

THE CONCRETE NOUN

Recognize a concrete noun when you find one.

Nouns name people, places, and things. One class of nouns is *concrete*. You can experience this group of nouns with your five senses: you *see* them, *hear* them, *smell* them, *taste* them, and *feel* them.



Can see



Can hear



Can smell



Can taste



Can touch

Read this example:

Reliable, Diane's beagle, licked strawberry **ice cream** off her chin.

Ice cream, for example, is a concrete noun. You can *see* the pink. You can *taste* the berry flavor. You can *feel* your tongue growing numb from the cold. Any noun that you can experience with at least *one* of your five senses is a concrete noun.

Do not confuse a concrete noun with an abstract noun.

Not all nouns are concrete. A second class of nouns is abstract. You cannot experience **abstract nouns** with your senses.

Read this example:

Diane pushed Reliable off her lap to register her **disapproval**.

Disapproval is an example of an abstract noun. What color is disapproval? You do not know because you cannot *see* it. What texture is disapproval? Who knows? You cannot *touch* it. What flavor is disapproval? No clue! You cannot *taste* it! Does it make a *sound*? Of course not! Does it *smell*? Not a bit!

Review this chart contrasting concrete and abstract nouns:

| CONCRETE NOUNS | ABSTRACT NOUNS |
|----------------|----------------|
| student | intelligence |
| fire fighter | bravery |
| pencil | eloquence |
| computer | convenience |
| road | adventure |
| toddler | boisterousness |
| money | freedom |
| yardstick | precision |
| egg | potential |
| sponge | cleanliness |

