Nominalisation Worksheet: Academic and Formal Writing

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Remember

Form	Example
Verb → noun: decide → decision, fail → failure, grow → growth	The decision to close the factory...
Adjective → noun: important → importance, able → ability	The importance of sleep is clear.
Noun + preposition: a rise in, a reduction of, an increase in, the cause of	a sharp increase in demand
Verb → noun + linking verb (lead to, result in, cause)	Poor planning resulted in delays.

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
The increase of prices was huge.	The increase in prices was huge.
There was a big decide to close it.	There was a big decision to close it. / It was decided to close it.
The government's fail to act caused anger.	The government's failure to act caused anger.

1. Complete

Complete with the noun form of the word in brackets.

1. The _____ (discover) of penicillin changed medicine.
2. There has been a sharp _____ (grow) in online sales.
3. Her _____ (refuse) to cooperate surprised everyone.
4. The _____ (important) of exercise cannot be overstated.
5. We are worried about the _____ (lose) of jobs in the area.
6. The _____ (arrive) of the new manager caused changes.
7. The _____ (able) to work in a team is essential.
8. The _____ (fail) of the project was predictable.

2. Rewrite

Rewrite each sentence in a more formal style using the noun in brackets.

1. Prices went up a lot, so people bought less. (rise, fall)

2. The company decided to close two shops. (decision)

3. Because the trains were late, many people missed work. (delays)

4. If we don't act now, it will be expensive later. (failure)

5. People are more and more interested in electric cars. (interest)

6. The minister resigned, which surprised everyone. (resignation)

7. They planned badly, so the project took longer. (planning)

8. Tourists can't easily get to the island. (access)

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. There was a decrease of unemployment.

2. The develop of new technology is fast.

3. His explain of the problem was clear.

4. The reduce in costs helped the company.

5. The cause for the accident is unknown.

6. Their arrive was delayed.

Writing

Rewrite this informal paragraph in a formal style (5–6 sentences): ‘Lots of young people are moving to big cities because they want jobs. So villages are getting empty, and the schools are closing. If the government doesn’t do something, these places will disappear.’

Speaking

- Describe a recent change in your city using a noun phrase: ‘There has been an increase in…’
- What was the cause of a big problem in your workplace or school?
- Explain the importance of a skill in your job.
- Summarise a news story in one formal sentence.

Answer key

1. Complete: 1 discovery · 2 growth · 3 refusal · 4 importance · 5 loss · 6 arrival · 7 ability · 8 failure

2. Rewrite: 1 The sharp rise in prices led to a fall in consumption. · 2 The company’s decision to close two shops… · 3 Train delays caused many people to miss work. · 4 Failure to act now will be costly later. · 5 There is growing interest in electric cars. · 6 The minister’s resignation surprised everyone. · 7 Poor planning resulted in delays to the project. · 8 Access to the island is difficult for tourists.

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 There was a decrease in unemployment. · 2 The development of new technology is fast. · 3 His explanation of the problem was clear. · 4 The reduction in costs helped the company. · 5 The cause of the accident is unknown. · 6 Their arrival was delayed.

Writing, model answer: The migration of young people to large cities in search of employment is a growing trend. This movement has resulted in the depopulation of rural areas. A further consequence is the closure of village schools. The decline of these communities is therefore accelerating. Without intervention by the government, their disappearance seems inevitable.