

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:
 - i. Teachers take in and mark. Use our error correction code. <https://www.academic-englishuk.com/correction-code>
 - ii. Students do peer feedback. Use the included **checklist** from **worksheet 4**.
 - iii. Students swap with a partner (or two) and identify the noun phrases in context.

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Worksheet 1: Introduction to Noun Phrases

Task 1

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

	Question	Yes/No/Don't Know
i.	I know what noun phrases are.	
ii.	_____	
iii.	I know that I can improve my academic writing by using noun phrases.	
iv.	_____	
v.	I know how I will be assessed on _____ _____	

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	
<p>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.</p>	
Pre-modifying words	Examples
<p>Articles: 'the', 'a', 'an' -Shows specific or generic reference.</p> <p>Quantifiers: 'some', 'many', '(a) few', '(a) little', 'all', 'any', 'several' -Determines an amount.</p> <p>Compound adjectives: Adjective + noun or participle Noun + adjective or participle -Joined with a hyphen to describe the noun in more detail.</p> <p>Adverb + adjective -Further describes the adjective.</p> <p>Compound nouns: noun + noun - people formed as one word or two.</p>	<p><i>Hedgehogs are an endangered species in the UK.</i></p> <p><i>Most of the 118 chemical elements occur naturally on Earth.</i></p> <p><i>The Oceanbird is purportedly the largest wind-</i></p> <p><i>The peacock mantis shrimp is considered to be one</i></p> <p><i>The highly effective anti-malaria drug chloroquine is also used to treat avian flu.</i></p> <p><i>Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, and Uranus are known as the four gas giants.</i></p>
Post-modifying words	Examples
<p>Noun + prepositional phrase - to add specific information about the previous noun.</p> <p>Noun + relative clause -Noun followed by 'that' to introduce a new clause.</p>	<p><i>Adult males with a waist measurement of over 37</i></p> <p><i>Long Covid is more prevalent in adult females over</i></p> <p><i>Scientists have put forward the idea that blocking</i></p> <p><i>There is every likelihood that self-heating batteries</i></p>

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

Task 2

- Select the correct quantifier in the following sentences.
 - Square, Stripe and PayPal are both/all online payment systems.
 - Much/many of the analytics to improve their online presence.
 - 3D printers by using either/neither a CAD (computer aided design) or a 3D scanner.
 - Most/Several in the oceans.
 - 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.

<input type="text"/>	hugely successful	<input type="text"/>	relatively low	<input type="text"/>
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- Innovative Finance Individual Savings Accounts (IFISAs) allow the investor to earn _____ savings on a £20,000 per year investment.
- The _____ realistic alternative to traditional sources.
- Virtual _____ shops.
- Data analytics has been _____ in predicting what people .
- 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.

- S_____ *filters* are designed for astronomers to view the sun safely.
- _____ to be a possible solution in the war on climate change.
- D_____ *wallets* are now the most popular way to pay for goods online.
- Global warming pollution _____
- Quinoa and mushrooms are two of a number of foods _____

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

i. _____ ii. _____ iii. _____ iv. _____

Task 5

- Correct the prepositions in the following sentences.

- There is a growing interest on nanotechnology investment as the next stock market growth area.
- Probability _____ concerned with the analysis in random circumstance.
- Due t _____ digital wallets provide users with a greater sense in security.
- Earthquakes _____ are classed as major.
- 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.

i.	The experiment was designed to test the hypothesis that...	a.	_____
ii.	_____ to physics was the discovery that...	b.	_____ can help relieve anxiety.
iii.	Some people argue against the fact that...	c.	_____.
iv.	Researchers have demonstrated the possibility that...	d.	a new variant of Covid-19 is resistant to the vaccines.
v.	_____ downplay the concern that...	e.	_____ manifestations of the same phenomenon.

i.		ii.		iii.		iv.		v.	
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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.

acid		discovery		between	
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Kevlar

Kevlar was invented in 1965 _____ who was working on a new _____ at the time. The _____ light but strong material can withstand _____ low and high temperatures _____ -196°C _____ form highly-_____ chains when spun, which allows for increased tensile strength. The _____ that Kevlar was five times _____ 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 _____ has experienced a rapid growth in recent years. Many of its function are for personal use, _____, but _____ in environmental research. For example, drones have been known to monitor forest activity as well as _____ of _____ which this type of aircraft could distract or endanger species _____.

Worksheet 4: Freer Practice

Task 1

- Write a paragraph on [REDACTED]. 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.

Has your partner...?	Yes / No / Not Sure
written a well-organised paragraph?	
[REDACTED]	
included a range of different types of noun phrases?	
[REDACTED]	
made any other significant language errors?	

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 [REDACTED]. 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 [REDACTED] 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...