

## Nominalization and nominal style

Nominalisation and nominal style are typical of many scientific, political and administrative texts.

**Spoken language**, on the other hand, is characterized by **the predominance of verbal constructions** and reliance on the verb phrase in information processing.

Consider the following examples:

**Verbal style:** The government spent much more in the last quarter than was planned, whereas it spent considerably less in the previous one.

**Nominal style:** Government spending showed positive growth in the last quarter, in contrast to its sharp fall in the previous one.

*In the morning, they quarrelled over pay.* (verbal)

*In the morning, a quarrel broke out over pay.* (nominal)

*The quarrel over pay broke out in the morning.* (nominal+modification)

*The quarrel in the morning broke out over pay.* (nominal+modification)

He refuses to help – his refusal to help (a ‘**deverbal noun**’ is derived from a verb)

The reviewers criticized his play in a hostile manner. (verbal)

The reviewers’ hostile criticizing of his play (nominal)

The reviewers’ hostile criticism of his play (nominal)

### -ING-FORMS

All verbs do not have a corresponding deverbal abstract noun, e.g. lie. In such cases, we can usually make a deverbal noun ending in –ing, e.g. lying. Ing-forms are very versatile and can often be used as concrete nouns, abstract nouns, deverbal nouns and verbs. Using syntactic and semantic criteria, what do you say about the following:

A noun or a verb?

I dislike some paintings of Browns.

The painting of Brown is very skilful.

Brown's painting is very skilful.

I dislike Brown painting his daughter.

Brown was painting his daughter.