Noun group

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WHAT IS A NOUN GROUP?

A cluster of words around a NOUN used to give more information about a person or a thing.

Examples...
- The oil industry
- The working class.
- A man with a long beard.
- The yellow fiberglass ski boat that runs faster than others.
WHAT IS A NOUN GROUP FOR?

• A noun group identifies the person or thing in the text.
• It answers the questions: What? Who? To whom? about whom? in the text.
• It describes the entities, actors, authors, people, places, and things that co-exist in a text.
• A noun group can be the subject, the object or the complement of a verb.
EXAMPLES OF NOUN GROUPS IN A SENTENCE

Prince Harry reportedly bought his new girlfriend Cressida Bonas a toe-warming love gift during their ski holiday - a pair of £300 Manitoba Mukluk boots.

What did the prince buy?  
Who received what?   
For whom?
The Female Fighter I Knew
Veteran Anthony Woods recalls a brave lieutenant who lost her life in Afghanistan.

Who recalls who?
Who is the text talking about?
The city of Chelyabinsk in Russia bore the brunt of the celestial fireworks. A piece of rock, about 50 feet across and weighing more than 7,000 tons, came crashing to Earth. Traveling at a blinding speed of over 40,000 miles per hour, it created a sonic boom and shock wave that shattered windows across the city: 1,200 people were injured, mainly by the flying pieces of glass, and 52 were hospitalized, 2 of them in serious condition. Chelyabinsk, once known as one of the most polluted places in the world due to its storage of nuclear waste, will now be known as “meteor city.”
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• What is this text talking about?
• What is the subject?
• What?
• Who?
• Where?
• When?
• How?
• Why?
THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF A NOUN GROUP

A brave lieutenant who lost her life in Afghanistan.
THE ELEMENTS OF A NOUN GROUP

Noun Group

Modifier
Det  Epit  Clas

Noun

Qualifier
Nom  Circ  Attri

People or Thing
THE ORDER OF ELEMENTS OF A NOUN GROUP

The order of elements in a noun group:

Modifier: Det, Epit, Clas

Noun: People or Thing

Qualifier: Nom, Circ, Attri
# The Order of Elements of a Noun Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Determiner</th>
<th>Gradable features</th>
<th>Permanent features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Observation</td>
<td>Origin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description</td>
<td>Material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Size</td>
<td>morning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shape</td>
<td>new</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>age</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>color</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>two</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The most</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Gradable features**:
  - Size
  - Shape
  - Age
  - Color

- **Permanent features**:
  - Origin
  - Material
  - Classifier

Examples:
- A new red brick house
- Two large square oil tanks
- The most beautiful dog
- Slow morning traffic
THE ORDER OF ELEMENTS OF A NOUN GROUP

Subjective/opinion features  Intrinsic/factual features  Noun  Complementary information

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The Order of Elements

Does this order matter? Why?

- This order keeps the grammar stable.
- It establishes a preferred relation or prelation of the elements which is natural to the English language.

For example...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correct order</th>
<th>Incorrect order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A beautiful venezuelan woman</td>
<td>A venezuelan beautiful woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 large gasoline tanks</td>
<td>2-gasoline large tanks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How often do the modifiers co-occur in a noun group?

- This co-occurrence is arbitrary.
- There is no fixed coexistence pattern of modifiers in the noun group.
- The modifiers are selected according to the desired description.
1. Types of modifiers

1.1. Determiner + **Noun**

**Examples...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The house</th>
<th>My sister</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Some students</td>
<td>A notebook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>His girlfriend</td>
<td>Three pigs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Those children</td>
<td>This city</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Types of modifiers

1.2. Adjective + **Noun**

Examples...

- ...financial help
- An equal partnership.
- The scientific research
- ...her light brown hair
1. Types of modifiers

1.3. Adverb + Adjective + Noun
(To indicate the different amount of degree in adjectives)
Examples...

...a highly successful company
...a very pretty girl
...extremely high temperatures
...frequently asked questions
...Deeply problematic situation
1. Types of modifiers

1.4. Noun + Noun + Noun

Examples...

- Soil erosion process
- Oil pressure emergency level
- Garbage disposal ducts
- Electronic devices installation handbook
1. Types of modifiers

1.5. Adjective + Noun + Noun

Examples...

- A long car journey
- Red Hot chili pepper
- Slow motion camera
- Late night show
1. Types of modifiers

1.6. “-ing” Adjective + **Noun**

**Examples...**

a. To describe an emotional effect...

A surprising number of bachelors

A warm welcoming smile

b. To describe a process or state

...boiling oil

...rapidly rising productivity
1. Types of modifiers

1.7. Hyphenated Noun + “-ing” Adjective + Noun

Examples...

a. To describe the purpose...

- basket-weaving factory
- window-cleaning liquid
- ...time-saving process
- ... Crop-watering pipes
1. Types of modifiers

1.8. Past-participle “-ed” Adjective + Noun

Examples...

- a furnished apartment
- a closed door
- strongly motivated students
- highly developed countries
1. Types of modifiers

1.9. Compound Adjectives + Noun

Examples...

...first-class boarding pass
...one-way traffic
...deep-sea observatory
... lead-free gasoline
... long-range communication
1. **Types of modifiers**

1.10. long compound **Adjectives** + **Noun**

**Examples...**

- ...the day-to-day chores of life
- ...a down-to-earth approach
- ...life-and-death decisions
- ... stronger-than-steel alloy
- ... out-of-date book
1. Types of modifiers

1.11. Comparatives, superlatives + Noun

Examples...

...a better job; ... a much better report
...the most dangerous materials
...the second biggest industrial country
... The most popular tourist attraction
... the newest technological gadget
Possesive (')s + Noun group

Examples...

- the nation’s shale gas revolution
- The Pope’s last day
- ...the marketing’s rapid growth
- The duchess of Cambridge’s younger sister
- This week’s news
- ...the world’s most famous family.