

NOUN PHRASE

A noun phrase is a group of words that modify a noun and functions like a

Important points to remember about noun phrase.

- i. A noun phrase always has a noun
- ii. A noun phrase does not have an action verb. **Only subjects have a verb.**
- iii. What or whom may be used to find a noun phrase.
- iv. Always look for main verb to separate the phrase section.
- v. A noun phrase is situated in at subject place or at object place.

Elements of a noun phrase.

A noun phrase will have a **noun** and the following elements:

- i. Articles
- ii. Demonstrative adjectives
- iii. Possessive adjectives
- iv. Adjectives
- v. Numbers
- vi. Quantifiers
- vii. Possessives (words ending with apostrophe **s**)
- viii. Infinitives (to + verb's 1st form)
- ix. Participles (verb's 1st form + ing)
- x. Question word (Wh words)
- xi. Prepositions & prepositional phrase
- xii. Gerund
- xiii. Pre-modifier (words that come before a noun or a noun phrase)

Examples

- i. They **like** sports cars.
What is liked?
Sports cars.
Elements:
Noun: car
Adjective: sports
- ii. **An oral lesson** can **be** interesting.
What is interesting?
An oral lesson.
Elements:
Noun: lesson
Adjective: oral
Article: an
- iii. Don't **give** me such a blank look.
Give me what?
Such a blank look
Elements:
Noun: look
Adjective: blank
Article: a
Pre-modifier: such

To check that your statement is a noun phrase or not, find the main verb and make a question using **what**. After that look at the elements of the statement.

You may directly look at the elements of the highlighted statement and tell if it is a noun phrase or not.

- iv. **The hard day's work** **tired** him out.
 What tired him?
 The hard day's work.
Elements:
 Noun + possessive: day's work
 Adjective: hard
 Article: the
- v. He **made** **all necessary arrangements** before leaving
 He made what?
 All the necessary arrangements.
Elements:
 Noun: arrangements
 Adjective: necessary
 Quantifier: All
- vi. **The recent fire** **caused** heavy damage.
 What caused heavy damage?
 The recent fires.
Elements:
 Noun: fire
 Adjective: recent
 Article: the
- vii. **Her skill at tennis** **is** much admired.
 What is admired about her?
 Skills at tennis.
Elements:
 Possessive adjective: her skills
 Preposition: at
 Noun: tennis
- viii. **Show** me **how to do it**.
 Show me what?
 How to do it.
Elements:
 Wh word: how
 Infinitive: to do
 Noun: it
- ix. **Promise** me **to come**.
 Promise me what?
 To come.
Elements:
 Infinitive: to come
- x. **Travelling in a hot dusty train** **gives** me no pleasure.
 What gives me no pleasure?
 Travelling in a hot dusty train.
Elements:

Gerund: travelling
Preposition: in
Article: a
Adverb: hot
Adjective: dusty
Noun: train

- xi. **How to find the way to ruins** is the question.

What is the question?

How to find the way to ruins

Elements:

Wh word: how

Infinitive: to find

Article: the

Noun: way

Preposition: to

Noun: ruins (about which the sentence is)

- xii. His father **wished to speak to the headmaster.**

His father wished what?

To speak to the headmaster.

Elements:

Infinitive: to speak

Preposition: to

Article: the

Noun: headmaster

- xiii. Horses **prefer living in dark stables.**

Horses prefer what?

Living in dark stables.

Elements:

Gerund: living

Preposition: in

Adjective: dark

Noun: stables

- xiv. I have **forgotten** how to play this game.

I have forgotten what?

How to play this game.

Elements:

Wh word: how

Infinitive: to play

Demonstrative adjective: this

Noun: game

NOUN CLAUSE

A noun clause is a dependent clause that functions as a noun. A noun clause has a **subject** and a **verb** like an independent but it cannot convey complete thought like an independent clause.

How to identify a noun clause

A noun clause always begins with the following (relative pronouns & subordinating conjunctions):
how, that, what, whatever, when, where, whether, which, whichever, who, whoever, whom, whomever, why, if.

Important

Always look for the main verb, it is always a finite verb.

Questions for finding a noun clause

A noun clause can be found out by asking/making a question using **who(m)?** or **what?**

Function of a noun clause

A noun clause functions in following ways:

- i. Subject of a verb (Coming before a verb)
- ii. Object of a verb (Coming after a verb)
- iii. Object of preposition (Coming after a preposition)
- iv. Subject complement (Describing a subject and coming after a linking verb
[contains a pronoun that refers to the subject])
- v. Adjective complement (Coming after a verb, adjective or adverb to modify them).

Examples according to function of noun clause

- i. **What Megan wrote surprised** her family.
What surprised her family?
What Megan wrote.
- ii. **How the boy behaved was** not very polite.
What was not very polite?
How the boy behaved.
- iii. She didn't **realize that the directions were wrong**.
What she didn't realize?
That they were going in the wrong direction.
- iv. They now **understand that you should not cheat on a test**.
What they now understand?
That you should not cheat on a test.
- v. Harry **is** not the best provider **of what Ann needs**.
What is Harry not best provider of?
What Ann needs.
- vi. Josephine **is** not responsible **for what Alex decided to do**.
What Josephine is not responsible for?
What Alex decides to do.

In paper you will get a highlighted part to find if it is a noun clause, look at the position of highlighted part and look at its accompanying elements. First find the verb and then make a question. Also look for the prepositions, linking verbs, adverbs and adjectives that may be used with the highlighted part. Always remember a noun clause begins with the words that are mentioned above.

- vii. Charlie's problem **was that she didn't practice enough.**
What was Charlie's problem?
That she didn't practice much.
- viii. Harry's crowning achievement at school **was when he became class president.**
What was Harry's crowning achievement?
When he became the class president.
- ix. Jerry **knows why John went to the store.**
What does Jerry know?
Why John went to the store.
- x. They're perfectly **happy where they live now.**
They are happy where? Question tag changed due to adjective.
Where they live.

More examples

- i. I fear that I shall fail.
I fear what?
That I shall fail.
- ii. No one knows who he is.
No one knows what?
Who he is.
- iii. It grieved to me to hear that she was ill.
What grieved me to hear?
That she was ill.
- iv. There were no complaints except that the day was too hot.
There were no complaints about what?
That the day was too hot.
This statement has a preposition **except** and that follows it.
- v. Pay careful attention to what I am going to say.
Pay careful attention to what? This statement has a preposition **to** and **what** follows it.
To what I am going to say.