Academic Writing: Noun Phrases

**Aim:** To help students be able to write more concisely by using noun phrases.

**Time:** 60 minutes & homework task.

**Delivery:** This lesson can be delivered face-to-face or online. For online delivery, each worksheet could be placed in a class document on OneDrive.

**Lead in**
- Distribute **worksheet 1.** Students complete **task 1:** discussion.
- Feedback¹: nominate a student to answer.
- Feedback²: distribute or project the **writing criteria** for your course if you have one. Point out where noun phrases are assessed (academic style? task?)
- Students complete **task 2:** noticing noun phrases in context.
- Feedback¹: nominate one or two students to answer.
- Feedback²: distribute or project lead in **ANSWERS.**

**Language Review**
- Students read the language review and discuss with a partner whether this is new language.

**Guided Practice**
- Distribute **worksheet 2.** Students complete **tasks 1-6** and then compare with a partner.
- Feedback: distribute or project **worksheet 2 tasks 1-6** **ANSWERS.**
- Distribute **worksheet 3.** Students complete **tasks 1&2** and then compare with a partner.
- Feedback: distribute or project **worksheet 3 tasks 1&2** **ANSWERS.**

**Freer Practice**
- Distribute **worksheet 4.** Students complete **task 1:** write a paragraph using noun phrases.
- Students complete **task 2:** peer feedback using the provided checklist.
- Distribute or project **worksheet 4 task 3** **SUGGESTED ANSWER.**

**Freer Practice or Homework**
- Distribute **worksheet 5.** Students complete **task 1:** select topic, research topic, select article, read, identify and highlight the noun phrases. Place the new language in their vocabulary books.
- Students complete **task 2:** use the article from task 1 to write a paragraph using the target language. Feedback options:
  - Teachers take in and mark. Use our error correction code. [https://www.academic-englishuk.com/correction-code](https://www.academic-englishuk.com/correction-code)
  - Students do peer feedback. Use the included **checklist** from **worksheet 4.**
  - Students swap with a partner (or two) and identify the noun phrases in context.
Worksheet 1: Introduction to Noun Phrases

Task 1
- Answer the following statements about noun phrases, and then compare with a partner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes/No/Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i. I know what noun phrases are.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii. I know that I can improve my academic writing by using noun phrases.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iv.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. I know how I will be assessed on [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Task 2
- Can you spot the six noun phrases in the following paragraph? Highlight each one and then discuss the following questions with a partner:
  i. How many types did you identify in the paragraph?
  ii. What is the function of each type?

Suspension bridges
Suspension bridges are often considered to be one of the greatest engineering feats of the 19th century. The first suspension [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] wood and iron but the tensile suspender cables commonly seen today were not introduced until the late 1800s. The [ ] [ ] [ ] made of [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] can support over half a ton. [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] distances of up to 1,900m, [ ] [ ] [ ] over water.
## Language Review: Noun Phrases

### Task 1
- Read the language review. Is any of this new to you? Discuss with a partner.

### Noun Phrases

One way to make your writing more concise is to use noun phrases. There are two types: pre-modifying words that describe the noun and post-modifying words that connect your noun to the consequent idea.

#### Pre-modifying words

| **Articles** | ‘the’, ‘a’, ‘an’  
- Shows specific or generic reference. |
| **Quantifiers** | ‘some’, ‘many’, ‘(a) few’, ‘(a) little’, ‘all’, ‘any’, ‘several’  
- Determines an amount. |
| **Compound adjectives** | Adjective + noun or participle  
Noun + adjective or participle  
- Joined with a hyphen to describe the noun in more detail. |
| **Adverb + adjective** | Further describes the adjective. |
| **Compound nouns** | noun + noun  
- or people formed as one word or two. |

| **Examples** | *Hedgehogs are an endangered species in the UK.* |
| | *Most of the 118 chemical elements occur naturally on Earth.* |
| | *The Oceanbird is purportedly the largest wind-creatures.* |
| | *The highly effective anti-malaria drug chloroquine is also used to treat avian flu.* |
| | *Long Covid is more prevalent in adult females over thousands of deaths.* |
| | *Scientists have put forward the idea that blocking sodium azide to treat irritable bowel syndrome.* |
| | *There is every likelihood that self-heating batteries* |

#### Post-modifying words

| **Noun + prepositional phrase** | to add specific information about the previous noun. |
| **Noun followed by ‘that’** | - Noun followed by ‘that’ to introduce a new clause. |

| **Examples** | *Adult males with a waist measurement of over 37.* |
| | *Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, and Uranus are known as the four gas giants.* |
| | *Long Covid is more prevalent in adult females.* |
| | *Scientists have put forward the idea that blocking sodium azide to treat irritable bowel syndrome.* |
| | *There is every likelihood that self-heating batteries.* |
Worksheet 2: Guided Practice

• Work through tasks 1-6 and then compare with a partner when you’ve finished.

Task 1
• Correct the articles in the following sentences.

i. The Peer-to-Peer lending platforms can be beneficial for a lender and a borrower.
ii. _____________________________ fully on internet and have no physical branches.
iii. Avogadro’s _____________________________ equal number of the molecules.
iv. The mercury is the _____________________________ temperature.
v. Algorithm is the sequence of rules to be followed in performing the computations or

Task 2
• Select the correct quantifier in the following sentences.

i. Square, Stripe and PayPal are both/all online payment systems.
ii. Much/many of the _____________________________ analytics to improve their online presence.
iii. 3D printers by using either/neither a CAD (computer aided design) or a 3D scanner.
iv. Most/Several _____________________________ in the oceans.
v. _____________________________ survive outside national parks and reserves.

Task 3
• Complete the gaps in the sentences with a compound adjective or adverb + adjective combination from the box.

hugely successful relatively low

i. Innovative Finance Individual Savings Accounts (IFISAs) allow the investor to earn _____________________________ savings on a £20,000 per year investment.
ii. The _____________________________ realistic alternative to traditional sources.
iii. Virtual _____________________________ shops.
iv. Data analytics has been _____________________________ in predicting what people _____________________________
v. Kaftrio is considered to be a _____________________________ fibrosis.
Task 4
• Complete the gap with a noun that could form a compound noun with the word in italics. The first letter and the number of letters are given for you.

i. \textit{S\_\_\_\_ filters} are designed for astronomers to view the sun safely.
ii. \underline{XXXXXXXX} to be a possible solution in the war on climate change.
iii. \textit{D\_\_\_\_ wallets} are now the most popular way to pay for goods online.
iv. Global warming pollution \underline{XXXXXXXX}...
v. Quinoa and mushrooms are two of a number of foods \underline{XXXXXXXX}...

• Can you think of four compound nouns common in your subject?

i. \underline{__________________} ii. \underline{__________________} iii. \underline{__________________} iv. \underline{__________________}

Task 5
• Correct the prepositions in the following sentences.

i. There is a growing interest \underline{on} nanotechnology investment as the next stock market growth area.
ii. Probability \underline{XXXXXXXX} concerned with the analysis in random circumstance.
iii. Due to \underline{XXXXXXXX} digital wallets provide users with a greater sense in security.
iv. Earthquakes \underline{XXXXXXXX} are classed as major.
v. Research has revealed that tree diversity by the northern hemisphere is higher than in the south.

Task 6
• Match the nouns with their noun clauses to form complete sentences.

\begin{tabular}{|l|l|}
\hline
i. \underline{The experiment was designed to test the hypothesis that...} & a. \underline{XXXXXXXX} \\
ii. \underline{physics was the discovery that...} to & b. \underline{can help relieve anxiety.} \\
iii. Some people argue against the fact that... & c. \underline{XXXXXXXX} . \\
iv. Researchers have demonstrated the possibility that... & d. a new variant of Covid-19 is resistant to the vaccines. \\
v. \underline{downplay the concern that...} & e. \underline{manifestations of the same phenomenon.} \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
**Worksheet 3: Guided Practice**

**Task 1**
- Complete the gaps in the paragraph using the words in the box. Compare with a partner when you’ve completed the task.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>acid</th>
<th>discovery</th>
<th>between</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Kevlar**
Kevlar was invented in 1965 by a scientist who was working on a new material at the time. The extremely light but strong material can withstand a range of low and high temperatures between -196°C and 380°C. These properties allow fibers to form highly-organized chains when spun, which allows for increased tensile strength. The discovery that Kevlar was five times stronger than steel opened up new possibilities for bullet-proof vests.

**Task 2**
- Read the following paragraph on drones and identify the 5 errors in the noun phrases. Compare with a partner when you’ve completed the task.

**Drones**
The use of drones, also known as unmanned aerial vehicles, has experienced a rapid growth in recent years. Many of their uses are for personal use, but they are also increasingly being used in environmental research. For example, drones have been known to monitor forest activity as well as the distribution of species, which this type of aircraft could distract or endanger.
Worksheet 4: Freer Practice

Task 1
• Write a paragraph on __________. Try and use as many noun phrases as you can.

Write your paragraph here...

Task 2
• Swap paragraphs with a partner. Use the checklist below to give your partner some feedback.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Has your partner...?</th>
<th>Yes / No / Not Sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>written a well-organised paragraph?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>included a range of different types of noun phrases?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>made any other significant language errors?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Task 3
• Make any necessary changes to your paragraph and then compare yours with the suggested model answer. How will you improve next time?
Worksheet 5: Freer Practice or Homework Task

Task 1
• Find an XXXXXXXXXX. Read through and highlight the noun phrases. Copy the new ones into your vocabulary book and learn a few each day.

Task 2
• Select a topic from XXXXXXXXXX concise paragraph paying particular attention to your noun phrases.
Noun Phrases ANSWER KEY

Lead in
Quantifiers:
one of the greatest engineering feats of the 19th century
the majority of modern suspension bridges

Compound adjectives:
single-level bridges..

ALL ANSWERS INCLUDED IN THE PAID VERSION...