

# Year 2 Expanded Noun Phrases: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to expanded noun phrases can help you support your child's learning at home. The subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when learning about expanded noun phrases together, either as part of homework, or if you decide to give your child some extra support. In this guide, you will find a step that matches your child's stage of learning and it will also offer you next steps for your child's learning.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.

identifying adjectives and descriptions



Click here



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

# Expanded Noun Phrases

## What Is a Noun Phrase?

A simple **noun phrase** is a group of words, including a noun, that form part of a sentence. The noun is the main word in the phrase and other words give information about it. For example:

**a cat**

**his toy**

**those shoes**

**the house**

**two children**

The example **noun phrases** above all contain a determiner and a noun to make a noun phrase. Most noun phrases contain a determiner. In the sentence below, the noun phrase is shown in bold.

Bring **your children** with you.

## What Is an Expanded Noun Phrase?

In an **expanded noun phrase**, other words and phrases are used to give further information about the noun in the sentence. This is usually done by adding **adjectives** to describe the noun in the noun phrase, for example:

She walked through the **dark, mysterious** forest.

In the example above, the expanded noun phrase is 'the dark, mysterious forest', the words 'dark' and 'mysterious' have been used to expand the noun phrase. They make writing more interesting as they help the reader to build an image in their mind.

Another noun can also be used to create an expanded noun phrase by giving more detail about the noun, such as:

a teacher = a **maths** teacher

a house = a **country** house

two trees = two **pine** trees

a ship = a **pirate** ship

Another way to create an **expanded noun phrase** is to add a prepositional phrase to add further information about the noun and to enable the writing to be more efficient. For example, where it takes two sentences to say:

The man was sat on the bench. He was wearing a red hat.

The man **with the red hat** sat on the bench.

Expanded noun phrases are formally introduced in year 2 to help children begin to develop descriptive writing skills.

You can use the resources in this category and the suggested keyword searches to help your child with expanded noun phrases at home. A range of ideas for games and activities to help your child learn how to use expanded noun phrases at home, both in their spoken language and in their writing, are outlined below.

### Read, Read, Read!

Sharing books together is the most powerful way for children to learn about language, spelling, grammar and punctuation. As you read together, identify examples of adjectives the writer has used to describe things in the book. Talk about how they help paint a picture in the reader's mind.

### Guess the Character

Picture books can be a great source of inspiration for developing early writing. Choose a favourite picture book and take it in turns to describe a character. The other player has to guess who is being described. This will really help your child develop their ability to describe characters which will help when they come to writing.

### I Spy Descriptions

This is a take on the traditional 'I Spy' game but instead of using the first letter of the item, use adjectives to describe it. For example, 'I spy something that is cute, furry and has a waggy tail' (a dog).

### Opposites

The aim of this game is to say an opposite adjective (an antonym). For example, if you said 'big', your child would say 'small'. Other examples include: tall/short, wet/dry, near/far, hungry/full, hot/cold, tired/awake.

## Step 1

### Identifying Adjectives and Description

Before your child can write their own expanded noun phrases in their imaginative writing, they'll need to develop their own vocabulary through exposure to lots of descriptive writing. In school, teachers will begin by explaining what adjectives are (words that add detail to a noun), for example:

**The quick fox.**

Once children understand that adjectives are describing words, they will complete a range of activities to identify adjectives through highlighting, sorting, underlining etc. At home, you can help your child recognise adjectives through similar activities using storybooks or magazine articles and pointing them out when reading together.



### Adding Appropriate Adjectives to Expanded Noun Phrases

Children will now be introduced to expanded noun phrases (words and phrases used to give further information about the noun in the sentence), such as:

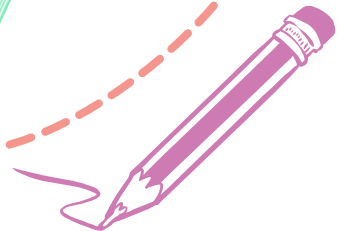
- the ferocious lion
- a small child
- a red apple

You could provide your child with a selection of adjectives and ask them to think of their own noun phrases to describe something in a picture – that could be a character, an item or a place. Alternatively, you could give your child an expanded noun phrase with the adjective missing and ask them to think of ideas for the missing adjective. You could use your child's story books for inspiration. For example, you could ask for adjectives to describe the wolf in 'Little Red Riding Hood' and then model putting these into expanded noun phrases.

**the \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ wolf = the mean, scary wolf**

Words such as big, bad, hairy, scary or mean could be appropriate to add to the expanded noun phrase above to describe the wolf.

These adjective word cards can help your child practise thinking of adjectives to complete expanded noun phrases. You could take this activity further by discussing what affect the adjective has on the reader. For instance, 'the angry girl' creates a very different image to 'the happy girl'. By discussing the difference, you can help your child to start thinking about their choice of adjectives when writing their own sentences.



## Step 3

### Writing Expanded Noun Phrases

Your next step could be to encourage your child to write their own expanded noun phrases. Choose a character from a story that your child likes. Together, create a list of adjectives to describe them. You can help your child think of adjectives by asking guided questions, such as:

- What are their teeth like?
- Are they big or small?
- What words can you use to describe their feelings?

Then, encourage your child to use their adjectives to create expanded noun phrases to describe the chosen character. They could draw a picture of the character and write their expanded noun phrases around the picture.



# Explore and Discover More

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Boost

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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imagine

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



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ORIGINALS

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire pupils from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!