3A. Noun vs. noun phrase

A noun is a single word that refers to a person, place, thing, or idea. In that sentence, the words "noun," "word," "person," "place," "thing," and "idea" are all nouns.

A noun phrase, however, is a noun and all of that noun's modifiers. The noun phrases in the first sentence are "a noun" and "a single word that refers to a person, place, thing, or idea."

The noun in the noun phrase is still the most important part of the noun phrase because the noun determines which pronouns can be used.

3B. Proper noun

A proper noun refers to a specific noun — a specific, individual person, place, thing, or idea. Proper nouns are usually capitalized.

Some examples of proper nouns include Barack Obama (a specific person) and Miller Park (a specific place).

3C. Common noun

A common noun is a general, non-individualized person, place, thing, or idea.

They can be count or uncount.

Examples include girl, boy, park, city, ice cream, and happiness.

3D. Concrete noun

A concrete noun refers to something that can be touched or known using the senses. For example, "book" and "pen" are concrete nouns.

3E. Abstract noun

An abstract noun, however, is something that is not physical; it is a idea or abstraction that cannot be known through the senses. For example, "education" and "freedom" are abstract nouns.

3F. Singular vs. plural in English

In English, the singular is used to refer to one and only one person, place, thing, or idea. The plural is used to refer to anything greater than one, even if it's a fraction or percentage that is between one and two.

For example, a native English speaker would say, "one cookie," "one and half cookies," or "a dozen cookies." The plural is always used for anything greater than one.

3G. Zero plural

The zero plural refers to nouns that have a plural form identical to their singular form. The zero plural can also be referred to as the unmarked plural.

Some examples of the zero plural in English are cod, deer, fish, sheep, shrimp, and trout. Regardless of how many of these animals you are referring to, the singular form is always the same as the plural.

"I saw a sheep" in the singular becomes "I saw several sheep" in the plural.

3H. Adjective

An adjective is a word that modifies a noun or noun phrase; it describes a feature of the noun or noun phrase, giving more detailed information about it. In English, there are three subcategories of adjectives: "true" adjectives, determiners, and post-noun modifiers.

3I. Much vs. many

"Much" and "many" are adjectives that are quantifiers; they are noun modifiers that express a degree or amount.

This pair has an uncount/count dichotomy. "Much" is only used with uncount nouns, as in, "There was much sadness following the team's loss."

"Many" is only used with plural count nouns, as in, "Many fans were sad following the team's loss."

In spoken English, many native speakers will replace "much" with a phrase like "a lot of," "lots of," or "a great deal of," for example.

3J. Prepositional phrase

A prepositional phrase is a preposition followed by the words required to make the structure complete.

Prepositional phrases can be used as post nominal adjectives.

3K. Antecedent

Literally, an antecedent is "something that comes before." Grammatically, an antecedent is a noun that precedes a postmodifying phrase.

3L. Appositive phrase

An appositive phrase is a relative clause that identifies or explains another noun. For example, in the sentence, "The lady next to me was Mrs. Smith, who seems like a nice person," Mrs. Smith is both "the lady" and the person "who seems like a nice person."

3M. Infinitive phrases as noun postmodifiers

Infinitive phrases are the infinitive form of a verb (to + base) and whatever else is required for the structure to be complete. They can be used as noun postmodifiers, as in, "You'll need a lot of time to prepare for this midterm exam." In that sentence, the infinitive phrase "to prepare for this midterm exam" modifies "time."

3N. Reflexive pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are personal pronouns that have no independent meaning and must refer back to a noun or pronoun mentioned earlier in the same sentence — the antecedent of the reflexive pronoun.

Reflexive pronouns always end in –self or –selves. For example, in the sentence, "I made myself some lunch," the reflexive pronoun "myself" refers back to the pronoun "I."

The reflexive pronoun does not always have to be the subject of the sentence, as in the example, "I made lunch and told Rajiv to help himself to a sandwich." Here, "himself" refers back to Rajiv, the direct object.

Another use of reflexive pronouns is to show emphasis, as in, "I myself did the laundry."