

Nouns and adjectives

Compare these sentences:

- ▶ *The efficiency of the machine depends on the precision of its construction.*
- ▶ *Precise construction results in an efficient machine.*

- ▶ The **first** sentence uses the **nouns** ‘efficiency’ and ‘precision’. The **second** uses **adjectives**: ‘precise’ and ‘efficient’.
- ▶ Although the meaning is similar the first sentence is more formal. Effective academic writing requires accurate use of both nouns and adjectives.

Noun	Adjective	Noun	Adjective
<i>approximation</i>	approximate	particularity	particular
superiority	superior	reason	reasonable
strategy	strategic	synthesis	synthetic
politics	political	economy	economic/al
industry	industrial	culture	cultural
exterior	external	average	average
height	high	reliability	reliable
heat	hot	strength	strong
confidence	confident	truth	true
width	wide	probability	probable
necessity	necessary	length	long
danger	dangerous	relevance	relevant

* Compare the three nouns:

- ▶ **Economics** *is a demanding undergraduate degree course. (academic subject)*
- ▶ **The Greek economy** *is heavily in debt. (national economy, countable)*
- ▶ **Economy** *is needed to reduce the deficit. (saving money, uncountable)*

Abstract Nouns

- ▶ A range of nouns is used to express common ideas in academic writing:
- ▶ *Political geography is an interesting field.*
- ▶ *The concept of class was first discussed in the eighteenth century.*
- ▶ *Drucker developed a new approach in his second book.*

process
machine
event
worry
area
cause
problem

organisation
theory
types
answer
views
feature