Grammar—Concrete and Abstract Nouns

Forms of Words – Concrete & Abstract

A word that names a person, place, a thing, or an idea is called a **noun**. A noun that names something that can be seen, smelled, heard, tasted, or touched is called a **concrete** noun. An **abstract** noun names an idea, a quality or a feeling.

To help you determine if a noun is concrete or abstract, ask a few questions…

**vegetable**
- Can I see a vegetable? **yes** **no**
- Can I hear a vegetable? **yes** **no**
- Can I smell a vegetable? **yes** **no**
- Can I taste a vegetable? **yes** **no**
- Can I touch a vegetable? **yes** **no**

So, **vegetable** must be a concrete noun.

**education**
- Can I see education? **yes** **no**
- Can I hear education? **yes** **no**
- Can I smell education? **yes** **no**
- Can I taste education? **yes** **no**
- Can I touch education? **yes** **no**

So, **education** must be an abstract noun.

**Try It!**

**cat**
- Can I see a cat? **yes** **no**
- Can I hear a cat? **yes** **no**
- Can I smell a cat? **yes** **no**
- Can I taste a cat? **yes** **no**
- Can I touch a cat? **yes** **no**

So, a **cat** must be a ________________ noun.

**honesty**
- Can I see honesty? **yes** **no**
- Can I hear honesty? **yes** **no**
- Can I smell honesty? **yes** **no**
- Can I taste honesty? **yes** **no**
- Can I touch honesty? **yes** **no**

So, honesty must be a ________________ noun.
Grammar-Concrete and Abstract Nouns

Look at the following **WORD BANK** and determine if each noun is abstract or concrete. Write each word in the correct column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORD BANK</th>
<th>stream</th>
<th>sadness</th>
<th>dollar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>confusion</td>
<td>cliff</td>
<td>doorway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>glue</td>
<td>person</td>
<td>fear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>integrity</td>
<td>wonder</td>
<td>liberty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Concrete Nouns:**

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6. 

**Abstract Nouns:**

7. 
8. 
9. 
10. 
11. 
12. 

Remember that concrete nouns name things that the five sense can detect. Look at the following list of concrete nouns and write the senses that you would use to perceive each of them.

13) bubble gum -- 

14) paper clip -- 

15) hairspray -- 

16) television -- 

17) panda -- 

18) stairwell -- 

19) root beer -- 

20) flute -- 

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Try It!

**cat**
- Can I see a cat? yes no
- Can I hear a cat? yes no
- Can I smell a cat? yes no
- Can I taste a cat? yes no
- Can I touch a cat? yes no

So, a cat must be a **concrete** noun.

**honesty**
- Can I see honesty? yes no
- Can I hear honesty? yes no *
- Can I smell honesty? yes no
- Can I taste honesty? yes no
- Can I touch honesty? yes no

*one can hear honest things, but one cannot hear honesty itself.

So, honesty must be a **abstract** noun.

Look at the following wordbank and determine if each noun is abstract or concrete. Write each word in the correct column.

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Concrete Nouns:  Abstract Nouns:

1 stream  7 confusion
2 glue  8 integrity
3 cliff  9 sadness
4 person  10 wonder
5 dollar  11 fear
6 doorway  12 liberty

Remember that concrete nouns name things that the five sense can detect. Look at the following list of concrete nouns and write the senses that you would perceive it with. **Answers May Vary / Accept Any Reasonable Answers**