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What are the functions of a noun phrase

A noun phrase is a word or group of words that can function as the subject, the object, or the complement in a sentence.The manager interviewed all the applicants on Tuesday.Lydia was the successful applicant.See Direct and indirect objects and Complements for more information about these functions. A noun phrase must always contain a noun or a pronoun.A noun phrase may consist of only one word. That word will be either a noun or a pronoun.Mary left late.She left late.Cheese is expensive.It is expensive.A noun phrase may consist of more than one word. One of these words, a noun or a pronoun, is the headword. The other words describe or modify the headword.the tall girlthe very tall girla strikingly beautiful girlthe tall girl with green eyesWords that go before the headword are called premodifiers. A noun can be premodified by:a determiner. See Determiners.the girlthat boya spidersome riceone or more adjectives. See Determiners, The indefinite article, The definite article, Nouns used without a determiner, Demonstratives, Possessives, Quantifiers, Numbers, Distributives, Exclamatives, Noun phrases with several determiners, Adjectives and Comparison.tall girristall dark girristall dark handsome mena number, another noun, or the present participle or past participle of a verb.three daysthe railway station buffetan annoying habitan overworked manWords that go after the headword are called postmodifiers. A noun can be postmodified by:a prepositional phrase (a noun phrase with a preposition in front of it).the person in the cornerthe view across the valleythe house opposite the churchcreatures under the sea subordinate clause (usually one beginning with who, which or that). See Subordination.All the women who had gathered there finally went away.Milk that has been kept too long can go sour.less commonly, certain adjectives. See Determiners.the princess royalthe president electPersonal pronouns are only rarely premodified or postmodified. See Personal pronouns, PreviousNext New from Collins A noun can be defined as a word that is used to name a person, place, animal, or thing. It can also name a state, an activity, an action, or a quality.What is the grammatical function of a noun?The work that a noun performs in a sentence is referred to as its grammatical function. In this article, we are going to take a detailed look at the five grammatical functions of nouns.A noun can perform any of the following five functions:Subject of a verb Object of a verb Complement of a verb Object of a preposition Be in apposition to another noun Let us now take a look at the functions above one by one.Noun functioning as the subject of a verbA noun will function as the subject of a verb when it is the subject of the sentence and comes before the main verb of the sentence. More often than not, the noun will begin the sentence.Example: Stacy killed a snake last night. (Here, the noun "Stacy" is functioning as the subject of the verb "killed.")Other examples are as follow:John teaches English in China. Children can be very naughty sometimes. Obama was voted President. The politician is a liar. All of the highlighted nouns in the sentences above are functioning as subjects to their respective verbs. They function as subjects of verbs simply because they come before the main verbs in the sentences and are also the subjects in their respective sentences.Noun functioning as an object of a verbA noun functions as an object of a verb when it comes after an action verb and receives the action of the verb. A noun functioning as an object of a verb in a sentence will always be the recipient of an action.Example: Tom slapped Jerry. (Here, since the noun "Jerry" is coming after the action verb "slapped" and receiving the action of the verb, we say it is the object of the verb "slapped.")More examples:I kicked the ball. I hate Janet. The teacher punished the students. I wrote the letter. I know London because I have been there several times. Roberta cooked the food. All of the highlighted words in the sentences above are nouns functioning as objects of verbs. They are functioning as objects of their respective verbs simply because they are the recipients of the actions of their verbs.Noun functioning as the complement of a verbA noun will function as the complement of a verb when it comes after a linking verb or a state-of-being verb and receives no action from the verb. Some examples of linking verbs in the English language include the following: is, am, be, are, was, were, been, being, seem, taste, appoint, become, feel, smell, sound, appear, etc.Example: John is a liar. (Here, the noun "liar" is functioning as the complement of the verb "is.")Other examples of nouns functioning as complements of verbs:The man is a trader. I was a teacher while living in China. John is the winner. Our friends from Pakistan were the losers. I think it is an animal. Phil Collins is a legendary musician. All highlighted nouns in the sentences above are functioning as complements of their respective linking verbs.Noun functioning as the object of a prepositionWhen a noun functions as the object of a preposition, it comes after a preposition in a sentence. By definition, any noun that comes immediately after a preposition is the object of that preposition. For example "John" is the object of the preposition "to" in this sentence: I gave the book to John.We can therefore say that the noun "John" is functioning as the object of the preposition "to."Now that we have a good understanding as to what a noun functioning as the object of a preposition looks like, let us take a look at some more examples below.I interceded for the boy. I will buy books for the children today when I visit the bookstore. I have to give it to the teacher. Let us go with John. I trust in God. It is not mine; it is for the landlord. From the examples above, you can see that each of the nouns highlighted come after prepositions thereby making them objects of their respective prepositions.Noun being in apposition to another nounThis is the last but not least grammatical function of a noun. A noun can be in apposition to another noun. By definition, the word "apposition" means putting a noun next to another noun to explain it. So each time you see a noun placed next to another noun and that noun is explaining the other noun, then you have a good example of a noun being in apposition to another noun.For example: The footballer, Suarez has been suspended. (Here, you notice that two nouns have been put next to each other, namely "footballer" and "Suarez". Now, you notice that the noun "Suarez" can be used to replace "footballer" and it also gives some information about the other noun "footballer". So we can say the noun "Suarez" is in apposition to the noun "footballer")Other examples include the following:The nurse, Janet has retired. His book, Animal Farm, is considered one of the greatest books ever written. The pastor, Elijah, has been arrested. My hometown, Manchester, is a wonderful place. All the highlighted nouns in the sentences above are nouns being in apposition to the nouns coming before them.I hope that having read from the beginning of this article to the end, you now have at least a rudimentary idea what the functions of nouns are and what each of them looks like. If you still haven't gotten it yet, I suggest that you read over this article once more. I believe that the understanding will definitely start trickling in gradually.Let us now try our hands on the following examples below and see if we can identify the grammatical functions of the highlighted nouns in the sentences:I hate travelling to my hometown. John performed very well in the exams. Don't waste your precious time on John. The President supported the action. The strike lasted for more than a week. Democracy gives power to the people. The fox jumped over the wall. He is a professor. The country, Sweden, is very peaceful. It was written by George Orwell. NOTE: The grammatical function of a noun is very similar to the grammatical function of a pronoun. Remember, pronouns behave just like nouns—wherever a noun can be placed, a pronoun can also be placed there and eliminate the noun. This is the reason why grammarians say that pronouns can also perform all of the five grammatical functions of the noun. You can read our lesson on the grammatical functions of pronouns here: Functions of Pronouns. I actually recommend you read that lesson also.CommentsDestiny Solomon on July 07, 2020:NiceAlok Kumar Pandey on April 29, 2020:Thanks this is really help full for me Abakar malam on January 28, 2020:I don't have any comment jost I say thanks you very much bye byemalik on January 25, 2020:very goodEsther on January 13, 2020:Well understood, thank you.Ayoub Chouker on December 18, 2019:Thanks! this was really helpful to me.Abdulwasit Adeniyi on November 18, 2019:So helpful to me thank you.malls on November 17, 2019:where's the answer of the highlight?alex Gadriel on November 05, 2019:thank it have been useful yo meAmeenah Adeyinka on October 22, 2019:Perfect ExplanationThanks it helps alot on October 16, 2019:Thanks it helps alot.Md dual hosen on August 20, 2019:Very helpfulMaureen on June 04, 2019:Well understood.More grease to your elbowLilian on April 16, 2019:Thanks for enlighten meKofi Karikari on April 07, 2019:Abdo. " a tongue " is a noun phrase and it functions as an object of the verb "speak"Anomonus Chinchilla on February 05, 2019:weird but good.YOUNG LORD on January 30, 2019:Thanks To This Site I Have Done My AssigmentAbdo on January 23, 2019:Thank youWhat is the function of " *a tongue* " in this sentence : I would like to speak *a tongue* fleuntly.Mary on December 23, 2018:It's verry helpful to me,thank you.wayil lucky paul on November 08, 2018:a grammatical function of a noun is very similar to the grammatical function of a pronoun.praise on November 02, 2018:It is tooo big n long but good n helpful gud jobJohn Ababio on October 17, 2018:It is helpful to me ,thanks Joy on October 15, 2018:Thank for ur assistance keep it upChristian Nyadie on October 03, 2018:Good work done keep it upEmma on October 01, 2018:Thanks for your surport. I love that!0242501852 on September 26, 2018:Thanks for helping me finish my assignmentOdo Michael on September 19, 2018:thanks for given me some knowledgehere .Pweety Rahhola on September 13, 2018:Thanks u very muchvesterchy on August 05, 2018:it is wonderful I luv it!at on July 30, 2018:ls educative thanksLOHDAP JINAN on July 09, 2018:Good one, hoping for more update.Shokorna on July 03, 2018:Thanks a lotRoyal on April 14, 2018:It really helped thanks a lotTDM on April 10, 2018:thanks (* *)evans ofosu prah on February 22, 2018:thank you very much that was really helpful. Hope you update us moregoodness on February 20, 2018:That was really helpful! Thanks alot!Diana No on February 11, 2018:Thanks for your kindness, this is a nice site for teachers and studentsReggi on January 11, 2018:Thanks :3 now I have an assignment (XD)lontis bienvevue on November 13, 2017:very useful thank youjohn dandia on October 01, 2017:this is a nice site for teachers and studentsKatina Davenport from Michigan on June 29, 2014:This reminds me of what I teach my daughter in homeschool

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