

## Noun Phrases

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

*serious errors 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*

Suppose you wanted to construct a noun phrase with a modifier and the head noun *wish*.

Here are some possibilities:

**Modifier**

**Head noun**

My  
A  
The  
That  
His  
Ben's  
The child's  
The happy child's

Wish



*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