

Handout 3 (Writing): More on Characters and Nouns

Exercises

Exercises 1 & 2 come from Lesson 4 in Williams & Bizup.

Exercise 1

Revise each sentence so it has a specific character as the subject of a specific verb. You will have to invent characters, like we, I, etc.

- 1) Having their research taken seriously by professionals in the field was hard work for the students.
- 2) Resistance has been growing against building mental health facilities in residential areas because of a belief that the few examples of improper management are typical.
- 3) The performance of the play was marked by enthusiasm, but there was a lack of intelligent staging.
- 4) The rejection of the proposal was a disappointment but not a surprise because our expectation was that a political decision had been made.

Exercise 2

Identify and revise the strings of nouns in these sentences.

- 1) Diabetic patient blood pressure reduction may be brought about by renal depressor application.
- 2) The goal of this article is to describe text comprehension processes and recall protocol production.
- 3) This paper is an investigation into information processing behavior involved in computer human cognition simulation.

Exercise 3

Reread the abstracts from Handout 2. Find one sentence that is missing a character. Invent a character, and rewrite the sentence.

Exercise 4

Rewrite this (partial) abstract, using *Port-Hamiltonian system* as the character that is the subject of verbs that tell a story. Also try to avoid using excessive numbers of nouns.

“Port-Hamiltonian systems are an important class of control systems that arise in all areas of science and engineering. When the system is linearized around a stationary solution one gets a linear port-Hamiltonian system. Despite the fact that the system looks unstructured at first sight, it has remarkable properties. Stability and passivity are automatic, spectral structures for purely imaginary eigenvalues, eigenvalues at infinity, and even singular blocks in the Kronecker canonical form are very restricted and furthermore the structure leads to fast and efficient iterative solution methods for associated linear systems. When port-Hamiltonian systems are subject to (structured) perturbations, then it is important to determine the minimal allowed perturbations so that these properties are not preserved. [...]”