

Abstract Nouns

Finding Nouns You Can't See, Hear, Taste, Touch, or Smell



You know that nouns name people, places, and things. Most of these nouns — like a tree in the park, a dog, your favorite song, a piece of fruit, or a flower — can be seen, heard, tasted, touched, or smelled. These are called **concrete nouns**. But there are many things that you can't detect with your senses, such as beauty or trouble. These are called **abstract nouns**.

Read the sentences below, and consider each underlined noun carefully. Is it something you can see, hear, taste, touch, or smell? If not, it is an abstract noun. Circle all of the abstract nouns that you find.

1. The monkeys at the sanctuary have a lot of curiosity.
2. The kids laugh at the playfulness of the little monkeys.
3. The monkeys laugh at the silliness of the kids.
4. The monkeys like to show off their intelligence to the onlookers.
5. The monkeys show their happiness with big smiles for everyone.
6. The keepers make sure the monkeys have a life filled with love and happiness.
7. The monkeys show each other affection by sharing their bananas.
8. The children point at the monkeys with great excitement and the monkeys wave back with equal enthusiasm.
9. The monkeys swing around the habitat with no fear or doubt.
10. The older monkeys share their wisdom with the babies with great tenderness.

Abstract Nouns

What is an abstract noun?

It's a noun that you can't see, hear, taste, touch, or smell,
like *thoughtfulness* or *bravery*.

Circle the abstract nouns in each row.

1. ball bat trust grass
2. puppies loyalty bananas monkey
3. kindness car bicycle skateboard
4. knife fork plate hunger
5. bedroom blanket comfort pajamas

Can you find the abstract nouns in these sentences?

1. The monkeys at the zoo have a lot of curiosity.
2. The kids laugh at the playfulness of the little monkeys.
3. The monkeys laugh at the silliness of the kids.
4. The monkeys like to show off their intelligence to the onlookers.
5. The monkeys show their happiness with big smiles for everyone.



Can you fill in the blank with the correct abstract noun?

tenderness humor grace excitement generosity

1. The monkeys swing from tree to tree with so much _____ .
2. The kids gave the monkeys bananas, showing their _____ .
3. The monkeys showed their _____ by smashing the bananas.
4. Mommy monkey kisses baby monkey with great _____ .
5. The kids show a lot of _____ when the monkeys start to wave.

Name _____

Date _____

Abstract Nouns

Use the word bank below to fill in the blanks with abstract nouns to complete the story.

boldness **daring** **courage**
mistake **fearlessness** **excitement**
adventure **fun** **kindness**

One day five monkeys decided to take a walk in the forest. The afternoon was getting hot when they came upon a river. The gang decided it would be a great idea to go for a dip. They started swinging from the trees and diving into the cool water.

Lily, being the youngest, wanted to prove that she had just as much _____ as the others, so she grabbed a branch and started swinging. She let go of the branch and went flying through the air. Lily looked down at the water and landed with a loud SMACK. Some of the older monkeys began to laugh at her painful belly flop.

Lulu, the oldest of the bunch, went over to comfort Lily and to tell her that she had just as much _____ and _____ as the older monkeys, and that she shouldn't worry because they had all belly flopped at one time or another. Lily appreciated Lulu's _____ and felt much better about her _____.

By now it was getting late and the monkeys decided it was time to head home. They walked back through the forest talking about their day. All the monkeys thought that they had showed great _____ and _____ at the river.

They decided that they would meet again the next day and have another adventure. It had been a wonderful afternoon and the monkeys eagerly returned home to share their stories of _____ and _____ with their families.

Name _____

Date _____

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Write two sentences with at least ten words in each,
using at least one concrete and one abstract noun.

1. _____

2. _____

