

Turning Good Adjectives into Great Nouns: four rules from WritingFix

You can change a word you really want to use into a different part of speech. Adjectives, for example, can become excellent nouns, if you find you're using too many adjectives and not enough nouns in your writing.

Rule 1 - Some nouns are made by adding *-ness* to an adjective. If the adjective ends in 'y,' be sure to turn that y into an *i* before adding *-ness*.

- Examples:
- white --becomes-->whiteness
- shallow --becomes-->shallowness
- sloppy --becomes-->sloppiness

Rule 2 - Some nouns are made by adding *-ity* to an adjective. Usually the spelling of the word changes slightly, so look out!

- Examples:
- curious --becomes-->curiosity
- reliable --becomes-->reliability
- able --becomes-->ability

Rule 3 - Some nouns are made by clipping the last few letters of an adjective off, often a *-tic*. Do you need to get out your scissors to snip, snip, snip away?

- Examples:
- traumatic --becomes-->trauma
- sympathetic --becomes-->sympathy
- taciturn --becomes-->tacit

Rule 4 - Often the ending needs to be slightly clipped, then sort of tweaked. Sound out similar sounding words to find the missing noun!

- Examples:
- independent --becomes-->independence
- angry --becomes-->>anger
- deviant --becomes-->deviance

