

## Noun Phrase \ Determiners:

- **NP:** it is that phrase that contains the noun as its head. It can be occupied by a pro-form like, he, him, that, mine, wh-Q ...etc. it can take many functions like: S, O, C and Adv. **Ex:**

**The man** who put **that box** was **a stranger**. **He** did **that every day**. **He** was not **the university teacher** as **you** thought.

	<b>Form</b>	<b>function</b>
<b><u>The man</u></b>	NP	S
<b><u>that box</u></b>	NP	O
<b><u>a stranger</u></b>	NP	Cs
<b><u>He</u></b>	NP (pron)	S
<b><u>That</u></b>	NP (demonstrative pron.)	O
<b><u>every day</u></b>	NP	Adv
<b><u>the university teacher</u></b>	NP	Cs
<b><u>you</u></b>	NP (pron)	S
<b><u>you</u> thought</b>	finite clause	Cpre (or O of a pre. (as))

The noun and its phrase can be classified according to many criteria, like:

- Reference: proper n (Ali, Iraq, Asia....) . and common n (room, chair, water...).
- Tangibility: abstract n.(ex: happiness) and concrete n. (air, water)
- Countability: countable n (loaf, table). and uncountable n (bread, fish, air).
- Number: singular n (child, box). and plural (children, boxes).
- Gender: masculine n. (male like: man, father, king, uncle, bachelor, actor, bridegroom, duke. Emperor, god, hero, steward, host, waiter, widower, usher), feminine n. (female like: woman, aunt, queen, actress stewardess, spinster, lioness, bride, duchess, empress, goddess, heroine, waitress, widow, usherette, hostess), or neutral n (baby).

Also the NP can have many words inside it such as determiners and modifiers (adjectives or adverbs).

**DETERMINERS** are those words whose main role is to co-occur with a noun in its phrase to identify or determine who or what a noun refers to. They all occur before nouns in noun phrases. They are of three basic classes in an NP and all placed before the N:

## (Pre det- central det.- post det. )+ (N.)= NP

1- **Central determiners** occur before the noun they determine. They are like:

- articles (the, a, an)ex: a man, the lady..etc.
- possessive adjective. (my, your, her, his, our...) ex: their rooms, my room,..etc.
- relative pron. (whose, which)ex: whose car, which man...etc.
- wh-det. (whoever, whichever, whatever...etc)ex: whatever idea,
- wh-Q (what man?)
- negative det. (no, neither)ex: no idea, neither Ahmad...etc.
- some, ex: some cakes, some boys, some day (to mean a certain day)...etc.
- enough, ex: enough time, enough size...etc.
- demonstrative det. (this, those...etc) ex: that boy, these chairs...etc.
- universal (every, each) ex: every year, each team...etc.

2- **Pre determiner** occurs before the central determiner (if any). They are like:

- All, both, half, ex: half my possessions, both my eyes. (of) can occur in these ones, like: half of my possessions, both of my eyes.
- Multipliers like: double, twice, three times...etc. ex: double their salaries, twice this amount...etc.
- The fractions: ex: third the time –(or third of the time).

3- **Post determiners:** they occur after the central determiner before the noun.

They are like:

- Cardinal number: 0, one, two,...etc. ex: the two plans.
- Ordinal numerals: first, second,...etc, further, last, next, past, another, other, additional...etc. ex: the first two plans.
- Quantifiers: such as: many much, plenty (of), a lot of, lots of, a good deal of, quantity of, amount of, great number of, pieces of, spoonful of medicine...etc.  
ex:
- Their many ideas were unbelievable. A great deal of attention, a bit information.

### A NOTE:

1- **(the)** is a definite article used with countable and uncountable nouns to refer to:

- a specific thing, mentioned earlier (I find a book. The book was hers.),
- body parts when being one only (the nose- \*a nose) but if two: (the leg or- a leg),

- superlative degrees of adjectives (the best, the most beautiful),
- known between people (general knowledge) as in: the prime minister.
- the+ adj= plural- ex: the Japanese are...., the poor are.....
- the +abstract adj= (no np) ex: the happy....

**(a or an)** is indefinite article used to refer to things unknown or mentioned for the first time.

**(zero art)** where there is no article at all, is used to refer to a general thing of a class (Tigers are dangerous), seasons (winter, summer), meals (have breakfast), times of the day (at morning).

2-the noun can be a derived one that ends in: -tion, sion, ness, ance, ence, ty, al, ment, age, ee, ing, er, or, ist, cy, th, let, ship, dom, ism, hood, -ese.

## References

**Quirk, Randolph and Greenbaum, Sidney. 1992. *A University Grammar of English*. London: Longman Group Ltd.**