

CHAPTER - 5

The Noun Phrase



Read the following :

Coconut is a tall tree.

I can see many beautiful flowers.

The black dog is sick.

In the above sentences a tall tree, many beautiful flowers, the black dog are noun phrases (NP).

Sometimes nouns used as single words are also called noun phrases.

We live in houses.

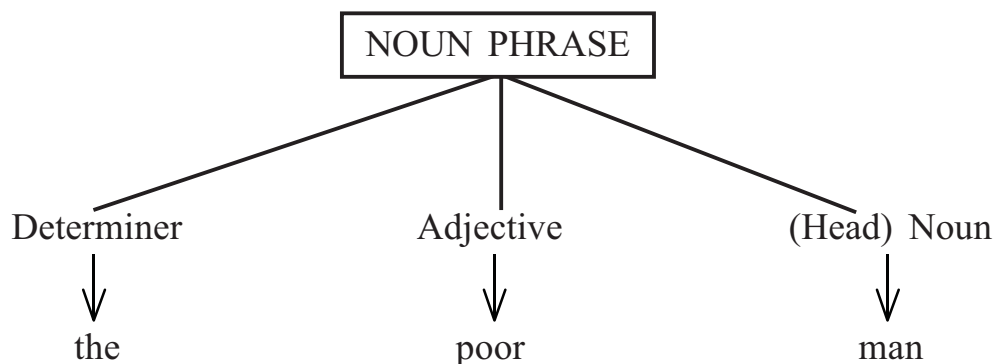
Trees are useful to us.

Let's know more about the different elements of a noun phrase.

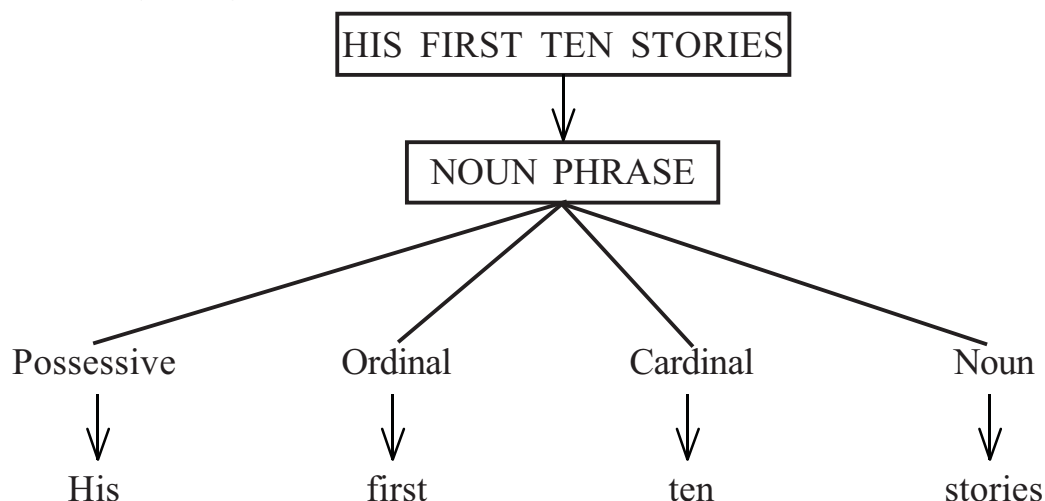
The poor man is hungry.

Now read the sentence. In the Noun Phrase 'The poor man', the word 'poor' is between the determiner and the head noun. This word tells us about the quality of the head noun 'man'. So we call it an **Adjective**. This Noun Phrase has **three main elements**.

Look at the following diagram to know the order of the **three main elements** in the Noun Phrase 'the poor man'.



See the diagram given below :



(one, two, three etc are called **cardinals**; **first, second, next, last**, etc. are **ordinals**; many, much, few, a few, little, a little, each, every are quantifiers.)

Study the following sentence :

Many extremely beautiful pictures are here. Here in the structure of the **Noun Phrase**, the **quantifier** (e.g. **many**) is followed by an **adjective phrase** (e.g. **extremely beautiful**), in this **adjective phrase**, the **adjective** goes with the **intensifier** 'extremely'.

Consider the following Noun Phrases :

- (a) A science college
- (b) A stone building
- (c) All the boys
- (d) Half of my fancy hats

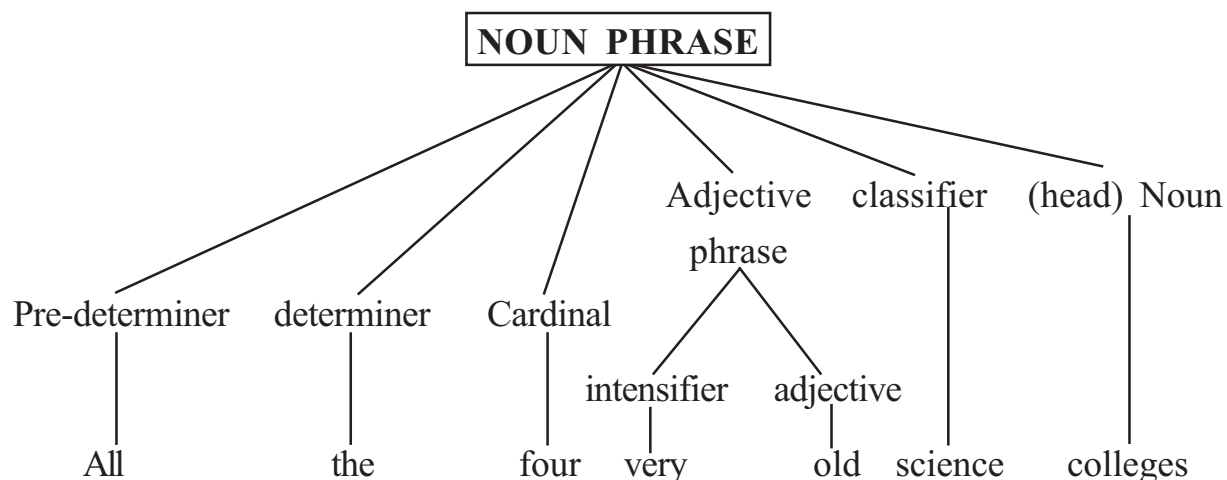
The underlined elements in **a** and **b** Noun phrases in the above examples are known as **classifiers**. A **classifier** is a noun which functions as an **adjective**.

In **c** and **d** Noun phrases in the above examples, the underlined elements are known as **Pre Determiners**. They come before the determiner in a Noun Phrase. You will learn more about determiners in the next chapter.

Look at the following tree diagram. Mark the position of the elements in the Noun Phrase :

Example :

All the four very old science colleges.



Note that all these pre-determiners have ‘**of**’ constructions which are **optional** with **nouns** and **obligatory** (compulsory) with **personal** pronouns.

Look at the following list :

‘Of’ Optional with Nouns

- all (of) the boys
- both (of) the players
- half (of) the time

‘Of’ Obligatory with personal pronouns

- all of them
- both of us
- None of them / you
- half of it.

Activity 1 :

Spot the Noun Phrases in the following sentences. Then identify the determiners.

1. That silly donkey is away.
2. Those people are busy.
3. Have pity on the starving child.
4. All of you can do the sum.
5. The little girl is always talking.
6. He has one sister and two brothers.

7. I heard his first three words.
8. All these four empty bottles are here.
9. Mary's mother is dead but her father is still alive.
10. Which colour do you like, red or green ?

Activity 2 :

Rearrange the words to make a Noun Phrase.

1. first, books, his, ten
2. big, the, boys, three
3. the, planes, five, first
4. her, sarees, beautiful, all
5. nice, a, movie, very
6. very, boys, innocent, young
7. famous, seven, schools, those, music
8. old, the, man, silly

Activity 3 :

Draw tree diagrams showing the different elements of the following Noun Phrases :

1. All boys
2. All the boys
3. Each of the students
4. A ripe red fruit
5. Those strange stories

Activity 4 :

Complete the Noun Phrases by filling in the blanks with suitable words.

1. ——— ——— picnic
2. ——— ——— house
3. all ——— ——— boys
4. the ——— ——— books
5. our ——— ——— teacher