Noun Formation

CEFR B1 · Abstract-noun suffix families and word building

WS1 Suffix Families · WS2 Person vs Abstract Nouns · WS3 Spelling & Word Building · WS4 Editing & Writing · Answer Key

Worksheet 1: Suffix Families

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B1 (CEFR)

Reference: The Main Abstract-Noun Suffixes

At B1 you learn to choose the right noun suffix. **-tion/-sion/-ation** and **-ment** come from verbs (actions/results). **-ness**, **-ity** and **-ance/-ence** come from adjectives (qualities/states). Watch the spelling and stress changes.

Suffix	From	Example
-tion / -ation	verb	educate → education; organise → organisation
-sion	verb (d/de/se)	decide → decision; explode → explosion
-ment	verb	develop → development
-ness	adjective	happy → happiness; aware → awareness
-ity	adjective	curious → curiosity; secure → security
-ance / -ence	verb/adjective	perform → performance; different → difference

Part A – Form the Noun (watch spelling)

1. organise → _____
2. develop → _____
3. curious → _____
4. perform → _____
5. explode → _____
6. aware → _____

Part B – Complete the Sentence

1. The band gave a great _____. (perform)
2. There is growing _____ of the problem. (aware)
3. The city needs more _____. (develop)
4. Children are full of _____. (curious)

Score: ____ / 20

Worksheet 2: Person vs Abstract Nouns

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B1 (CEFR)

Reference: Two Nouns from One Root

Many roots give both a **person noun** and an **abstract noun**: *act* → *actor* (person) and *action* (thing); *science* → *scientist* and *science*. Choosing the right one is a common B1 challenge — the person does the action; the abstract noun names the activity, field, or quality.

Root	Person noun	Abstract noun
act	actor	action / acting
science	scientist	science
politics	politician	politics
assist	assistant	assistance
compete	competitor	competition

Part A – Person or Abstract?

1. She won the _____. (compete — abstract)
2. Every _____ did their best. (compete — person)
3. He's a well-known _____. (politics — person)
4. I'm not interested in _____. (politics — abstract)

Part B – Complete with the Right Noun

1. Thank you for your _____. (assist — abstract)
2. She works as a shop _____. (assist — person)
3. The _____ studied the results. (science — person)
4. The film needs better _____. (act — abstract, the skill)

Part C – Build Both Nouns

#	Root	Person / abstract
1	direct	
2	translate	
3	educate	
4	invent	

Score: _____ / 25

Worksheet 3: Spelling & Word Building

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B1 (CEFR)

Reference: The Changes to Watch

Forming nouns often changes the spelling or stress: *decide → decision* (d→s), *-y → -iness* (happy → happiness), *able → ability*, and stress shifts (*ORganise → organiSAtion*). Learn to build a noun from any part of speech in a word family.

Change	Example
drop -e + suffix	create → creation
-y → -iness / -ity	happy → happiness; able → ability
consonant change	decide → decision; permit → permission
stress shift	'organise → organi'sation
irregular	high → height; long → length

Part A – Complete the Word Family

Write the missing noun.

#	Verb / adjective	Noun
1	choose	
2	long	
3	strong	
4	permit	
5	free	

Part B – Form the Noun in the Sentence

1. They made a wise _____. (choose)
2. The bridge is famous for its _____. (long)
3. You need a _____ to enter. (permit)
4. They fought for their _____. (free)

Part C – Mark the Stressed Syllable

Underline the stressed syllable in the noun.

1. organise → organisation
2. inform → information
3. able → ability

Score: _____ / 30

Worksheet 4: Editing & Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B1 (CEFR)

Part A – Intensive Edit

This text has **eight** noun-formation errors (wrong suffix, person/abstract confusion, or spelling). Find and correct them.

> The new manager brought many improvments to the company. Her first decission was to increase educatement for staff. There was growing aware of the need for change, and her organisation skills were clear. Every employe felt more motivated. The compete between teams led to better performments. With patient and kindness, she earned everyone's respect. Her biggest strong was communication, and her leadership brought real happyness to the office.

#	Error	Correction
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

Part B – Guided Writing

Write 120–150 words about a workplace, school, or organisation. You must include: (1) at least three **abstract nouns** from different suffix families; (2) at least two **person nouns**; (3) at least one word where you show both the **person and abstract** noun. Underline every formed noun.

#	Line
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

7	
8	
9	

Abstract: _____ / 3 Person: _____ / 2 Both forms: _____ / 1 Score: _____ / 35

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only — B1 Level, Noun Formation

Worksheet 1 – Part A

1 organisation · 2 development · 3 curiosity · 4 performance · 5 explosion · 6 awareness

Worksheet 1 – Part B

1 performance · 2 awareness · 3 development · 4 curiosity

Worksheet 2 – Part A

1 competition · 2 competitor · 3 politician · 4 politics

Worksheet 2 – Part B

1 assistance · 2 assistant · 3 scientist · 4 acting

Worksheet 2 – Part C

direct → director / direction · translate → translator / translation · educate → educator / education · invent → inventor / invention

Worksheet 3 – Part A

1 choice · 2 length · 3 strength · 4 permission · 5 freedom

Worksheet 3 – Part B

1 choice · 2 length · 3 permit (the document) / permission · 4 freedom

Worksheet 3 – Part C

1 organiSAtion · 2 informAtion · 3 aBILity — the suffix pulls stress toward it.

Worksheet 4 – Part A

1 improvements · 2 decision · 3 education · 4 awareness · 5 employee · 6 competition · 7 performances · 8 patience / strength / happiness (any of the remaining; accept eight total)

Worksheet 4 – Part B: Marking Guide

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
Abstract nouns	Three+ from different suffix families	0–4
Person nouns	Two+ correct	0–4
Person & abstract pair	One root shown both ways	0–3
Task & length	120–150 words; coherent	0–3