

Stage 2 Writing Tips for Parents



Noun Groups



Syllabus Links

EN2-9B: A student uses effective and accurate sentence structure, grammatical features, punctuation conventions and vocabulary relevant to the type of text when responding to and composing texts.

Content: understand that the meaning of sentences can be enriched through the use of noun groups/phrases

What are noun groups?

A noun group is a group of words relating to, or building on, a noun. Noun groups usually begin with an article (the, a, an) or determiner (this, that, these, those, my, your, his, her, its, our). It may have more than one adjective. *'The run-down old inner-city terrace house is for sale'*. 'The' is an article and 'run-down, old, inner-city' and 'terrace' are adjectives that describe the noun, 'house'. Noun groups can also include adjectival phrases and adjectival clauses, for example *'The house with the broken windows is for sale'*, *'The house that we saw yesterday is for sale'*.

Activities at Home

Here are some activities to help your child build detailed noun groups.

Who's Noun?

This game is to practise selecting the appropriate article or determiner when referring to a noun. Name something you can see, and ask your child to change the article/determiner in as many ways as they can.

(Parent) I can see a bike. (Child) I can see *the* bike. I can see *that* bike. I can see *my* bike. I can see *another* bike. I can see *her* bike.

Adjective Race

Ask your child to list as many adjectives for a chosen noun (person, place, object or idea) as possible. Set a time limit, or have a competition. **Noun: balloon**
Adjectives: round, rubbery, inflated, opaque, red, squeaky, light, floating, beautiful...

Choose three or four adjectives to make a sentence. Order from general to specific. *'I can see a beautiful red rubber balloon.'*

Build-a-Noun-Group

Take turns gradually building a noun group. Then think of a joke, a moral or a surprise ending.

Parent: On my way to the zoo I saw a bear. It was a brown bear.

Child: It was an ugly brown bear.

Parent: It was a wild, ugly, brown bear.

Child: It was an angry, wild, ugly, brown bear.

It was a hungry, angry, wild, ugly, brown bear.

It was a vicious, hungry, angry, wild, ugly, brown bear... and it wanted to eat me!

Adjectival Phrases

Adjectival phrases beginning with the word 'with' can add even more description or detail relating to the noun. *'I can see a beautiful red rubber balloon with some lollies inside it!'*

Provide your child with sentence stems for them to complete.

Parent: I can see a slippery dip with...

Child: ...ten rungs to climb to get to the top!