

Prepare for {IELTS}

Video Lessons





GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

Nominalisation

CHANGING VERBS INTO NOUNS

EXPLANATION

- **NOMINALISATION** is the process of changing **VERBS**, **ADJECTIVES** and other words into **NOUNS** when you write.
- **NOMINALISATION** is a feature of formal and academic writing, Using it makes your writing seem more complex and more impersonal.
- Using it in IELTS Writing Tsk 2 and IELTS Academic Writing Task 1 is a strength. It can improve your grade for **TASK RESPONSE**, because you will be writing in an appropriate style. It can also improve your **GRAMMAR** grade. This is because **NOMINALISATION** will allow you to write complex noun phrases and different sentence structures.
- You will also see **NOMINALISATION** used in the IELTS Academic Reading Test as well as in other academic and formal English.
- The **NOMINALISATION of VERBS** often turns them from actions into concepts.

NOMINALISATION

CHANGING VERBS INTO NOUNS

- The number of people living in the city **increased**, which has put a lot of stress and strain on public amenities.
- The **increase** in the number of people living in the city has put a lot of stress and strain on public amenities.
- It is quite probable that many animal species will **disappear** within the next century. This is worrying.
- The probable **disappearance** of many animal species within the next century is worrying.

NOMINALISATION

CHANGING VERBS INTO NOUNS

- Science **develops** because people **invent** things and **innovate**.
- **Inventions** and **innovations** are key to scientific **development**.
- When the light-bulb **was invented**, it immediately **changed** the way people **behaved**.
- The **invention** of the light-bulb led to immediate **changes** in **behaviour**.

NOMINALISATION

CHANGING VERBS INTO NOUNS

- Consumer durables **will** probably **cost** more in the future.
- The **cost** of consumer durables will probably rise in the future.
- It is vital for children to **play** team sports.
- **Playing** team sports is vital for children.
- Primary school children **sing**, **paint** and **dance** a lot as part of their studies.
- **Singing**, **painting** and **dancing** are important elements in the education of primary school children.

NOMINALISATION

CHANGING VERBS INTO NOUNS

- If we **observe** this process, we can **understand** it more clearly.
- **Observation** of this process can lead to greater **understanding** of it.
- If we **distributed** wealth more equally, it would make society fairer.
- **Distributing** wealth more equally would increase the amount of fairness in society.
- Provided that we **discuss** this issue, we should be able to **agree**.
- **Discussion** of this issue should lead to **agreement**.



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Nominalisation

CHANGING ADJECTIVES
INTO NOUNS

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- You will also see **NOMINALISATION** used in the IELTS Academic Reading Test as well as in other academic and formal English.
- The **NOMINALISATION of ADJECTIVES** is a very useful skill.

NOMINALISATION

CHANGING ADJECTIVES INTO NOUNS

- It is quite **probable/likely** that many animal species will disappear within the next century.
- The **probability/likelihood** of many animal species disappearing within the next century is significant.
- That problem is **enormous** and, as a result, cannot be solved.
- The **enormity** of that problem means that a solution cannot be found.

NOMINALISATION

CHANGING ADJECTIVES INTO NOUNS

- This argument is **valid**, and we need to recognize this.
- The **validity** of this argument needs to be recognized.
- People have said that the evidence used to support this claim is not **reliable**.
- The **reliability** of evidence used to support this claim has been challenged.

NOMINALISATION

CHANGING ADJECTIVES INTO NOUNS

- We need to take into consideration the fact that many elderly people are **vulnerable**.
- The **vulnerability** of many elderly people needs to be taken into consideration.
- Some parents are **unable** to realize how difficult life is for their adolescent children, and this means that the relationships they have with their sons and daughters tend to be poor.
- The **inability** of some parents to realize how difficult life is for their adolescent children means that the relationships they have with their sons and daughters tend to be poor.

NOMINALISATION

CHANGING ADJECTIVES INTO NOUNS

- Many people doubt whether such an approach is **feasible**.
- The **feasibility** of such an approach is doubtful.
- It is **possible** that we could cut traffic congestion by increasing the cost of petrol.
- The **possibility** that traffic congestion could be cut by increasing the cost of petrol certainly exists.

NOMINALISATION

CHANGING ADJECTIVES INTO NOUNS

- There is often a debate about how **effective**, **efficient** and **reliable** public transport is.
- There is often a debate about the **effectiveness**, **efficiency** and **reliability** of public transport.
- Those in the teaching profession clearly need to be **patient**, **tolerant** and **caring**.
- Those in the teaching profession need to treat their students with **patience**, **tolerance** and **care**.

NOMINALISATION

CHANGING ADJECTIVES INTO NOUNS

- We need to teach young children how **important** it is to be **happy**.
- The **importance** of **happiness** needs to be taught to children.
- Schoolchildren should be taught how **important** it is to be **independent, trustworthy, polite** and **punctual**.
- Schoolchildren should be taught the **importance** of **independence, trustworthiness, politeness** and **punctuality**.



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COMBINING STRATEGIES: EXAMPLES

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- You will also see **NOMINALISATION** used in the IELTS Academic Reading Test as well as in other academic and formal English.

NOMINALISATION EXAMPLES

- When the government decides to change the law, it is often controversial and can lead to people arguing and disagreeing.
- Government **decisions** to change the law can lead to **controversy**, and can cause **argument** and **disagreement**.
- When communications fail, it can be extremely problematic.
- **Failures** in communication can lead to serious **problems/outcomes**.
- Everybody in society should care about how animals are looked after.
- **Animal welfare** should be a **priority** for everybody in society.

NOMINALISATION EXAMPLES

- Prices fell sharply last year, leading to consumers spending less.
- The **fall** in prices last year led to a **reduction** in **consumer spending**.
- When we try to improve how well students behave in the classroom, it can be difficult.
- **Attempts** to make **improvements** in **student behaviour** in the classroom can be fraught with **difficulty**.
- When trains are delayed, passengers sometimes get annoyed or angry.
- **Train delays** sometimes cause **annoyance** or **anger** amongst passengers.

NOMINALISATION EXAMPLES

- People are getting taller and heavier, mostly because of what they eat.
- The **increases** in the **height** and **weight** of the average person are related to **diet**.
- Medicine is becoming more advanced because more money is being invested in it.
- **Advances** in medicine are due to higher **levels of investment** in **this area**.

NOMINALISATION EXAMPLES

- You need to be socially intelligent and to be able to understand other people to become a skilful communicator.
- The **skill** of **communication** relies on **social intelligence** and **mutual understanding**.
- People often commit crimes because they are poor, deprived or treated unequally.
- The **reasons** why crimes are committed often relate to **poverty**, **deprivation** and **inequality**.
- Government policies might be successful or might fail.
- Government policies might meet with **success** or **failure**.



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PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Look at the following sentences. Make nominalised sentences from them:

1. When the government decides to make a new policy, it is often controversial.
2. When computerised systems fail, there can be serious consequences.
3. Temperatures in some parts of the world are rising at terrifying speed.
4. Unemployment fell sharply last year, leading to a boost in consumer confidence.
5. The cost of accommodation in rural areas increased, which led to more villagers migrating to large cities.
6. It is possible that we could cut traffic congestion by reducing the cost of public transport.
7. It is quite probable that many regions of the planet will become uninhabitable within the next century.
8. It is important for all schoolchildren to prepare well for their exams
9. When buses are delayed, commuters often become frustrated or angry.
10. It is very important that people are satisfied.

SUGGESTED ANSWERS

1. Government decisions to make new policies are often controversial.
2. Failures in computerised systems can have serious consequences.
3. The rise in temperatures in some parts of the world is taking place at terrifying speed.
4. The fall in unemployment last year led to a boost in consumer confidence.
5. The increase in the cost of accommodation in rural areas led to more villagers migrating to large cities.
6. The possibility that we could cut traffic congestion by reducing the cost of public transport should be considered.
7. The probability of many regions of the planet becoming uninhabitable within the next century is worrying.
8. The importance of all schoolchildren preparing well for their exams cannot be stressed enough.
9. Train delays often frustrate or anger commuters.
10. The satisfaction of people is of great importance.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Look at the following sentences. Try to re-write each sentence in a more academic way, using nominalization:

EXAMPLE

When the light-bulb was invented, it immediately changed the way people behaved.

ANSWER: The **invention** of the light-bulb led to immediate changes in people's behaviour.

1. We need to teach young children how important it is to be happy.
2. It is quite probable that many animal species will disappear within the next century. This is worrying.
3. That problem is enormous and, as a result, cannot be solved.
4. Teachers need to be patient, tolerant and caring.
5. There is often a debate about how effective, efficient and reliable public transport is.

SUGGESTED ANSWERS

1. The importance of happiness needs to be taught to children.
2. The probability of many animal species disappearing within the next century is worrying.
3. The enormity of that problem means that a solution cannot be found.
4. Patience, tolerance and care are three characteristics/attributes which teachers require.
5. The effectiveness, efficiency and reliability of public transport are often debated.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Look at the following sentences. Try to re-write each sentence in a more academic way, using nominalization:

EXAMPLE

We need to teach young children how important it is to be happy.

ANSWER: The **importance** of **happiness** needs to be taught to children.

1. This argument is valid, and we need to recognize that it is.
2. People have said that the evidence used to support this claim is not reliable.
3. Some parents cannot realize how difficult life is for their adolescent children, and this means that the relationship they have with their sons and daughters tend to be poor.
4. Many people doubt whether such an approach is feasible.
5. We need to take into consideration the fact that many elderly people are vulnerable.

HELP

If you find this activity difficult, look at the sentences below for help:

1. The v _____ of this argument needs to be recognized.
2. The r _____ of evidence used to support this claim has been challenged.
3. The i _____ of some parents to realize how difficult life is for their adolescent children means that the relationship they have with their sons and daughters tend to be poor.
4. The f _____ of such an approach is doubtful.
5. The v _____ of many elderly people needs to be taken into consideration.

SUGGESTED ANSWERS

1. The validity of this argument needs to be recognized.
2. The reliability of evidence used to support this claim has been challenged.
3. The inability of some parents to realize how difficult life is for their adolescent children means that the relationship they have with their sons and daughters tend to be poor.
4. The feasibility of such an approach is doubtful.
5. The vulnerability of many elderly people needs to be taken into consideration.