

# The Abstract Noun

Recognize an *abstract noun* when you see one.

Nouns name people, places, and things. One class of nouns is *abstract*. Your five senses cannot detect this group of nouns. You cannot *see* them, *hear* them, *smell* them, *taste* them, or *feel* them.



Cannot see

Cannot hear

Cannot smell

Cannot taste

Cannot touch

Check out the following example:

When Joseph dived into the violent waves to rescue a drowning puppy, his *bravery* amazed the crowd of fishermen standing on the dock.

*Bravery*, one of the nouns in this sentence, is an example of an abstract noun. You can see Joseph, the water, and the crowd. But you cannot see *bravery* itself. *Bravery* has no color, size, shape, sound, odor, flavor, or texture; it has no quality that you can see, hear, smell, taste, or touch. Any noun that escapes your five senses is an abstract noun.

Don't confuse an *abstract noun* with a *concrete noun*.

Many nouns are *concrete*, not abstract. Concrete nouns register on your five senses. Here is an example:

Joseph cuddled the wet *puppy* under his warm jacket.

*Puppy* is an example of a concrete noun. You can see a puppy, stroke its fur, smell its breath, and listen to it whine. You can even taste the puppy if you don't mind pulling dog hair off your tongue! Because a puppy will register on all five senses, *puppy* is a concrete noun.

Look over this chart contrasting abstract and concrete nouns:

Abstract Nouns	Concrete Nouns
deceit	the President
dedication	teacher
curiosity	cat
trust	airplane
relaxation	bubble bath

