

Even More
Monster Grammar

Topic 11
Noun Phrases

Part 1: The Lesson



Part 1
is a lesson on
noun phrases

Part 2
is a peer teaching activity
and a group video activity

Part 3
is a self-assessment
question and answer pack

In Part 1 you are going to work with a partner to learn about *noun phrases*



During this lesson, you and your partner should make brief notes about

noun phrases

You will need to use these notes later to make a presentation to another pair about this topic.



Part 1: Noun Phrases Lesson

Introduction to noun phrases (1)

A noun phrase is a group of words that contains a noun but not a verb



the **four** friends

the **purple** planet

the **red** flag

Noun phrases often include **adjectives** that tell us more about the *noun*

Introduction to noun phrases (2)



a noun phrase has a noun plus other words, such as **adjectives** or *prepositional phrases* that describe the noun

the two, green *aliens in the spaceship*

noun phrase = nouns + **adjectives** + *prepositional phrase*

A noun phrase never has a verb in it

Introduction to noun phrases (3)



More than one noun phrase can be used in a description

the purple alien

with

five different-size eyes

1st noun phrase

2nd noun phrase

A noun phrase can be just a noun + a determiner

Determiners are words that are used before nouns such as:

a

an

the

this

those

that



determiner

noun

noun phrase

a

campsite

a campsite

the

fire

the fire

their

tent

their tent

that

rucksack

that rucksack

A noun phrase can be just a determiner and a noun



*adjectives can be added
to a noun phrase to tell us
more about the noun
this is called expanding
the noun phrase*

determiner + noun = noun phrase

adjectives can expand noun phrases

a

campsite

a quiet and peaceful campsite

that

fire

that nice warm fire

their

tent

their new blue tent

the

rucksack

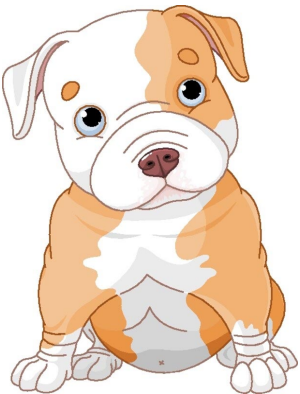
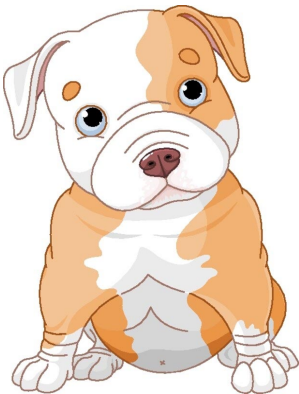
the heavy purple rucksack

A noun phrase often includes a determiner



determiners can tell us how **many** or how **few**

determiner	noun	noun phrase
two	anchors	two anchors
several	sails	several sails
three	gunports	three gunports

nouns name things	<i>adjectives</i> describe them
<i>adjectives</i> and determiners can be used in a noun phrase to give more information about the noun	
	
this is called expanding the noun phrase	
the puppy	the <i>small, cute</i> puppy
noun phrase	expanded noun phrase

Adjectives can expand noun phrases

Prepositional phrases can also **expand** noun phrases



*a noun phrase
can include a
prepositional phrase*

*a noun phrase
ends once you
get to a verb*

The friends	on the ski lift	looked	at the slopes.
noun phrase	prepositional phrase	verb	prepositional phrase
the friends on the ski lift		<i>the noun phrase is over</i>	
expanded noun phrase			

A noun phrase can include
determiners, adjectives, adverbs and nouns



the	planet			the planet
determiner	noun			<i>noun phrase</i>
their	faraway	purple	planet	their faraway purple planet
determiner	adjective	adjective	noun	<i>noun phrase</i>
that	really	strange	planet	that really strange planet
determiner	adverb	adjectives	noun	<i>noun phrase</i>

Noun phrases always have a **head noun**
that the whole noun phrase is about




noun phrase

the phone with lots of different apps on it

the **head noun** in this noun phrase is

phone

everything in this noun phrase is describing the phone

<i>reminder</i>	All the words in a noun phrase are about one noun	
	this noun is called the head noun	
		
the smiling alien with the long red tongue		
noun phrase		
the head noun in this noun phrase is		alien
<i>because everything in this noun phrase is describing the alien</i>		

reminder

As well as a determiner + a noun
a noun phrase might also have an **adjective**



*adjectives can
expand
noun phrases*

determiner

adjectives

noun

expanded noun phrase

those

fun, excited

aliens

those fun, excited aliens

the

red and white

tent

the red and white tent

a noun phrase never has a verb in it

You have seen that adjectives can **expand** noun phrases



*prepositional
phrases can
also expand
noun phrases*

the rock climber

under the mountain precipice

noun phrase

prepositional phrase

the rock climber under the mountain precipice

*this **expanded** noun phrase includes the prepositional phrase*

Prepositional phrases can also **expand** noun phrases



*prepositional phrases
can describe
where something
or someone is*

the ski instructor

on the mountain slope

noun phrase

prepositional phrase

this expanded noun phrase includes the *prepositional phrase*

the ski instructor *on the mountain slope*

the *prepositional phrase* does not make sense without the noun phrase

Prepositional phrases are not always part of a noun phrase



expanded noun phrase

action verb

prepositional phrase

The children *in the sea life centre*

walked

under the tunnel.

this *prepositional phrase* **is** part of the noun phrase because it is part of the description of the **noun** children

verbs are never part of a noun phrase

this *prepositional phrase* is **not** a noun phrase because it *starts* with a preposition

Noun phrases never have a verb in them

once a *verb* is added then a noun phrase is over - but a prepositional phrase or another noun phrase can follow the verb



noun phrase before the verb	action verb	prepositional phrase that follows the verb
The fish <i>in the aquarium</i>	swam	<u>around</u> the children.
noun phrase that has a <i>prepositional phrase</i> in it	this verb ends the noun phrase	<i>prepositional phrase</i> that starts with a <u>preposition</u>

A noun phrase ends when it meets a verb



The pirates on the ship raced to the island.

the pirates *on the ship*

raced

to *the island*

this is a noun phrase that includes a *prepositional phrase*

a noun phrase always **ends** when it meets a verb

this is a *prepositional phrase* that starts with the preposition to

A sentence can have more than one noun phrase



noun phrase 1

action verb

noun phrase 2

Dexter in his red wet suit

surfed

the huge waves.

verbs are **never**
part of a
noun phrase

A noun phrase can **always** be replaced by a **pronoun**



The two pirates		opened	the treasure chest.	
this noun phrase can be replaced by a pronoun		verb	this noun phrase can be replaced by a pronoun	
They	✓	opened	it.	✓

*if it is a **noun phrase** you can replace it with a **pronoun***

A prepositional phrase **cannot** be replaced by a **pronoun**



The pirate with the eye patch		stared	at the chest of gold.	
noun phrases can be replaced by a pronoun		verb	prepositional phrase	
He	✓	stared	at the chest of gold.	
He	✓	stared	it.	✗
noun phrases can be replaced by a pronoun		verb	prepositional phrases cannot be replaced by a pronoun	

Noun phrases can be used
with different **action verb** tenses (1)



The parrot on the palm tree	guarded	the treasure chest.
noun phrase	simple tense	noun phrase
The parrot on the palm tree	is guarding	the treasure chest.
noun phrase	progressive tense	prepositional phrase

Noun phrases can be used
with different **action verb** tenses (2)



actions verbs can be used
with noun phrases
to describe the

action

that someone or
something in the
sentence is doing

The pirate flag on the chest

flapped

in the wind.

noun phrase

simple tense

noun phrase

The pirate flag on the chest


was flapping

in the wind.

noun phrase

progressive tense

prepositional phrase

<i>reminder</i>	The noun phrases in this lesson were used with action verbs	
		<p><i>actions verbs can be linked to noun phrases to describe the action that someone or something in the sentence is doing</i></p>
The excited reporters	waited	at the airport.
noun phrase about the reporters	what action the reporters are doing	prepositional phrase that tells us where the reporters waited

A noun phrase **ends** once a verb is added



*noun phrases and prepositional phrases can be used with **action verbs***

*noun phrases and prepositional phrases can also be used with **linking verbs** - these are covered in another lesson*

The two excited aliens

played

on a faraway island..

noun phrase

action verb

prepositional phrase

The two excited aliens

are

on a faraway island.

noun phrase

linking verb

prepositional phrase

In this lesson you have looked at noun phrases that were used with action verbs

noun phrases can also be used with **linking verbs**



*linking verbs can be **linked** to noun phrases or prepositional phrases to describe **where** something or someone is or **what** something or someone is like*

This sentence does not have an action in it - it is describing **where** the owl is

The owl with the book about trees

is

in the library.

noun phrase

linking verb

prepositional phrase

using noun phrases with linking verbs is covered in another lesson



SATs questions on noun phrases might ask you to identify the **longest possible** noun phrase

reminder: a noun phrase never includes a verb

noun phrases	verb	prepositional phrases
The internet café at the end of the street*	opened	on Friday morning at 9am.
The new 24 hour internet café	is opening	on Friday with a free party.
The new internet café in the town	stood	next to the library in the high street.
<p>the head noun is what a noun phrase is about so café is the head noun in all the sentences</p> <p>*this is the longest possible noun phrase about the café in the sentences above</p>	<p><i>a noun phrase always stops at the verb</i></p>	<p><i>these are not noun phrases because they start with a preposition</i></p>

The End of Part 1

You and your partner should have made brief notes about this topic.

Your notes could consist of 5-6 main points - with one example for each point.

You will use your notes to make a presentation about this topic to another pair in part 2.

Before you move on to part 2 it is your last chance to make a quick check that your notes are going to be OK to use for your presentation.

