

**CHAPTER - 6****Pre and Post Modifiers in the Noun Phrase**

**Look at the following sentences.**

- (i) Flowers are beautiful.
- (ii) **The red flowers** are beautiful.
- (iii) **The red flowers in the pot** are beautiful.
- (iv) They are beautiful.

In sentence (i) ‘flowers’ is the subject and it is a single word. In sentence, (ii) we have added some more words ‘the red’ before ‘flowers’ and in sentence (iii) we have added still more words to ‘flowers’ ‘in the pot’, which follow it. These words add some extra meaning to ‘flowers’ which is the head word. In other words they modify the meaning of the head noun ‘flowers’. Words used before the head noun ‘the red’ are called **Pre-modifiers** and those following it ‘in the pot’ are called **Post-modifiers**. The head noun along with the pre- and post-modifiers is called the Noun Phrase.

In sentence (iv) (the pronoun) ‘they’ replaces ‘the red flowers in the pot’. So a pronoun ‘they’ is also a noun phrase.

**Remember :**

- (a) Noun phrases may have single words e.g., ‘flowers’, ‘they’ as in sentences (i) and (iv).
- (b) They may have only pre modifiers. e.g. ‘**The red flowers**’.
- (c) They may have only post-modifiers, e.g., ‘flowers **in the pot**’. or
- (d) They may have both the pre-and the post-modifiers, e.g., ‘**The red flowers in the pot**’.

**B. Pre-modifiers of the Noun Phrase.**

**Read the following and see the kind of words we can use as pre-modifiers in a noun phrase.**

- (i) Articles : a flower, **an** orange, **the** elephant.
- (ii) Demonstratives : **this** / **that** elephant, **these** / **those** elephants.
- (iii) Numerals : **one** child, **three** seasons, the **first** child, the **third** season.
- (iv) Quantifiers : **many** flowers, **some** books, **a few** children, **much** / **a little** water.
- (v) Possessives : **Ram's** shirt, **my** friend, **their** house.
- (vi) Distributives : **each** man, **every** town, **either** book, **neither** pen.
- (vii) Multipliers : **double** the number, **twice** the quantity, **one-third** people.
- (viii) Wh-words : **Whose** book, **which** class.

All the above pre-modifying class of words are called **determiners**.

In addition to the determiners, an **adjective**, a **participle** and **another noun** can also be the part of the pre-modifiers in a noun phrase.

- (ix) Adjective : The **white** goats, a **black** cat.
- (x) Participle : a **running** train, **trained** workers.
- (xi) Noun : a **brick** house, a **table** cloth.

The usual pattern of a Noun Phrase is determiners + adjective + noun head + post modifiers.

**Activity 1 :**

Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with suitable pre-modifiers. You can choose the pre-modifiers from those in the brackets.

(story, two, the, some, a, different, friend's, my, happy)

There was \_\_\_\_\_ fair going on near \_\_\_\_\_ village. I went to my \_\_\_\_\_ house and called him. We went to \_\_\_\_\_ fair together. We went round the \_\_\_\_\_ stalls in \_\_\_\_\_ fair. I bought \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ books.

My friend bought \_\_\_\_\_ toys one for his nephew and another for his niece.  
We came back home in the evening. It was a very \_\_\_\_\_ experience for us.

### C. Post-modifiers of the Noun Phrase.

You have learnt that post-modifiers follow the head noun in the noun phrase. The post-modifier may be an adjective, an adverb, a prepositional phrase, a non-finite or a finite clause.

- (i) Adjectives :
  - (a) There is something **odd** about him.
  - (b) I can see something **bright** in the sky. ‘odd’ and ‘bright’ are adjectives.
- (ii) Adverbs :
  - (a) People **outside** started shouting.
  - (b) The weather **today** is fine.  
‘**Outside**’ is an adverb of place and ‘today’ is an adverb of time. They follow the nouns ‘people’ and ‘weather’ respectively and modify them.
- (iii) Prepositional Phrases :
  - (a) People **in general** love Gandhi.
  - (b) She is a girl **from our village**.  
‘In general’ and ‘from our village’ are prepositional phrases and modify ‘people’ and ‘girl’ respectively.
- (iv) Non-finite clauses :
  - (a) Did you meet the man **sitting in the corner** ?  
‘Sitting in the corner’ is a non-finite clause in the present participle form and it modifies ‘man’.
  - (b) The book **kept on the table** is mine.  
‘**Kept on the table**’ is a non-finite clause in the past participle form and it modifies ‘book’.

(v) Finite clauses :

(a) We helped the girl, **who was new in our class.**

(b) People **who work hard** succeed in life.

The nouns 'girl' and 'people' in the above sentences are modified by the finite clauses in italics respectively.

**Activity 2 :**

Fill in the blanks choosing the post-modifiers from those given in brackets.

(nearby, sitting in the gallery, in colourful jerseys, posted around the field, in general, kept for the winners, who acted as the referee.)

Boys of our school love to play football \_\_\_\_\_. So we arranged a football match in the field \_\_\_\_\_. The players entered the field. The children \_\_\_\_\_ encouraged the players. A teacher \_\_\_\_\_ conducted the game. The linesman \_\_\_\_\_ helped him. The trophy \_\_\_\_\_ was given away after the match.

