Noun Formation

CEFR A2 · People-nouns and simple abstract nouns
WS1 -er / -or / -ist · WS2 Verb → Noun · WS3 Adjective → Noun · WS4 Editing & Writing · Answer Key

Worksheet 1: -er / -or / -ist

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A2 (CEFR)

Reference: People Who Do Things

We make "person" nouns with three main endings: **-er** (the most common), **-or** (often Latin-based verbs), and **-ist** (someone who does an -ism or plays an instrument). You must learn which ending each word takes.

Suffix	Example	From
-er	teach → teacher	verb
-or	act → actor; visit → visitor	verb
-ist	art → artist; piano → pianist	noun
-ist	science → scientist	noun
-ician	music → musician	noun

Part A – Make the Person Noun

1. act → _____
2. science → _____
3. art → _____
4. visit → _____
5. music → _____

Part B – Choose the Right Ending

1. Someone who plays the piano is a _____. (piano)
2. Someone who acts in films is an _____. (act)
3. Someone who does science is a _____. (science)
4. Someone who translates is a _____. (translate)

Score: ____ / 20

Worksheet 2: Verb → Noun

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A2 (CEFR)

Reference: The Name of the Action

We can make a noun for **the action or its result** from a verb. Common endings are **-tion/-sion**, **-ment**, and **-ery/-y**. Some verbs change form a little (*decide* → *decision*).

Verb	Noun	Suffix
invent	invention	-tion
decide	decision	-sion
move	movement	-ment
agree	agreement	-ment
discover	discovery	-y

Part A – Make the Noun

1. invent → _____
2. agree → _____
3. decide → _____
4. educate → _____
5. discover → _____

Part B – Complete the Sentence

1. The telephone was a great _____. (invent)
2. They made a big _____. (decide)
3. We reached an _____. (agree)
4. School is important for _____. (educate)

Part C – Verb or Noun?

Write the correct form (verb or noun) of the word in brackets.

1. They will _____ soon. (decide — verb)
2. It was a difficult _____. (decide — noun)
3. Scientists _____ new things. (discover — verb)
4. It was an amazing _____. (discover — noun)

Score: _____ / 25

Worksheet 3: Adjective → Noun

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A2 (CEFR)

Reference: The Name of a Quality

We can make a noun for **a quality** from an adjective. The most common ending is **-ness** (*happy → happiness*). Others include **-ity** (*able → ability*) and **-th** (*warm → warmth*). Note: *happy → happiness* (y → i).

Adjective	Noun	Suffix
happy	happiness	-ness (y→i)
kind	kindness	-ness
able	ability	-ity
warm	warmth	-th
dark	darkness	-ness

Part A – Make the Noun

1. happy → _____
2. kind → _____
3. ill → _____
4. weak → _____
5. warm → _____

Part B – Complete the Sentence

1. Thank you for your _____. (kind)
2. Money doesn't always bring _____. (happy)
3. She was off work because of _____. (ill)
4. He has the _____ to lead. (able)

Part C – Sort the Nouns

Write the noun and its ending.

#	Adjective	Noun + suffix
1	sad	
2	dark	
3	real	
4	strong	

Score: _____ / 30

Worksheet 4: Editing & Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A2 (CEFR)

Part A – Edit the Paragraph

This text has **six** noun-formation errors (wrong suffix, wrong person ending, or spelling). Underline and correct them.

> My uncle is a famous scientman who works in a big lab. Last year he made an important discover. His invension helps sick people. He says that good educatement and hard work bring happyness. His kindful to everyone makes him a wonderful person. One day I want to be an act, but my brother wants to be a piano.

#	Error	Correction
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

Part B – Writing

Write 80–100 words about jobs people do and qualities you admire. Use at least **three person nouns** (-er/-or/-ist), **two action nouns** (-tion/-ment), and **two quality nouns** (-ness/-ity). Underline each noun you form.

#	Line
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

Person: _____ / 3 Action: _____ / 2 Quality: _____ / 2 Score: _____ / 35

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only — A2 Level, Noun Formation

Worksheet 1 – Part A

1 actor · 2 scientist · 3 artist · 4 visitor · 5 musician

Worksheet 1 – Part B

1 pianist · 2 actor · 3 scientist · 4 translator

There is no rule that always works — these endings must be learned per word. Group them by ending on the board.

Worksheet 2 – Part A

1 invention · 2 agreement · 3 decision · 4 education · 5 discovery

Worksheet 2 – Part B

1 invention · 2 decision · 3 agreement · 4 education

Worksheet 2 – Part C

1 decide · 2 decision · 3 discover · 4 discovery

Worksheet 3 – Part A

1 happiness · 2 kindness · 3 illness · 4 weakness · 5 warmth

Worksheet 3 – Part B

1 kindness · 2 happiness · 3 illness · 4 ability

Worksheet 3 – Part C

sadness (-ness) · darkness (-ness) · reality (-ity) · strength (-th)

Remind students of y→i (happy→happiness) and the vowel change in strong→strength.

Worksheet 4 – Part A

1 scientist · 2 discovery · 3 invention · 4 education · 5 happiness · 6 kindness (also: actor, pianist)

Worksheet 4 – Part B: Marking Guide

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
Person nouns	-er/-or/-ist correct	0–4
Action nouns	-tion/-sion/-ment correct	0–4
Quality nouns	-ness/-ity correct	0–3
Task & length	80–100 words; coherent	0–4