

Linguistic levels of structure

Sound



Phoneme

ð i: z b j u: t ə f ŭ l w i m i n s ə d w i: w ɜ: t r u: m ɛ n

Morpheme

These beauti-ful women said we were true men

Word

These beautiful women said we were true men

Phrase

These beautiful women said: "We were true men."

Clause

C(These beautiful women said: "C(We were true men.)")

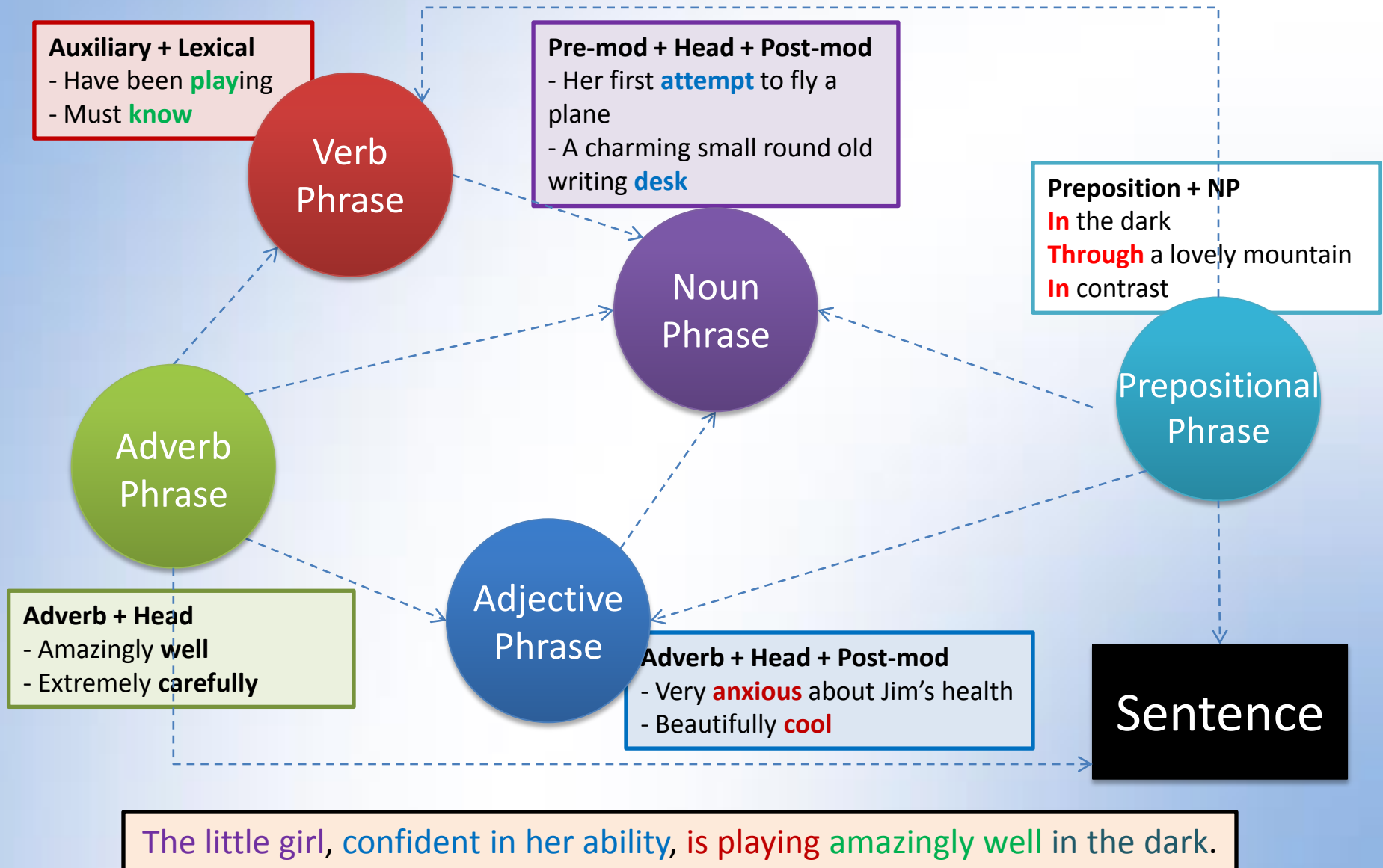
Sentence

These beautiful women said: "We were true men."

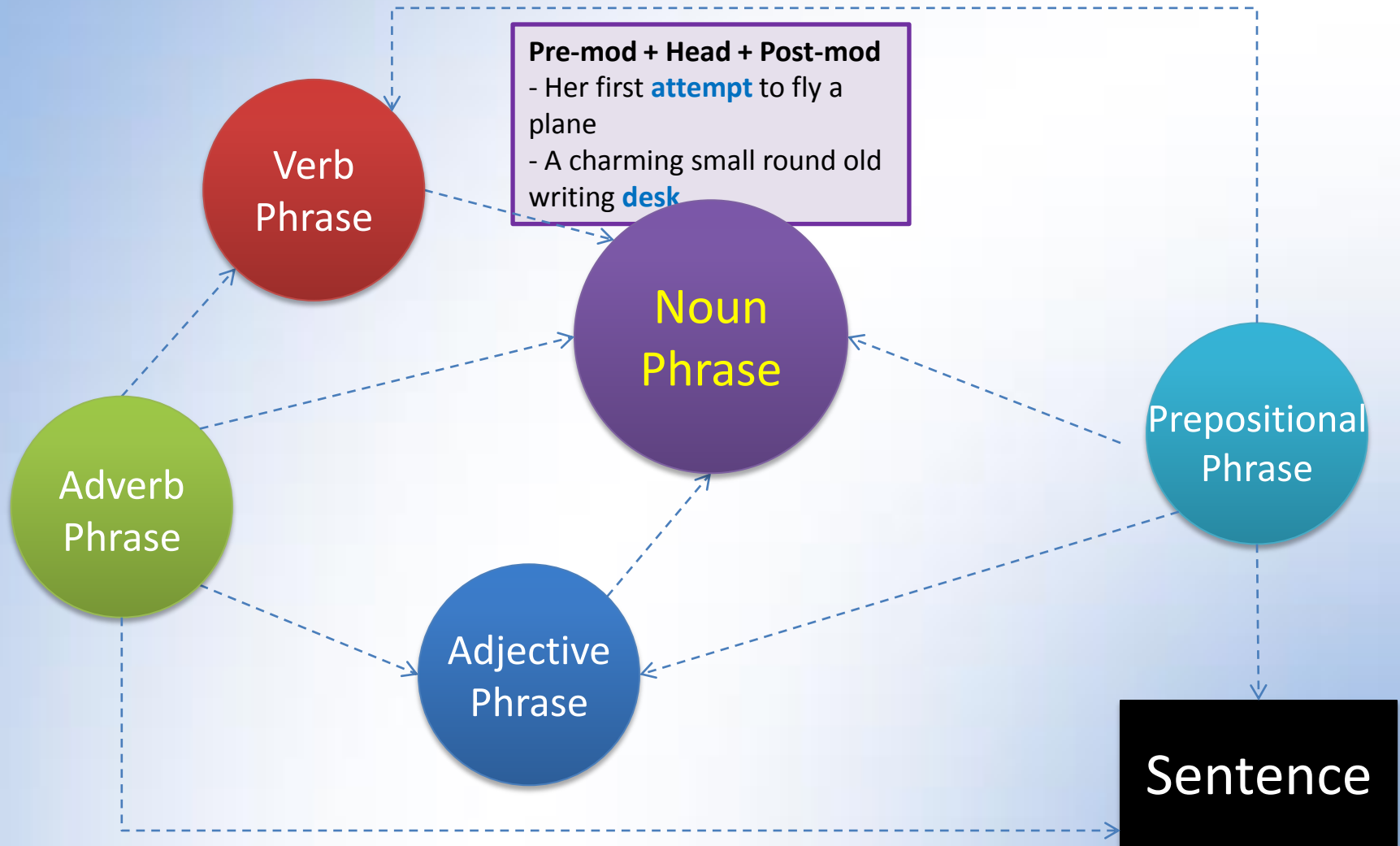
Meaning

?

Types of phrase



Types of phrase



The little girl, confident in her ability, is playing amazingly well in the dark.

Structure of N phrase

Pre-modification
(Optional)

Head
(Required)

Post-modification
(Optional)

PIQAN

Adjective phrase

Adverb phrase

Relative clause

Non-finite clause

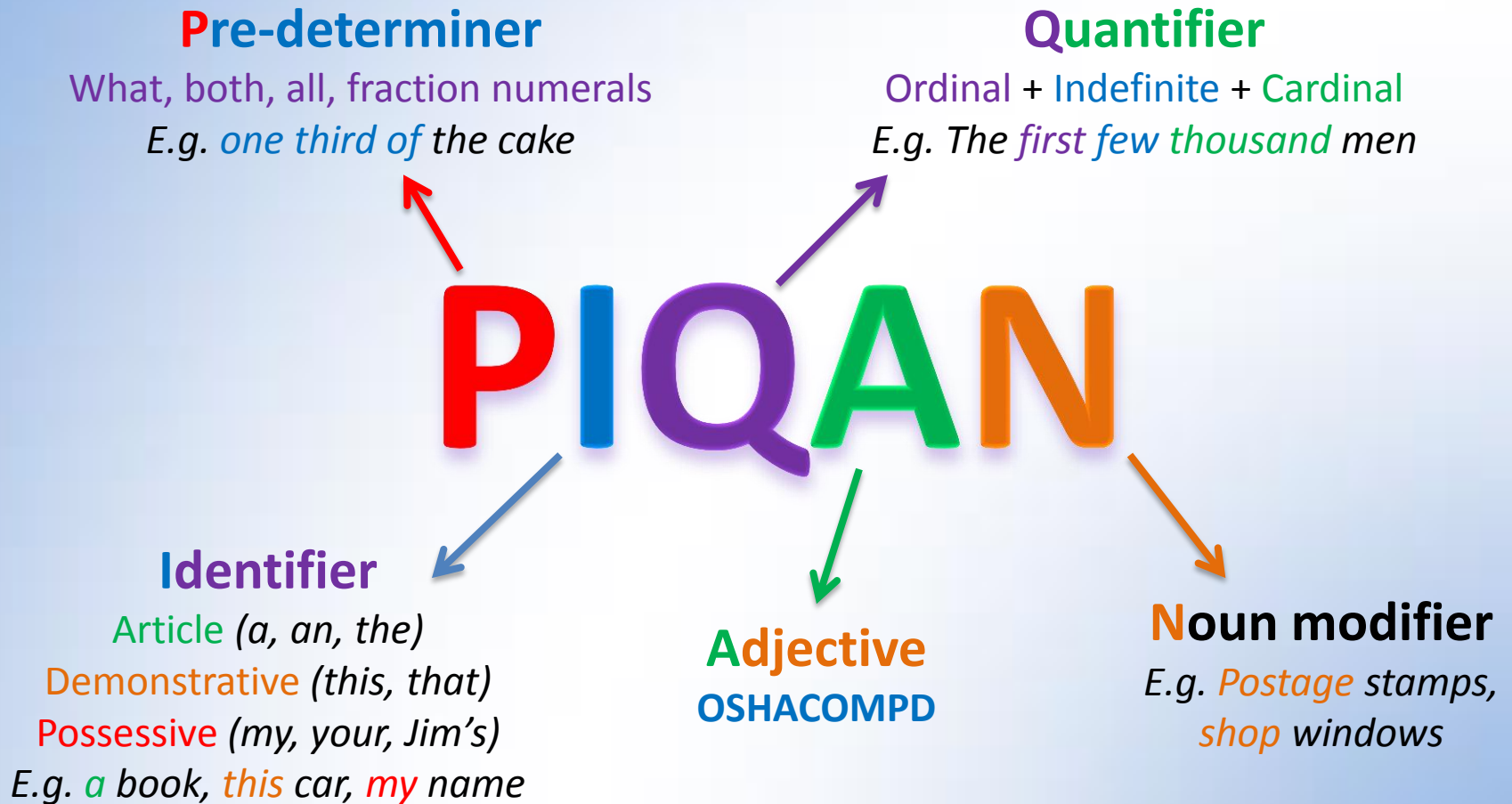
Prepositional phrase

All these 5 charming country

cottages

around that lake

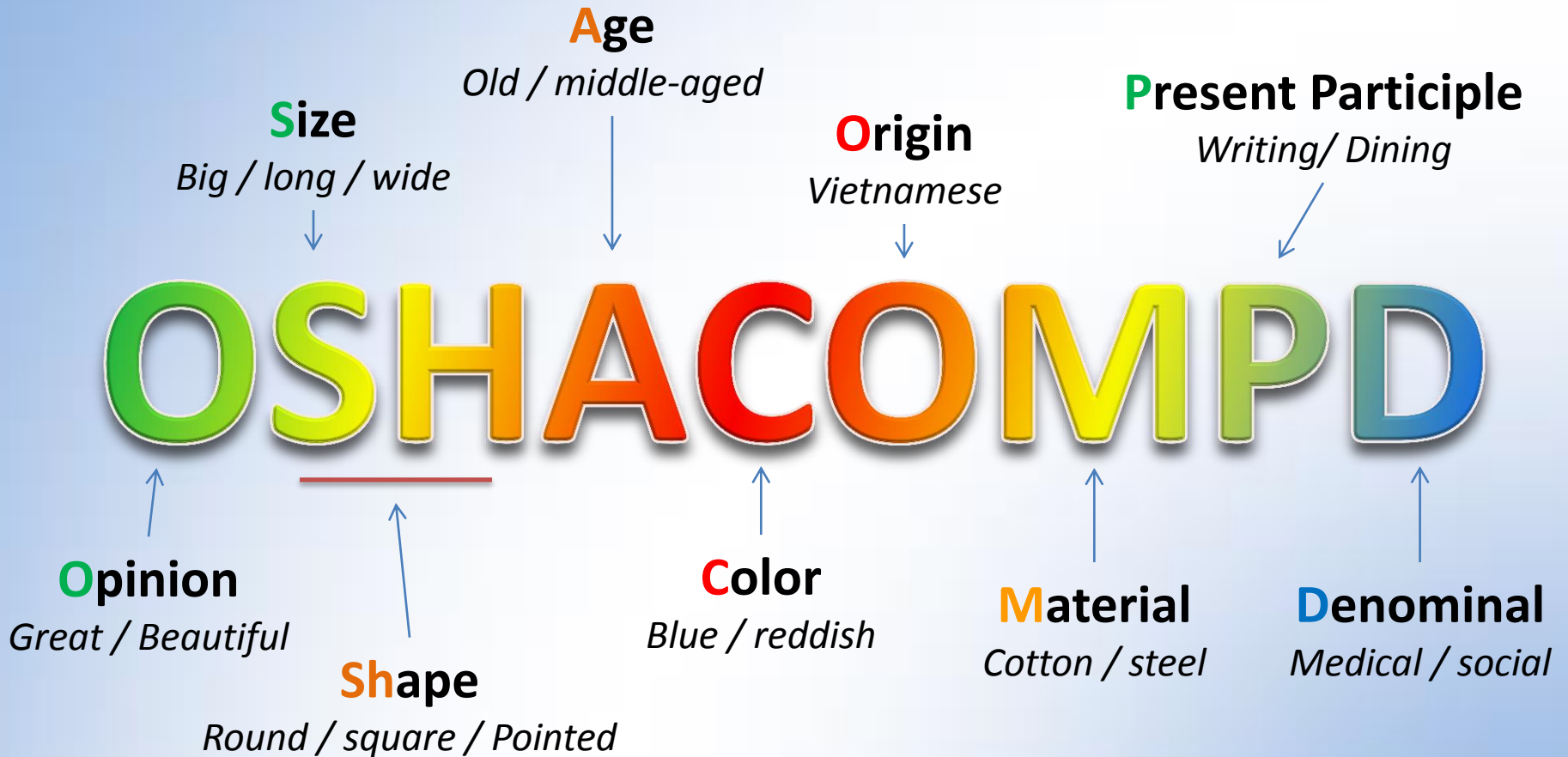
Pre-modification



One third of my first few thousand beautiful cable cars

- What are wrong in these phrases?
 - Her little first attempt
 - Those all fifty stamps postage
 - The very many very long enquiries
 - Half my very little time
 - Five first champagne green bottles
 - A my twenty few first racing cars
 - Two of Jim's 2000 first biggest companies
 - A great and brave first Ninja Warrior

Pre-modification – PIQAN



Your first three beautiful long pointed ancient blue Vietnamese steel writing sticks
Your baby's last five very cute and adorable sleeping facial expressions

Pre-modification – Simple version



Your first three beautiful long pointed ancient blue Vietnamese steel sport sticks

- What are wrong in these phrases / sentences?
 - What a lovely big chicken!
 - Hold that little stupid young man!
 - Three old amazingly nice sleeping little beasts
 - Five first fastest steel made-in-China racing cars
 - It is my great first honor to serve you.
 - That is the most fantastic medical Japanese world record.
 - Do you see my old blue little nice T-shirt?

- What are wrong in these phrases / sentences?
 - Who owns that big very cool reddish long ancient house?
 - Think about a cheaper narrower better smaller darker kitchen.
 - Draw your three last biggest reddish rectangular oval on that super-thin clean sheet of paper.
 - Who loves this old very easy and simple lesson on noun phrases?

Post-modification – Adjective, Adverb

Pre-modification (Optional)

Noun (Required)

Post-modification (Optional)

The fastest

man

alive

Somebody

brave

Something

strange

Something

very strange about him

Adjective post-modification is found usually with *indefinite pronouns* as head

Blood

royal

Heir

apparent

Adjectives do not normally come after nouns, except in a few *set phrases*

The

room

above

The

room

above us

The nice

time

before

The nice

time

before this one

The nice

time

right before this one

Adverb post-modification is more common than adjective one. Typically, it can be regarded as *reduction of a prepositional phrase*.

Post-modification – Relative clause

Pre-modification (Optional)	Noun (Required)	Post-modification (Optional)
The	man	who came here yesterday
	He	who hesitates
	Somebody	(who) you know
	Something	(that) you know
The	lady	whose car was stolen
The	car	whose windows were broken
The	car	the windows of which were broken
The most expensive	clothes	(that) she can afford
More	clothes	than I buy in a year

A relative clause is a full clause, one of whose members consists of a relative pronoun as head, which refers back to the **head** noun or a **pre-modifier** of the noun phrase in which it occurs as a post-modifier.

Post-modification – Non-finite clause

Pre-modification (Optional)	Noun (Required)	Post-modification (Optional)
The	man	to answer this question (= who should answer this question)
The	car	coming down the road (= which is coming down the road)
The	man	to ask about the question (= who you should ask about the question)
	Someone	knowing the circumstances (= who knows the circumstances)
The	woman	expected to arrive at any moment (= who is expected to arrive at any moment)

Non-finite clauses are clauses usually without subjects, introduced by a non-finite form of the verb. There are 3 kinds: infinitive clause, present participle clause, and past participle clause.

Post-modification – Prepositional phrase

Pre-modification (Optional)	Noun (Required)	Post-modification (Optional)
The	boy	after me (= who is after me)
The	woman	in the queue on the boat (= who is in the queue on the boat)
The	Newspaper	as a propaganda instrument (= which is used as a propaganda instrument)
The	man	of the hour (= who is the focus of the hour)
The	girl	with freckles

The most frequently occurring kind of post-modifier in a noun phrase is a prepositional phrase.

Post-modification – Summary

Pre-modification
(Optional)

Noun
(Required)

Post-modification
(Optional)

The

boy

who is standing behind me



standing behind me



behind me



behind

The

cow

which is grazing in the meadow



grazing in the meadow



in the meadow

In brief, **relative clause** is the **main kind of post-modifier** in a noun phrase and **other kinds** are often **reductions** of relative clauses.

Small tests

- Identify noun phrases in these sentences:
 - She buys more expensive clothes in a month than I buy in a year.
 - The first to come is the last to leave.
 - Speak to me first, before you do anything.
 - He has two daughters from his very first marriage and a son from his second.
 - I was first in the queue so I think I should be served first.

- Identify noun phrases in these sentences:
 - The lecture is the first in a series that will be presented at the university.
 - First, let's go around the room and introduce ourselves to all the audience.
 - What an incredibly slow car!
 - I don't know that that THAT modifies that THAT.
 - I don't understand that THAT that that THAT modifies.

- Analyze these sentences:
 - Wow, this damned thing is so cool.
 - What a lovely skeleton! You are so damned lucky to have it!
 - Don't be so anxious about your future. Don't be anxious about anything you don't have.
 - Because of you, we'll wait for the bus not for a long time, but FOREVER.
 - After they had visited the British Museum, the twenty little foreign visitors made their way quickly to the Houses of Parliament.

Small test

- Build your own N phrases (as many and as long as possible) from the given words
 - Our, hope, things, improving, trouble, glasses, coming, another, story, Cairo, every, day, swimming, perfectly, simple, legal, effective, way, water, filtering, of, about, in

(Note that the same word can be reused several times)

Any question?

