**1.2b Abstract and Concrete Nouns**

Every language has a distinction between abstract and concrete nouns; they are simply labels for different types of things that exist in the world – those that we can see and touch, concrete nouns like *toad, belly button, rug*, and those abstract nouns that we can’t see or touch like *love, truth,* or *friendliness*.

Many abstract nouns are formed by adding one of the many **“**nominal” suffixes, such as the*-ance* in *performance* or the *-ion* in *formation*. Look at the chart below and see if you can come up with more words that take the noun-forming suffixes listed in the left column. Write those new words in the rightmost column.

**English Noun Suffixes with Sample Words**

adapted from *Navigating English Grammar: A guide to analyzing real language*, Lobeck and Denham, 2013

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **suffix** | **parts of speech** | **sample words** | **other words?** |
| -age | verb + age = noun | marriage, blockage |  |
| -al | verb + al = noun | arrival, renewal |  |
| -ant | verb + ant = noun | triumphant, attractant |  |
| -ance/-ence | verb + a/ence = noun | convergence, divergence |  |
| -ee | verb + ee = noun | employee, referee |  |
| -hood | noun + ness = noun | neighborhood, childhood |  |
| -ion | verb + ion = noun | fermentation, starvation |  |
| -ism | noun + ism = noun | racism, Buddhism |  |
| -ist | adjective + ist = noun | artist, violinist |  |
| -ity | adjective + ity = noun | probability, fluidity |  |
| -ness | adjective + ness = noun | baldness, happiness |  |
| -ship | noun + ship = noun | friendship, partnership |  |

Are all of these words abstract nouns?