

What Are Concrete and Abstract Nouns?

A **concrete noun** can be recognized by any of the senses or can occupy space.

We drove across the **Golden Gate Bridge** last July.
The **monkey** screamed when the rope **swing** broke.

An **abstract noun** cannot be recognized by the senses and does not occupy a physical space, but it does name an idea, a quality, or a characteristic.

With **gratitude** the waitress accepted the tip.
The **warmth** of the fire felt wonderful to the cold children.

FROM "BECAUSE I COULD NOT STOP FOR DEATH" BY EMILY DICKINSON

Because I could not stop for **Death**,
He kindly stopped for me;
The **carriage** held but just ourselves
And **Immortality**.

We slowly drove, he knew no **haste**,
And I had put away
My **labour**, and my **leisure** too,
For his **civility**.

How many nouns
can you find in the
photo? Which
nouns are
concrete? Which
are abstract?



Lloyd Lake-Golden Gate Park
Photo by Brocken Inaglory, September 2010-wikimedia.org