

## Lesson Plan: Abstract and concrete nouns

**Level:** Advanced (B2–C1)

**Duration:** 60 minutes

**Focus:** 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.

*Examples:*

- *"Her **love** was strong."* (abstract)
- *"He wrote a letter filled with **loves** and regrets."* (poetic, metaphorical objectification)

## 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?"*