

12. Use noun phrases for a concise effect

Bill writes: “NRL player Alex McKinnon is forced to spend the rest of his life in a wheel chair due to a **three-man tackle gone wrong.**”

“A tackle gone wrong” is an awkward clause. It would be better if Bill used a noun phrase, such as “due to an unfortunate tackle”.

By using noun phrases, we can also be more precise and omit unnecessary words. Why use 10 words when two or three suffice (are enough)?



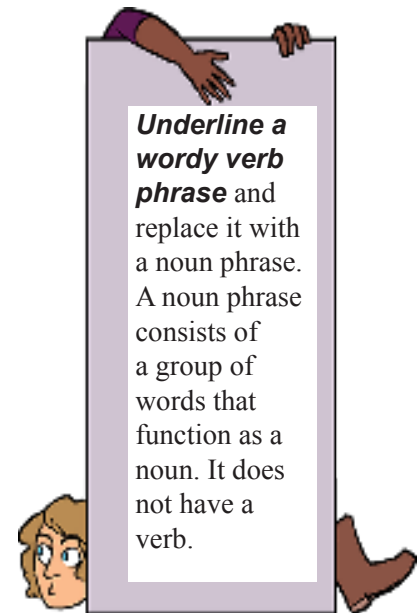
“**Nominalisation**” refers to the process of changing a verb, adjective or adverb into a noun, or “nominal”. A nominal is a word or group of words that function in the sentence as a noun.

An abstract noun or nominalisation can be useful in writing more precisely. It may help you to summarise a phrase(s). For example:

to state = statement; to reject = rejection;
to negotiate = negotiation; to select = selection.

Jim writes: Tobias Wolff highlights the view that under the influence of rigid social values, those who appear to be different **will be discriminated against and be left with a lack of identity.**

Correction: Tobias Wolff highlights the view that where there are rigid social values, those who appear to be different **will suffer discrimination and a loss of confidence and dignity.**



Exercise 51

A. Rewrite the sentence turning the bolded phrase/clause into a noun phrase.

1. They are pleased **that they are being nominated** to compete at the Youth Games.
2. Matthew Smith focuses our attention **on just how grateful** the residents at House Street **are**.
3. Ms Effat criticises members of the public who underestimate **just how valuable the volunteers' work is**.
4. Swings for children with a disability will enable **them to participate** in every-day fun activities.
5. His anecdotes show **how he disappointed his family by not spending enough time with them** and **how he ignored the great efforts of many teachers who tried to educate him**.
6. Such verbs show us **where a thing or place is located**.
7. The author's request to “get real” reflects her view that if **we admit our mistakes**, we will deter young adults from taking risks.
8. She criticises the activists, because **they are exposing** their children to danger.
9. The reference to “weaning” symbolises that **we are dependent** upon junk food.
10. The author uses evidence to recommend **why you should purchase** this product.
11. The author endorses **what Swinburne has done by making policies such as a smoke-free environment** since August.