Noun Formation

CEFR B2 · Rival suffixes, abstract fields and compound nouns

WS1 Choosing Between Rival Suffixes · WS2 -ism, -ship, -hood, -dom · WS3 Compound Nouns · WS4 Analysis & Writing · Answer Key

Worksheet 1: Choosing Between Rival Suffixes

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference: When Two Nouns Compete

A verb or adjective can sometimes take more than one noun suffix, often with a meaning difference: the **act/process** vs the **result**, or two distinct senses. Compare *refusal* (act) with *refuse* (rubbish!), or *a construction* (thing built) with *constructing* (process). Choose by exact meaning.

Base	Rival nouns	Difference
refuse (v)	refusal	act of saying no
deliver	delivery / deliverance	goods brought / rescue
construct	construction / constructing	result/industry / the process
propose	proposal / proposition	plan offered / a statement/deal
signify	significance / signification	importance / meaning (technical)

Part A – Choose the Right Noun

1. Her _____ of the offer surprised us. (refuse)
2. We expect _____ within three days. (deliver — goods)
3. He made an interesting business _____. (propose — a deal)
4. They discussed the _____ of the discovery. (signify — importance)

Part B – Result or Process?

Say whether each noun names the result/thing or the process/act.

#	Noun in context	Result / process
1	The construction took two years.	
2	The building is a fine construction.	
3	Payment is due on Friday.	
4	The organisation employs 500 people.	

Score: ____ / 20

Worksheet 2: -ism, -ship, -hood, -dom

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference: Nouns of State, System and Group

Some suffixes make abstract nouns of belief, state, or relationship: **-ism** (a belief/system), **-ship** (a state, skill or relationship), **-hood** (a state or period of life), **-dom** (a state or domain). These attach mainly to nouns and adjectives.

Suffix	Meaning	Example
-ism	belief / system / practice	capital → capitalism; hero → heroism
-ship	state / skill / relationship	friend → friendship; leader → leadership
-hood	state / period of life	child → childhood; neighbour → neighbourhood
-dom	state / domain	free → freedom; king → kingdom
-cy / -acy	state / quality	accurate → accuracy; private → privacy

Part A – Make the Noun

1. friend → _____
2. child → _____
3. free → _____
4. leader → _____
5. accurate → _____

Part B – Complete the Sentence

1. Their _____ lasted fifty years. (friend)
2. She spent her _____ by the sea. (child)
3. The company needs strong _____. (leader)
4. The report criticised the government's _____. (capital → belief system)

Part C – Match Suffix to Meaning

#	Base + meaning	Noun
1	member + state of belonging	
2	bore + state (informal)	
3	adult + period of life	
4	star + status (fame)	

Score: _____ / 25

Worksheet 3: Compound Nouns

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference: Two Words, One Noun

Compound nouns combine two words. They may be written as one word (*toothbrush*), with a hyphen (*mother-in-law*), or as two words (*bus stop*). The first word usually stays singular (*a shoe shop*, not *shoes shop*). Stress is normally on the first part (*a GREENhouse*).

Pattern	Example	Note
noun + noun	bus stop, credit card	first noun singular
verb + noun / noun + verb	haircut, sunrise	often one word
-ing + noun	swimming pool, washing machine	gerund + noun
noun + -ing	sunbathing, bird-watching	activity
phrasal compound	breakdown, takeaway	from phrasal verbs

Part A – Form the Compound Noun

1. a brush for your teeth → a _____
2. a pool for swimming → a _____
3. a stop for buses → a _____
4. the time when the sun rises → _____
5. a machine for washing → a _____

Part B – Correct the Compound

#	Wrong form	Correction
1	a shoes shop	
2	a five-doors car	
3	a tooths brush	
4	a woman doctor's appointment (word order?)	

Part C – From Phrasal Verb to Noun

Make a compound noun from the phrasal verb.

1. The car broke down. → a _____
2. The plane took off. → the _____
3. Traffic built up. → a traffic _____

Score: _____ / 30

Worksheet 4: Analysis & Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Part A – Passage Analysis

The organisation's success rests on strong leadership and genuine teamwork. From childhood, its founder had shown a rare determination and an unusual generosity. After the breakthrough of the 1990s, membership grew rapidly, and the movement gained international recognition. Critics accused it of idealism, but its supporters pointed to real achievements: the reduction of poverty, the improvement of education, and the creation of thousands of jobs. Its greatest strength, perhaps, was its refusal to compromise on its founding principles.

1. Find four abstract nouns from different suffix families and identify each suffix.
2. Identify a compound noun and a -ship/-hood/-ism noun, and explain each formation.
3. "reduction / improvement / creation" — comment on the suffix pattern and what it adds to the style.
4. "refusal" comes from a verb. Give the verb and explain the -al suffix's meaning.

Part B – Extended Writing

Write 160–190 words about an organisation, movement, or community. You must include and underline: (1) at least four **abstract nouns** from different suffix families; (2) at least one **-ism/-ship/-hood/-dom** noun; (3) at least two **compound nouns**; (4) at least one **rival- suffix** choice made correctly; (5) consistent register.

#	Line
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	

Abstract: _____ / 4 -ism/-ship: _____ / 1 Compounds: _____ / 2 Score: _____ / 35

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only — B2 Level, Noun Formation

Worksheet 1 – Part A

1 refusal · 2 delivery · 3 proposition (or proposal) · 4 significance

Worksheet 1 – Part B

1 process · 2 result/thing · 3 process/act (or result) · 4 result/thing (the body, an organisation).

Many nouns straddle process and result (payment, organisation); accept a justified answer.

Worksheet 2 – Part A

1 friendship · 2 childhood · 3 freedom · 4 leadership · 5 accuracy

Worksheet 2 – Part B

1 friendship · 2 childhood · 3 leadership · 4 capitalism

Worksheet 2 – Part C

membership · boredom · adulthood · stardom

Worksheet 3 – Part A

1 toothbrush · 2 swimming pool · 3 bus stop · 4 sunrise · 5 washing machine

Worksheet 3 – Part B

1 a shoe shop · 2 a five-door car · 3 a toothbrush · 4 a doctor's appointment (for a woman) — the compound is "doctor's appointment".

Worksheet 3 – Part C

1 breakdown · 2 takeoff · 3 traffic build-up (buildup)

Two rules learners forget: first noun stays singular (shoe shop) and stress falls on the first element (GREENhouse vs a green HOUSE).

Worksheet 4 – Part A (model)

1 leadership (-ship), determination (-tion), generosity (-ity), recognition (-tion), idealism (-ism), reduction/improvement/creation, refusal (-al) — any four with correct suffix. · 2 compound: teamwork (noun+noun) / breakthrough (phrasal); -ship: leadership; -hood: childhood; -ism: idealism — explain the state/relationship/belief meaning. · 3 The parallel -tion/-ment nominalizations create a formal, abstract, "listing" style typical of institutional prose; nominalization compresses whole clauses into noun phrases. · 4 Verb: refuse; -al forms an action noun ("the act of refusing"), common with verbs like arrive→arrival, deny→denial.

Worksheet 4 – Part B: Marking Rubric

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
Abstract-noun range	Four+ from different families	0–5
-ism/-ship/-hood/-dom	One correct, meaning apt	0–4
Compound nouns	Two+ well-formed	0–3

Rival suffix & register	Correct choice; consistent; 160–190 words	0–3