

Noun Phrases

Part A

Read the sentences below. Underline the nouns and circle the adjectives describing each noun.

1. The girl's smile was bright and cheerful.
2. The carpet was old and smelly.
3. Happily, the girl played with the colourful and metallic spinning top.
4. Haggard and tired, the witch fell asleep.
5. Below the great, blue mountain, the trees grew tall.
6. The teacher's singing ability was questionable but her exciting and enthusiastic performance made up for it.

Noun Phrases

Part B

1. Find examples of noun phrases in the first two chapters.
2. What effect do the noun phrases have on the description?
3. How has the author's word choices created a picture in your head?

★ Challenge Task ★

Why has the author chosen the noun phrases he has used? What would happen if he had chosen different ones?

Noun Phrases Answers

Part A

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Part B

1. Find examples of noun phrases in the first two chapters.

Example answers:

- *Beautiful house*
- *Perfect life*
- *Terrible thing*
- *Enormous angry rhinoceros*
- *Gentle parents*
- *Vast unfriendly world*
- *Small suitcase*

2. What effect do the noun phrases have on the description?

- *The authors choice of words gives more detail and description but they also give very specific details such as steel-rimmed glasses.*

3. How has the author's word choices created a picture in your head?

- *It really helps me picture them in my mind.*

Challenge Task

Why has the author chosen the noun phrases he has used? What would happen if he had chosen different ones?

The author has chosen the words for a particular reason. He might often have tried other words first but then decided on new ones. If the author used different words, the description would have been slightly different, perhaps with an emphasis on a slightly different part of the image.