

Expanding a Noun Phrase

A noun is a person, place, thing or idea. Here is a simple noun phrase: some dormice.

An expanded noun phrase tells us more about the noun by adding information. We can use adjectives to do this: some tiny dormice.

Part A

Add an adjective to describe these nouns. If your chosen adjective starts with a vowel (a, e, i, o, u) then you must change 'a ...' to 'an ...' at the start of each phrase:

an elegant giraffe

a hedgehog _____

some leaves _____

a toad _____

a giraffe _____

some sweets _____

some children _____

the garden _____

his boots _____

an elephant _____

Draw and colour in a picture to match this expanded noun phrase:

an egg-shaped red balloon with small green spots

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Part B

Read these sentences. Draw a line under the noun and a circle around the adjective/adjectives in each one. Count how many adjectives are in each example and write the answer in the box. Watch out! There are two noun phrases in the last sentence.

“Your nest looks warm and inviting...”

The leaves grew crispier.

The air grew colder.

Hattie snuggled into her cosy, comfortable hedge.

“Who could that be?” she grumbled, as she screwed up her furry and slightly damp nose.

As the animals thanked her, Hattie’s prickly mood began to change.

She snuggled down in her soft, leafy bed with her new companions.

Challenge Task

Expand this phrase by adding at least two adjectives, then finish the sentence:

Hattie the Hedgehog’s _____ friends _____

Expanding a Noun Phrase Answers

Part A

Children's own responses, such as:

a prickly hedgehog

some crunchy leaves

an ugly toad

a gigantic giraffe

some sticky sweets

some excited children

the tidy garden

his muddy boots

an enormous elephant

Children's drawing must clearly show a red egg-shaped balloon with small green spots on it.

Part B

"Your nest looks warm and inviting.." 2

The leaves grew crispier. 1

The air grew colder. 1

Hattie snuggled into her cosy, comfortable hedge. 2

"Who could that be?" she grumbled, as she screwed up her furry and slightly damp nose. 2

As the animals thanked her, Hattie's prickly mood began to change. 1

She snuggled down in her soft, leafy bed with her new companions. 3

Challenge!

Children's own responses, such as:

Hattie the Hedgehog's *new, cheerful* friends *helped her to be kind.*