


# Noun Phrases

# KEY DEFINITIONS

- **NOUN**: the name of a person, place, or thing, etc.
  - PROPER, COMMON (the ...), COUNT (a/two ...-s), MASS (no a, no pl., some/the ...)
- **PRONOUN**: to stand in place of complete noun phrases (useful for substitution tests)
- **NOUN PHRASE**: centers around a noun (**HEAD**) that determines number and gender of the NP

# NP >> (substitutable for pronoun/s)

Ref: **SUBSTITUTION TEST** to determine identity of a **phrase** 

1. an extremely clever actor >>
2. an extremely clever actress >>
3. an extremely clever plan >> 
4. an extremely clever planner >>
5. two extremely clever plans >>

# NP >> internal structure

- Two extremely clever plans.



# NOUN PHRASE

***DETERMINATIVE***

***PREMODIFIER***

***HEAD***

***POSTMODIFIER***

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*the*

***hats***

*the*

***hats***

*silly*

***hats***

*the*

*silly red*

***clown hats***

*all the*

*silly red*

***clown hats***

*not quite almost all of the*

*silly red*

***clown hats***

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***hats***

*on the hatstand*

***hats***

*on the hatstand worn by the children*

***hats***

*on the hatstand that I knitted last week*

# BASIC NOUN PHRASE

**NP** = noun / pronoun (+ when it includes: *articles, possessive or demonstrative pronouns, numerals, or quantifiers*)

= **BASIC NOUN PHRASE.**

The closed-class elements before the head are called **DETERMINATIVES**;  
Determinatives can further be subdivided into:

- **pre-determiners** (*all, both, half, twice, double*)
- **determiners** (*articles, pronouns, some, any, each, every*)
- **post-determiners** (*numerals and quantifiers*).

# BASIC NOUN PHRASE

DETERMINATIVES: closed-class items			open-class item
PREDETERMINERS	DETERMINERS	POSTDETERMINERS	HEADS
all both half twice double	the, a, an my, your, his, her, their,... this, that,... whose some, any each, every	one, two, ... (cardinal numerals) first, second, ... (ordinal numerals) next, last, previous, ... (general numerals) many, much, few, little, another, other, ... (quantifiers)	nouns and pronouns

# COMPLEX NOUN PHRASE

Apart from determinatives, an NP can also include other elements, the so called MODIFIERS:

<b>closed-class items</b>	<b>open-class items</b>		
<b>DETERMINATIVE</b>	<b>PREMODIFIER</b>	<b>HEAD</b>	<b>POSTMODIFIER</b>
pre-determiners determiners post-determiners	adjectives nouns participles adverbs	noun pronoun	PP clauses adverbs ...



$S \gg NP + VP$ ; number, gender, head

- The man devouring the plums is grinning broadly.




- The comedy actress John met in the foyer seemed excited.

# SUBJECT AND PREDICATE

= the function of the 2 **sentence IMMEDIATE CONSTITUENT phrases** (i.e. the highest level phrases)

- S is used to introduce "something"; and P is used to say something about the S

**S + P ?? >>** 

- The ducks are paddling away.
- Those gigantic ducks were paddling away furiously.
- The mouth-watering duck on the table won't be paddling away again.

# SUBJECT QUESTION TEST

- turning the sentence into a YES-NO question; the S phrase changes position
  - The ducks are paddling away.

## **YES-NO questions >>**

- Those gigantic ducks were paddling away furiously.
- The mouth-watering duck on the table won't be paddling away again.

# YES-NO questions >>

1. It is snowing again.
2. There is nothing to eat.
3. Some nasty accident could have occurred.
4. The clown in the make-up room doesn't want to perform.
5. Elizabeth and Leicester are rowing on the river.
6. None of her attempts to give up chocolate were successful.
7. As a matter of fact, the man you paid to do it has been arrested.

# YES-NO questions >>

1. The clown refuses to perform.
2. Elizabeth excels at Real Tennis.
3. None of her attempts were really serious.
4. My new duck lays lightly boiled eggs.
5. Elizabeth and Leicester excel at Real Tennis.
6. The chiropodist fell in love with most of his patients.
7. The pianist rejected the chiropodist.