

University grammar/ Chapter Four

Nouns, Pronouns, and the Basic Noun Phrase

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Noun clauses (4.1-4.15)

1. The Basic Noun Phrase

A **noun phrase (NP)** is a group of words centered around a **noun** (the head). It can include determiners, adjectives, prepositional phrases, and relative clauses. The NP functions as a **subject**, **object**, or **complement** in a sentence.

Structure of a Noun Phrase:

1. **Determiner:** *the, a, my, this, some.*
2. **Adjectives:** *pretty, tall, interesting.*
3. **Head Noun:** *girl, book, furniture.*
4. **Modifiers:** Prepositional phrases (*in the corner*) or relative clauses (*who became angry*).

Examples:

1. **Simple NP:** *The girl is singing.*
 - *The girl* = Determiner (*the*) + Head Noun (*girl*).
 - **Function:** Subject of the sentence.
2. **NP with adjectives:** *I saw the pretty girl.*
 - *The pretty girl* = Determiner (*the*) + Adjective (*pretty*) + Head Noun (*girl*).
 - **Function:** Object of the sentence.
3. **NP with prepositional phrases:** *She is the pretty girl in the corner.*
 - *The pretty girl in the corner* = Determiner (*the*) + Adjective (*pretty*) + Head Noun (*girl*) + Prepositional Phrase (*in the corner*).
 - **Function:** Complement of the sentence.
4. **NP with relative clauses:** *I spoke to the pretty girl who became angry.*
 - *The pretty girl who became angry* = Determiner (*the*) + Adjective (*pretty*) + Head Noun (*girl*) + Relative Clause (*who became angry*).
 - **Function:** Object of the preposition *to*.

2. Noun Classes

Nouns are divided into subclasses based on their **grammatical** and **semantic** behavior. The main classes are:

A. Proper Nouns

- Names of specific people, places, or things.
- **Examples:** *John, Paris, Mississippi, Gandhi.*
- **Rules:**
 1. **Cannot take articles:**
 - *The John* ✗ (incorrect).
 - *John* ✓ (correct).
 2. **Cannot be pluralized:**
 - *Johns* ✗ (incorrect).
 - *John* ✓ (correct).
 3. **Exception:** Proper nouns can take articles when they are part of a title or refer to a family:
 - *The John I know is kind.*
 - *The Smiths* (referring to the Smith family).

B. Common Nouns

These are further divided into:

1. Count Nouns

- Refer to individual, countable entities.
- **Examples:** *bottle, chair, word.*
- **Rules:**
 1. **Can take articles:**
 - *A bottle* ✓ (indefinite article).
 - *The bottle* ✓ (definite article).
 2. **Can be pluralized:**
 - *Bottles* ✓.
 3. **Quantifiers:** Use *many, few, several* with plural count nouns:
 - *Many bottles* ✓.
 - *Much bottles* ✗.

2. Non-Count Nouns (Mass Nouns)

- Refer to undifferentiated masses or concepts.
- **Examples:** *furniture, grass, warmth.*
- **Rules:**
 1. **Cannot take indefinite articles:**
 - *A furniture* ✗ (incorrect).
 - *The furniture* ✓ (correct).
 2. **Cannot be pluralized:**
 - *Furnitures* ✗ (incorrect).
 - *Furniture* ✓ (correct).
 3. **Quantifiers:** Use *much, little* with non-count nouns:
 - *Much furniture* ✓.
 - *Many furniture* ✗.
 4. **Partitive Expressions:** Use phrases like *a piece of, a bit of* to quantify non-count nouns:
 - *A piece of furniture* ✓.
 - *A furniture* ✗.

3. Dual-Class Nouns

- Can function as both count and non-count nouns, often with a change in meaning.
- **Examples:** *cake, paper, stone.*
- **Rules:**
 1. **Non-count usage:** Refers to the material or concept.
 - *I ate some cake* (non-count).
 - *The house is made of stone* (non-count).
 2. **Count usage:** Refers to individual items.
 - *I bought a cake* (count).
 - *She threw a stone* (count).

3. Determiners

Determiners are words that introduce nouns and specify their reference. They are divided into six classes based on their co-occurrence with noun classes.

Determiner Classes:

1. **Definite Article:** *the*

- Works with all noun classes:
 - *The bottle* (singular count).
 - *The bottles* (plural count).
 - *The furniture* (non-count).

2. **Indefinite Article:** *a/an*

- Works only with singular count nouns:
 - *A bottle* ✓.
 - *A furniture* ✗.

3. **Demonstratives:** *this/that, these/those*

- *This/that*: Singular count and non-count nouns.
 - *This bottle* ✓.
 - *This furniture* ✓.
- *These/those*: Plural count nouns.
 - *These bottles* ✓.
 - *These furniture* ✗.

4. **Quantifiers:** *some, any, many, much, few, little*

- *Some/any*: Work with all noun classes.
 - *Some bottles* (plural count).
 - *Some furniture* (non-count).
- *Many/few*: Work only with plural count nouns.
 - *Many bottles* ✓.
 - *Many furniture* ✗.
- *Much/little*: Work only with non-count nouns.
 - *Much furniture* ✓.
 - *Much bottles* ✗.

4. Closed-System Premodifiers

These are words that occur **before the noun head** and include:

A. Predeterminers

- **Examples:** *all, both, half, double, twice.*
- **Rules:**
 1. **All:** Refers to the whole quantity or group.
 - *All the students* passed the exam.
 - *All of the students* passed the exam.
 2. **Both:** Refers to two items or people.
 - *Both of the books* are interesting.
 - *Both books* are interesting.
 3. **Half:** Refers to a part of something.
 - *Half the time* was wasted.
 - *Half of the time* was wasted.
 4. **Double, Twice:** Indicate multiplication or proportion.
 - *Double the amount* was paid.
 - *Twice the size* of the original.

B. Ordinal Numerals

- **Examples:** *first, second, next, last.*
- **Rules:**
 1. **First, Second, Third, etc.:** Indicate position in a sequence.
 - *The first three books* were sold out.
 - *She finished in second place.*
 2. **Next, Last:** Indicate the following or final item in a sequence.
 - *The next two chapters* are important.
 - *His last two novels* were bestsellers.

C. Quantifiers

- **Examples:** *many, few, much, little, several.*
- **Rules:**
 1. **Many, Few, Several:** Used with plural count nouns.
 - *Many books* were sold.
 - *Few students* attended the lecture.
 - *Several options* are available.
 2. **Much, Little:** Used with non-count nouns.
 - *Much furniture* was damaged.

- *Little time* was left.
- 3. **A Few, A Little:** Indicate a small quantity.
 - *A few books* were left.
 - *A little sugar* was added.

5. Predeterminers

Predeterminers are words that occur **before the main determiner** in a noun phrase. They provide additional information about quantity, distribution, or proportion.

Examples:

- *all, both, half, double, twice.*

Rules:

1. **All:** Refers to the whole quantity or group.
 - *All the students* passed the exam.
 - *All of the students* passed the exam.
2. **Both:** Refers to two items or people.
 - *Both of the books* are interesting.
 - *Both books* are interesting.
3. **Half:** Refers to a part of something.
 - *Half the time* was wasted.
 - *Half of the time* was wasted.
4. **Double, Twice:** Indicate multiplication or proportion.
 - *Double the amount* was paid.
 - *Twice the size* of the original.

6. Postdeterminers

Postdeterminers are words that come **after the main determiner** but **before the noun** in a noun phrase. They provide additional information about quantity, order, or specificity.

Types of Postdeterminers:

1. **Cardinal Numerals:** *one, two, three, etc.*
 - *The three books* were sold.
 - *My five apples* are fresh.
2. **Ordinal Numerals:** *first, second, third, etc.*
 - *The first chapter* is interesting.
 - *His last two novels* were bestsellers.

3. **General Ordinals:** *next, last, another, additional, etc.*

- *The next chapter* is exciting.
- *I need another book.*

4. **Quantifiers:** *many, few, several, much, little, etc.*

- *The many books* on the shelf are mine.
- *She has few friends* in the city.

7. Quantifiers

Quantifiers are words that indicate **quantity** or **amount**. They modify nouns and are used with count or non-count nouns, depending on their type.

Examples:

- *many, few, much, little, several.*

Rules:

1. **Many, Few, Several:** Used with plural count nouns.

- *Many books* were sold.
- *Few students* attended the lecture.
- *Several options* are available.

2. **Much, Little:** Used with non-count nouns.

- *Much furniture* was damaged.
- *Little time* was left.

3. **A Few, A Little:** Indicate a small quantity.

- *A few books* were left.
- *A little sugar* was added.

END OF the 1ST LECTURE /CHAPTER FOUR
