**5- Noun phrase**

**A noun phrase** is a group of words that consist of a noun (head-word) and one or more other words (determiners, quantifiers, modifiers), that come in a fixed order before (or after) the noun.

* my two sisters – both the students – the blue car – the president of the country

The entire noun phrase serves as a **noun** in the sentence, and therefore can function as:

*subject, object, subject complement, object complement, object of a preposition*

* **The idea of time travel** is fascinating.
* **A woman in the window** shouted for help.
* **One of our close relatives** never drinks **coffee**.
* They bought **a huge beautidul home**.
* She used **a lot of technical jargon** in **her explanation**.
* **The man in the brown suit** is **my uncle**
* We have never talked to **the neighbours upstairs**
* **This new government** will give **remote areas an opportunity for development.**

This table shows the basic structure of a noun phrase:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| quantifier | determiner | Adjective modifier | Noun modifier | Noun (head noun) | Other modifers  (ex : prepostional phrase…) |
|  | the | little | teenage | girls | At school |

**Modfiers** can be adjectives (*long, beautiful*), nouns (*denim, school*), compound adjectives(*10-story*),

Prepositional phrases (*with glasses*)

* I work in a 10-story building.
* It's a prize-winning film.
* It's a crime-related problem.
* The actor plays a long-haired, one-armed pirate in the movie.
* He is a serious, hardworking student.
* I bought a beautiful denim shirt.

Let’s explore further exmples of noun phrases with different types of modifiers and structures :

* Uruguay is situated in the heart of South America. It is surrounded by the enormous countries of Brazil, in the North and Argentina in the West, as well as the deep blue Atlantic Ocean in the East. The Oriental Republic of Uruguay, as it is formally known, provides a wealth of sights, sounds and smells, one can experience.
* The rich culture and magnificent beaches along the Atlantic coast have contributed to the expansion of the tourist industry in recent years. However, the main source of income for most of the residents of Uruguay comes from the stock- raising industry. This involves meat production and the export of live animals, wool and leather. The port cities of Salto and Paysanù on the River Plate are at the heart of this industry
* The armed forces provide protection from an invading army and from internal conflict ; they are also called upon to assist in international peacekeeping operation ; and they are used in civil emergencies after a national disaster. However, a professional army requires considerably more funding than a reserve army. The latter is only mobilized when needed and is therefore much cheaper. The armed forces may also harm a society if they are involved in counter-productive or merely unsuccessful warfare.
* ***Let’s practice*** : **Underline the noun phrases in the following sentences, state their function and analyse their structure.**
* An estimated turnout of 50000 demonstrators from all walks of life joined forces yesterday in the capital for an anti-government rally.
* Many local businesses kept their shops closed amid fears of attack or vendalism.
* We organized a sit-in in front of the embassy, but the police broke it up.
* Politicians from all sides were still engaging in a war of words over the scandal surrounding the MP’s expenses.
* I’m a spontaneous, happy-go-lucky, down-to-earth sort of person. My friends say I’m a real chatterbox, but maybe that’s because I’m truly passionate about people, ideas, life, etc. I’ll give anything a go, within reason !
* There’s nothing better than making a visit to your elementary school for reminding you of your best childhood memories.
* The decision by the team manager to leave key players on the bench and gamble on youth didn’t pay off in today’s match.
* The heavy and unexpected snowfall in recent day has had serious consequences.
* It was a last-minute decision, but we managed to get a cheap holiday in Tunisia.
* A broken home or deprived childhood needn’t have a deterimental effect on a person’s future.
* Some birds are in danger of losing their habitat.
* The African elephant is an endangered species.
* The numbers seeking asylum have increased recently.
* To apply for this position, you must first fill this job application form.
* The lifestyles of many indigenous groups have died out during the course of the 20th century.
* According to the United Nations’ population figures, the world’s population will be heading for 8.9 billion by the year2050.
* The contemporary economic climate is not helping the unemployment situation.
* The main point of the president’s speech was the need for economic reform.
* The failure to follow proper business practices led to the company’s bankruptcy.
* The hotel was slightly modified to accomodate people with special needs.
* The Olympic Games committe expressed their satisfaction with the progress of the preparation.
* Thousands of Natives Americans died from deseases brought to the New World by the Spanish invaders.
* The country’s southernmost region has become a popular holiday destination.
* Museums undoubtedly help preserve a country’s history and culture.
* There's a medical condition called "focal dystonia,» which is an abnormal muscle function
* caused by extreme concentration.
* I stand at the top of a steep, icy slope, plotting my every move down the course.