Noun Phrases

A noun phrase is a phrase with a noun as its head--a noun along with its modifiers.

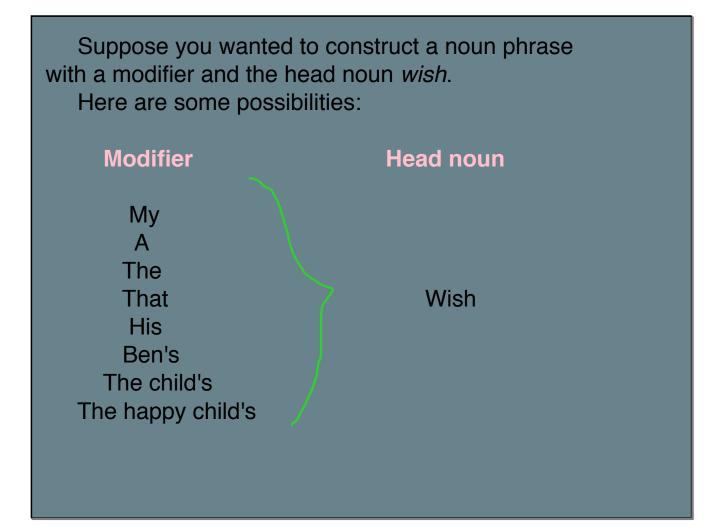
serious <u>errors</u> in translation

Errors is the head of the phrase (the main noun), while *serious* and *in translation* modify errors.

Most modifiers are adjectives to describe the head noun, but there are also modifiers which served to identify the head noun.

my second marriage both his children the dinner

All her many dishes



Subject noun phrases serve as the subject of a sentence.

Identify the subject noun phrase in each of the following sentences:

Mary left early.

The dog jumped over the fence.

My excited children caught the balloons.

Noun phrases may also serve as the *direct object* of a sentence.

Underline the noun phrase serving as the direct object in each of the following sentences:

- 1) The girl hit the ball.
- 2) The clown entertained the children.
- 3) My aunt tossed the salad.
- 4). Mary found Tom's keys.
- 5). The engineer designed that building.
- 6). He invited all my dearest friends.
- 7). Everyone loved the charming little puppy.
- 8). The clerk stamped the package.

Noun phrases may also serve as the *indirect object* of a sentence.

The indirect object is typically the animate noun phrase that is the beneficiary of an action.

Identify the noun phrase serving as the indirect object in each of the following sentences:

Jimmy gave the teacher an apple.

Rachel bought Hannah a sweater.

Mike read Ben a bedtime story.

John cooked dinner for his folks.

Practice identifying indirect objects with Grammar Lesson 19

Formative Assessment: On your own paper, write down the specific types of noun phrases in each of the following sentences, as indicated.

The child gave a present to her mother.

- 1). Subject noun phrase: The child
- 2). Direct object noun phrase: a present
- 3) Indirect object noun phrase: her mother

*The first day of April is my favorite time of the year.*4). Subject noun phrase: The first day of April

The grateful student sent the teacher a note.

- 5). Subject noun phrase: The grateful student
- 6). Direct object noun phrase: a note
- 7). Indirect object noun phrase: the teacher

My father cooked spaghetti dinner for the whole family.

- 8). Subject noun phrase: My father
- 9). Direct object noun phrase: spaghetti dinner
- 10). Indirect object noun phrase: the whole family