

A short list of some potential shell nouns

These are potentially shell nouns, not always identifiable as such.

Shell nouns are a functional, not grammatical category.

Factual

Neutral:

*circumstance, fact,
phenomenon, reality, thing*

Causal:

*cause, conclusion,
consequence, effect, outcome,
product, reason, result, upshot*

Evidential:

*confirmation, evidence,
indication, proof, sign, signal,
substantiation, verification*

Comparative:

*contradiction, contrast,
correspondence, difference,
disparity, dissimilarity,
distinction, divergence, gap,
likeness, match, parallel,
pattern, resemblance,
similarity*

Partitive:

*aspect, attribute, case,
example, facet, feature,
instance, part, portion,
property, quality, sample*

Attitudinal:

*advantage, aid, benefit, con,
difficulty, dilemma,
disadvantage, drawback,
hindrance, improvement,
irony, obstacle, paradox,
predicament, pro, problem*

Linguistic

Propositional

*argument, assertion, claim,
contention, intelligence, news,
report, rumour*

Illocutionary:

*avowal, complaint, demand,
directive, doubt, edict,
instruction, objection, offer,
order, proposal, question,
recommendation, statement,
submission, suggestion*

Mental

Conceptual:

*concept, conjecture, guess,
hypothesis, idea, notion,
opinion, perception,
perspective, question, theory,
mystery*

Creditive:

*assumption, belief, conviction,
faith, illusion, knowledge,
presumption, realisation, view*

Dubitative:

*disbelief, distrust, doubt,
question, reservation,
scepticism, suspicion, wariness*

Volitional:

*aim, ambition, goal, intention,
object, plan, purpose,
resolution, solution, target*

Emotive:

*anxiety, apprehension,
concern, delight,
disappointment, fear, joy,
pleasure, regret, revelation,
satisfaction, shock, surprise,
worry*

Modal

Epistemic

*certainty, chance, danger,
likelihood, possibility,*

*probability, prospect, reality,
threat, truth, vulnerability*

Deontic:

*authorisation, burden, charge,
clearance, demand(s), duty,
consent, mission, need,
obligation, onus, permission,
task*

Dynamic:

*ability, capacity, chance,
competence, opening,
opportunity, power*

Eventive

General:

*act, action, deed, event,
incident, situation*

Specific:

*attempt, challenge, effort,
endeavour, fight, primacy,
priority, struggle*

Attitudinal:

*blunder, difficulty, error,
miscalculation, mistake,
problem, success, trouble,
victory*

Circumstantial

General:

*background, context,
environment, framework,
position, setting, situation,
surroundings*

Specific:

*costs, location, means, method,
moment, place, procedure,
provision, time, way*