

Expanded Noun Phrases

A note to parents: An **expanded noun phrase** gives more detail or information about a noun in a simple noun phrase. This is usually done by adding adjectives to describe the noun in the noun phrase, for example:

She walked through the **dark, mysterious** forest.

In the example above, the expanded noun phrase is 'the dark, mysterious forest', the words 'dark' and 'mysterious' have been used to expand the noun phrase. They make writing more interesting as they help the reader to build an image in their mind.

Read the following sentences. Underline or circle the **expanded noun phrase** in each sentence.

1. The brightly-coloured parrot flew through the canopy.
2. After his lunch, Harold ate a sweet, delicious chocolate brownie.
3. Under the waves, the stripy fish swam quickly through the reef.
4. In a forest clearing, a dark, mysterious jaguar sauntered by the water.
5. "Pass me the blue shoes please," Mum asked Sophia.
6. As John sat at the bus stop, he saw three large, black cars go past.
7. "These strawberry yoghurts are out of date!" complained the customer in the shop.
8. "Whose is this writing pencil?" asked the teacher as she held it in the air.
9. When he reached the top, the climber stared at the vast, breath-taking view.
10. Happy and elated, the winning team held their trophy in the air.

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A note to parents: Another way to create an expanded noun phrase is to add a prepositional phrase to add further information about the noun and to enable the writing to be more efficient. For example, where it takes two sentences to say:

The man was sat on the bench. He was wearing a red hat.

We can write this more succinctly by expanding the noun phrase with:

The man **with the red hat** sat on the bench.

For further information on prepositional phrases, please see [this](#).

Read the following sentences. Underline or circle the **expanded noun phrase** in each sentence that has been expanded with a prepositional phrase.

1. Under the waves, the fish with the jagged fins swam swiftly through the reef.
2. The cat under the bush was drenched and shivering.
3. From the cave, a dragon with deadly claws came crashing out.
4. At the stables, Aisha chose to ride the horse with a black mane.
5. Charlie reached for the chocolates on the top shelf.
6. The wizard in the purple robe waved his magic wand and they all disappeared.
7. Jason had always known that the house adjacent to the park was occupied by witches.
8. "Please pass me the keys from the top drawer," Dad said to Brian.
9. Make sure you water the plant on the windowsill whilst we are gone.