



Teaching Tricky Grammar: Expanding Noun Phrases

Takeaways from the video:

- A concise explanation of different ways to expand noun phrases
- Use of grammar terminology including noun, noun phrase and prepositional phrase
- Teaching and learning examples that can be easily replicated for use with pupils

Press Pause Questions:

Slide 3

A noun phrase is a group of words that behave as a noun.

Which of the following are noun phrases?

- a fluffy, white kitten
- the wobbly, old table
- the gingerbread man
- the old football by the shed
- those cars in the street

Slide 3

Adding adjectives is not the only way to expand a noun phrase.

Can you spot the other word classes that have been used to expand the noun phrases?

- The very tall **tower**
- The tall church **tower**

Slide 12

How could you expand this noun phrase?

The very tall church tower with...

Putting it into Practice

Provide children with different nouns (e.g. cat, dog, boys, girl) or noun phrases (e.g. a cat, the dog, some boys, those girls) and ask them to expand the noun phrases. This activity can be made more challenging by including rules such as 'the noun phrase should include two adjectives', or 'the noun phrase should include information after the noun' etc.

Ask children to identify the noun phrases in a model text. Depending on the examples in the text, this could be extended by asking children to sort the noun phrases into categories e.g. noun phrases that are expanded before the noun and noun phrases that are expanded after the noun.

Provide children with a text where the noun phrases have all been formed in the same way (e.g. two adjectives and a noun). Ask them to work in pairs to edit the passage so that the noun phrases are formed in a variety of ways. Encourage children to talk about their amendments and how they have improved the text.

Review Question

Provide children with authentic opportunities to apply a range of noun phrases in writing. E.g. ask children to write tourist guides for places of interest so that they can create expanded noun phrases to convey a lot of detailed information.