

NOUNS

A noun (from Latin *nomen*, meaning *name*) is a word which is the name of something or somebody. It may be the name of a person (e.g., *Arnold, teacher, student*), an object (e.g., *table, chair, box*), a quality or condition (e.g., *goodness, purity, carefulness*), a weight or quantity of something (e.g., *pound, ounce, bushel*), a measure (*yard, rod, metre*), an action (e.g. *movement, performance*), a state (e.g., *death*), an occurrence (e.g., *accident*), a sense of impression (e.g., *sound, noise*), and great many other sorts of things. In form, a noun can be single, compound, phrase, or clause.

1. Characteristics of Nouns

- a. A noun is countable (singular/plural, regular/irregular) or uncountable: boy/boys, child/children, water, hair, sand, sugar.
- b. A noun is preceded by a determiner/a deictic word: a man, an apple, one book, the student, this pen, my car, some novels, etc.
- c. A noun has different positions in sentences and noun phrases:

Subject	: A <i>noun</i> is a name of anything.
Object	: I love <i>that girl</i> .
Subjective complement	: I am a lecturer.
Objective complement	: The people appointed me <i>president</i> .
Adverb	: I went to America <i>yesterday</i> .
Possessive case	: This is <i>my father's</i> car.
Direct address	: <i>Students</i> , you may leave now.
Explanatory modifier	: Celine Dion, <i>my favourite singer</i> , will launch her new album next month.
Noun head of a noun phrase	: the beautiful tall white Indonesian <i>girl</i> wearing a tight T-shirt who is sitting next to me

- d. As a subject in sentences, a noun has concord with a verb: *John has* two wives.
- e. A noun has suffixes: - *ment*, - *ion*, - *tion*, - *ation*, - *ition*, - *cation*, - *ance*, - *ence*, - *t*, - *er*, - *or*, - *ar*, - *ist*, - *ant*, - *ent*, - *al*, - *ure*, - *ture*, - *ature*, - *y*, - *ery*, - *ary*, - *age*, - *thing*, - *body*, - *one*, - *ness*, - *ity*, - *th*, - *self/selves*, *dan* - *ism*.
- f. A noun comes after a preposition: *Because of her beauty*, everyone loves *her*.

2. Forms of Nouns

- a. Single nouns: those which have not been formed by combining two separate words (e.g., *boy*, *boat*, *man*, *life*, *brother*, *ship*).
- b. Compound nouns: those which have been formed by combining two or more words having individual meaning of their own when standing alone (e.g., *bookcase*, *bathroom*, *moonlight*).
- c. Noun phrases: groups of related words, written separately or with hyphens, serving for the names of persons, places, things, or ideas (White House, Commander in Chief, fountain pen, attorney-general).
- d. Noun clauses: nouns in the form of clauses.
 - Who I am is not who I was.
 - I have known who you are.
 - What she does makes me happy.

3. Nouns Classified as to Meaning

- a. A common noun: the name of a class of objects (e.g., *city*, *teacher*, *ship*, *table*, *insect*, *tree*).
- b. A proper noun: an individual name (e.g., *Birmingham*, *Woodrow Wilson*, *John the Baptist*, *Edgar Allan Poe*, *Arnold*, *Joe*).
- c. A concrete noun: the name of a person, place, or thing (e.g., *boy*, *house*, *car*, *tree*).
- d. An abstract noun: the name of a quality, a condition, or an activity (e.g., *blueness*, *sweetness*, *conversation*, *loyalty*, *faith*, *disease*, *beauty*, *energy*, *joy*, *love*, *speech*).
- e. A collective noun/a noun of multitude: the name of a group of persons, places, or things (e.g., *audience*, *number*, *crawl*, *committee*, *congress*, *nation*, *United States*).

- f. The individual noun: the name of a unit which represents or belongs to a class of objects (e.g., *tree, man, dog, bear*).
- g. The mass noun/a material noun: the name of a bulk or mass (e.g., *iron, flour, water, bread*).

4. Nouns Based on Gender

- a. Masculine gender: male sex (e.g., *man, hero, bridegroom, rooster, uncle, duke, actor*).
- b. Feminine gender: female sex (e.g., *women, heroine, bride, aunt, duchess, actress*).
- c. Neuter gender: lack of sex (e.g., *book, language, mind, water*).

5. Ways of Showing Gender

- a. By different words: *bachelor, maid; brother, sister; father, mother; husband, wife*.
- b. By different endings: suffix *-ess* shows feminine (e.g., *author, authoress; actor, actress; and host, hostess*).
- c. Certain nouns from Greek, Latin, French, Spanish (e.g., *Augustus, Augustine; Carl, Caroline; Joseph, Josephine*).

6. Rules for Pluralizing Nouns

- a. Adding *-s* to the singular: *boy, boys; flower, flowers; girl, girls; and tree, trees*.
- b. Adding an extra syllable in taking on the *-s* to nouns ending in silent *-e* preceded by a fricative (e.g., *bridge, bridges; cage, cages; prize, prizes*).
- c. Adding *-es* to nouns ending in a fricative *-s, -z, -x, -ch, and -sh* (e.g., *church, churches; lens, lenses; tax, taxes*).
- d. Adding *-s* to nouns ending in *-th* (e.g., *mouth, mouths; path, paths; youth, youths*).
- e. Changing *f* to *v* and adding *-s* or *-es* to nouns ending in *-f* or *-fe* (e.g., *beef, beeves; calf, calves; knife, knives; life, lives; wolf, wolves; wife, wives*).
- f. Merely adding *-s* for their plurals to some nouns ending in *-f* or *-ef* (e.g., *belief, beliefs; gulf, gulfs; roof, roofs; waif, waifs*).
- g. Changing *y* to *i* and adding *-es* to form their plurals for nouns ending in *-y* preceded by a consonant, (e.g., *army, armies; body, bodies; country, countries; lady, ladies*).

- h. Adding *-s* to nouns ending in *-y* preceded by a vowel to form their plurals (e.g., *alley, alleys; key, keys; journey, journeys, boy, boys*).
- i. Adding *-s* or *-es* to nouns ending in *-o*, to form their plural (e.g., *cameo, cameos; folio, folios; radio, radios; studio, studios; potato, potatoes; echo, echoes; tomato, tomatoes; hero, heroes; banjo, banjos; dynamo, dynamos; buffalo, buffalos/buffaloes; domino, dominos/dominoes; volcano, volcanos/volcanoes*).
- j. Changing the stem vowel for few nouns to become plural (e.g., *foot, feet; goose, geese; louse, lice; mouse, mice; man, men*).
- k. Changing spelling to nouns from foreign origin;
- *-a* to *-ae*: *antenna, antennae/antennas; alumna, alumnae; formula, formulae/formulas; larva, larvae*.
 - *-us* to *-i*: *alumnus, alumni; cactus, cacti; focus, foci/focuses; stimulus, stimuli*.
 - *-um* to *-a*: *agendum, agenda; bacterium, bacteria; curriculum, curricula/curriculum; medium, media*.
 - *-x* to *-c*, and *-es* is added: *appendix, appendices/appendixes; index, indices/indexes; matrix, matrices/matrixes*.
 - *-on* to *-a*: *criterion, criteria; phenomenon, phenomena*.
 - *-is* to *-es*: *basis, bases; crisis, crises; thesis, theses*
- l. Having singular and plural forms for a number of nouns: *corps, sheep, series, salmon, species, deer, Japanese, vermin*, etc.
- m. Having singular in form and use for abstract or very general meaning nouns: *algebra, assimilation, honesty, peace, status, grammar*.
- n. Having singular in form for some names of raw or manufactured materials: *cotton, flour, hay, milk*
- o. Frequently using their singular forms in plural sense for names of numbers, measurements, quantity, etc.: *a ton, two ton (two tons) a gross, five gross, a dozen, three dozen*.
- p. Having plural forms with singular meaning: *analytics, civics, economics, esthetics, ethics, linguistics, mathematics, optics, news, poetics, physics, phonetics, politics, statistics*.
- q. Having plural both in form and in use: *annals, clothes, morals, oats, scissors, shears, stocks, trousers*.

7. Noun Suffixes

a. Verb + suffix

VERB	SUFFIX	NOUN
develop	-ment	development
elect	-ion	election
inform	-ation	information
jog	-ing	jogging
allow	-ance	allowance
arrive	-al	arrival
depart	-ure	departure

b. Adjective + suffix

ADJECTIVE	SUFFIX	NOUN
happy	-ness	happiness
similar	-ity	similarity
fluent	-cy	fluency
different	-nce	difference
abundant	-ance	abundance
free	-dom	freedom

c. Verb/Noun + suffix (→ person)

VERB/NOUN	SUFFIX	NOUN
sing	-er	singer
farm	-er	farmer
football	-er	footballer

operate	-or	operator
economy	-ist	economist
art	-ist	artist
Java	-nese	Javanese, Balinese

d. Verb/Noun + Suffix

VERB/NOUN	SUFFIX	NOUN
sing	-er	singer
farm	-er	farmer
football	-er	footballer
operate	-or	operator
economy	-ist	economist
art	-ist	artist
child	-hood	childhood

NOUN PHRASES

A noun (from Latin *nomen*, meaning *name*) is a word which is the name of something or somebody. A phrase is a group of related words without a subject or a predicate, acting as a single part of speech. Therefore, a noun phrase is a group of related words without a subject or a predicate, acting as a single part of speech, which is the name of something or somebody. Rarely does a noun stand by itself. It is usually accompanied by determiners and/or adjectives. The noun usually comes after determiners: *articles* (*the, a, or an*), *possessive* (e.g. *my, his her, our*), *demonstratives* (e.g. *that, this those, these*), *numbers* (e.g. *four, five*), and *words of indefinite quantity* (e.g. *some, any, more*). It means that most nouns are usually in the form of phrase. See the examples in the sentences below.

I bought **a pencil** yesterday. (article + noun)

This is **my new car**. (possessive + adjective + noun)

Those boys and **girls** are my students. (demonstrative + noun)

I have got a brother and **three sisters**. (number + noun)

There are **some new students** in my class. (word of indefinite quantity + adjective + noun)

Those nouns above are preceded by determiners and adjectives which are called **pre-modifiers**. They are called pre-modifiers because they come before and modify the nouns. There are also **post-modifiers**, i.e., elements coming after and modifying the noun. See the examples in the sentences below.

The **girl** *sitting beside me* is from Germany.

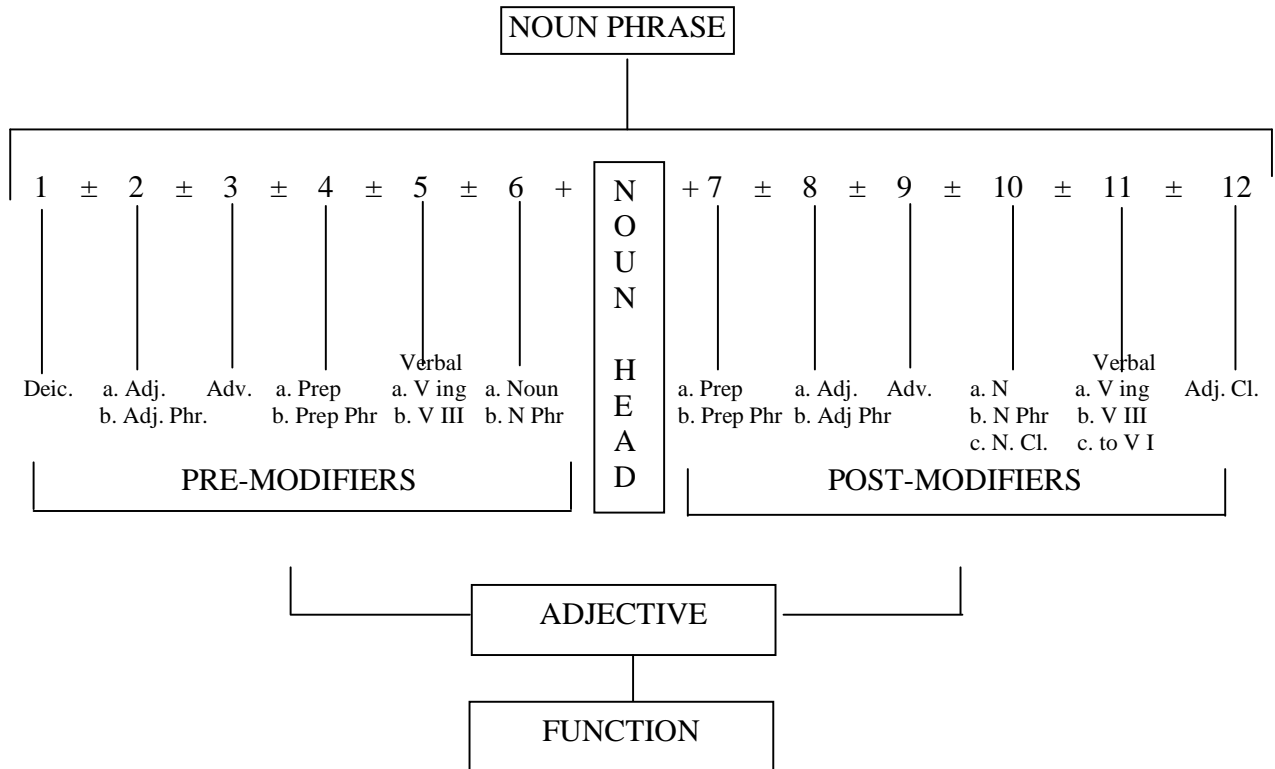
The **table** *put in front of the class* is still new.

The **books** *on the table* belong to Prof. Andrew.

The **people** *here* are very hospitable.

The **painting** *which is on the wall* is very precious.

The words in bold print above are modified by the italicized words. It means that the italicized words are post-modifiers that modify the words in bold print, noun heads. Therefore, a noun head can be modified by the words coming before, *–pre-modifiers* and the words coming after, *–post-modifiers*. The following chart is the description of the complete noun phrase taken from Abdi.



Legend:

In the diagram of the noun phrase above, elements number 1 until number 6 are called *pre-modifiers* because they precede and modify the noun head. Meanwhile, elements number 7 until number 12, mostly in the form of a phrase, are called *post-modifiers* because they come after and modify the noun head. Therefore, either pre-modifiers or post-modifiers function as adjectives. The following are explanations of the chart.

➤ Element number 1

Element number 1 is *deictic* (e.g. *articles: a, an, the; possessives: my, his, her, our; demonstratives: this, that, these, those, numbers: one, two, three, four; words of indefinite quantity: some, many, more, few, a few, little, a little, etc.*). It always comes at the beginning of the noun phrase.

➤ Element number 2

Element number 2 is the **adjective**. It can be single or phrasal. However, it usually comes in the single form (e.g. *a **patient** lecturer: single, a **very patient** lecturer: phrasal*)

➤ Element number 3

Element number 3 is the **adverb**. It rarely comes in the noun phrase (e.g. *the **next** president*).

➤ Element number 4

Element number is the **preposition**. It also rarely comes in the noun phrase (e.g. *the **inside** room, the **outside** room*)

➤ Element number 5

Element number 5 is **verbal**. It can be present participle or past participle (e.g. *the **dancing** girl, the **coming** month, the **punished** student, the **investigated** artist*).

➤ Element number 6

Element number 6 is the **noun**. It can be single or phrasal (e.g. *the **yesterday's** material*).

➤ Element number 7

Element number 7 is the **preposition**. It usually comes in the form of phrase which consists of the preposition followed by the noun, noun phrase, gerund, gerund phrase, or noun clause.

➤ Element number 8

Element number 8 is the **adjective**. It can be single or phrasal. However, it rarely comes after the noun head (e.g. *the mission **impossible***).

➤ Element number 9

Element number 9 is the **adverb**. It is usually single (e.g. *the students **here***).

➤ Element number 10

Element number 10 is the **noun**. It is sometimes in the form of a single noun, noun phrase, or noun clause.

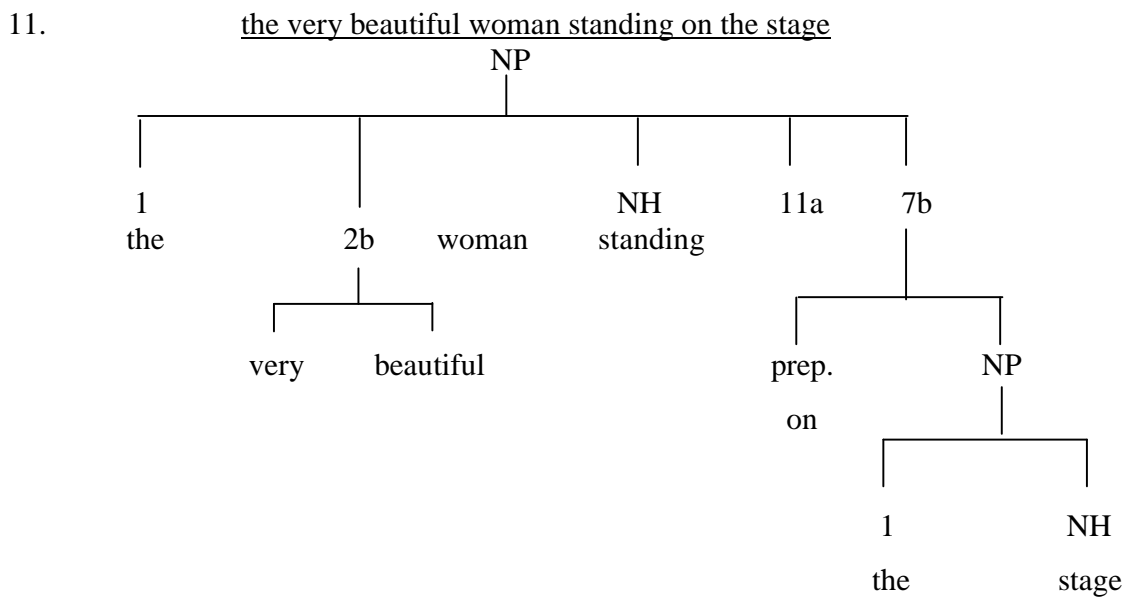
➤ Element number 11 is **verbal**. It can be present participle, past participle, or to + infinitive. It usually comes in the form of phrase (e.g. *the girl **sitting** on the floor*).

➤ Element number 12

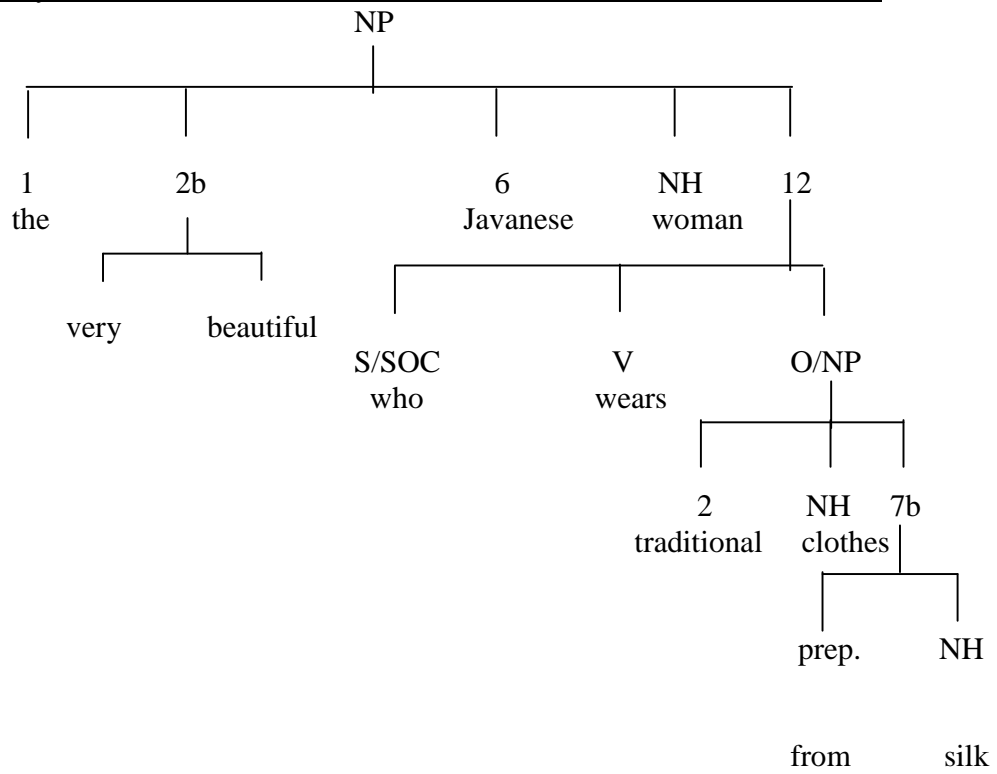
Element number 12 is the **adjective clause** (e.g. *the man **who is delivering a speech***).

Study the following examples.

1. a crying baby
1 5a NH
2. the dancing girl
1 5a NH
3. the investigated artist
1 5b NH
4. the Indonesian students
1 6 NH
5. the girl sitting on the floor
1 NH 11a
6. the girl who wears a tight T-shirt
1 NH 12
7. the very beautiful woman standing on the stage
1 2b NH 11a
8. the very beautiful Javanese woman who wears traditional clothes from silk
1 2b 6 NH 12
9. the book on the table
1 NH 7b
10. a teacher
1 NH



12. the very beautiful Javanese woman who wears traditional clothes from silk



EXERCISES

Exercise 1

Write down 10 noun phrases and then analyze as examples number 1 to 10.

Exercise 2

Analyze the following noun phrases as examples number 1 and 10.

1. the magnetosphere
2. the two strong belts of radiation
3. the area of the weaker radiation surrounding most of the earth
4. the shape of the magnetosphere
5. the earth's magnetic field
6. the sun
7. the earth
8. these charged particles
9. the solar wind pushing nearer to the earth on the sunlit side
10. a few hundred miles of the earth on the dark side

Exercise 3

Analyze the following noun phrases as examples number 11 and 12.

1. the composition and rule of the board of directors of a company
2. one organization
3. a few generalizations
4. the composition of the board
5. the top management
6. the confidence of the board of directors
7. the specific policies
8. the same administrative procedure
9. the board of trustees of a college or university

10. the parliamentary system of ministerial responsibility practiced in Great Britain
11. the suitable conditions of temperature and moisture
12. the green parts of plants
13. carbon dioxide from the atmosphere
14. the chloroplasts of plant cells in the presence of light
15. the water used in photosynthesis
16. the xylem of the root
17. the oxygen released in the process
18. the product of the reaction
19. each molecule of carbon dioxide
20. the chemical energy
21. many intermediate steps
22. few people in the modern world
23. the natural environment surrounding the homes
24. the oldest known subsistence strategy
25. 2 million years
26. the domestication of animals
27. the shorter growing season
28. the availability of plant life
29. a greater dependence on hunting
30. the coasts and waterways
31. the abundance of vegetation in the lower latitudes of the tropics
32. a greater opportunity for gathering a variety of plants
33. the environmental differences
34. possibilities for the development of subsistence societies
35. our prehistoric ancestors
36. observation of modern hunter-gatherers in both Africa and Alaska
37. a society based on hunting and gathering
38. the entire community camps in a central location
39. a reasonable distance from the camp
40. the food in the area

41. a seasonal migration pattern evolving for most hunter-gatherers
42. a strict division of labor between the sexes
43. these patterns of behavior
44. mankind during the Paleolithic Period
45. any substance that can be added to the soil to provide chemical elements
46. a variety of forms
47. a complete fertilizer
48. a formula consisting of three numbers
49. the percentage content of nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash
50. the shape of chemical granules
51. an increase in popularity
52. the nitrogen fertilizer used throughout the world
53. the result of local research
54. the animals or humans
55. the water supply
56. the growth of algae
57. the natural cycle of life
58. the death of fish
59. digestive disorders in cattle and in infants
60. cow's milk

