-in (5-10 minutes)

#### Discussion Prompt (Small Groups):

- "What makes something real? Can you describe things you believe in, but can't touch?"
- Ask students to jot down a few nouns that represent those beliefs or ideas.
- Debrief with the class: Were their examples abstract? What about things like "justice," "beauty," or "technology"?

### 2. Presentation (10-15 minutes)

#### Review Definitions:

- **Concrete Nouns:** Perceivable through the senses.
- **Abstract Nouns:** Refer to ideas, concepts, emotions, states, or qualities — not directly perceivable.

#### Advanced Insight:

- Some nouns can function as both, depending on usage and context.

*Example:*

Concrete: "The surgeon examined her **heart**." Here it's a physical organ.

Abstract: "She showed real **heart** when she kept trying." Here it means courage and determination.

#### Focus on Word Formation:

- Abstract nouns often formed from:
- Adjectives: honest → honesty , wise → wisdom
- Verbs: decide → decision, grow → growth

### Visual Anchor:

Use a table or diagram contrasting pairs (e.g., "freedom" vs. "flag," "anger" vs. "fist").

## 3. Guided Practice (10-15 minutes)

### Activity 1: Context Challenge

Students get pairs of nouns. They must use them in two different sentences — once as a **concrete** noun, and once as **abstract** (where applicable).

*Examples:*

- "Light": The light blinded me. (concrete) / I finally saw the light. (abstract metaphor)
- "Memory": The memory haunted her. / He held a photo of the memory. (borderline metaphor)

### Activity 2: Abstract Noun Mind Map

Choose one abstract noun (e.g., "freedom") and have students brainstorm:

- Synonyms
- Antonyms
- Real-world examples
- Abstract representations (symbols, metaphors)

## 4. Production (15-20 minutes)

### Option A: Analytical Writing Task

- Prompt: "Choose one abstract noun (e.g., justice, loyalty, grief, ambition) and explain how it is perceived differently in two cultures or contexts."
- Focus on precise use of vocabulary and structure.

### Option B: Creative Speaking/Writing Prompt

- "Describe an abstract concept as if it were a person or object."

*Example: "Grief walked into the room wearing a dark coat. It whispered in my ear for hours."*

- Encourage use of both noun types in their storytelling.

## 5. Review & Homework (5 minutes)

### Class Review:

- Quick-fire quiz on abstract/concrete distinctions.
- Ask: "Can a noun change category based on context?"

**Homework Ideas:**

- Write a paragraph or poem including **5 abstract** and **5 concrete nouns**.
- Reflective journal: "How do abstract nouns influence our perception of the world?"