Chapter 4

Developing sentences

Introduction
This chapter helps children to create longer sentences that make use of expanded noun phrases and adverbials. They learn to consider the effects of different sentence lengths and where longer sentences are appropriate, understanding that sometimes a shorter sentence is better than a long one. For further practice, please see the ‘Developing sentences’ section of the Year 4 workbook.

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Consider how noun phrases can be expanded.
Expand noun phrases in writing.
Understand what an adverbial is and identify adverbials in texts.
Begin to use adverbials in writing.
Develop sentences by using expanded noun phrases and adverbials in writing.

Poster notes

Adding to a noun (page 79)
This explains noun phrases using the example of an alien whose appearance and demeanour become clearer to the observer as he/she/it approaches. As the alien approaches, more description is given through adding adjectives and adjectival phrases before or after the noun, as appropriate.

Adding to a verb (page 80)
This poster explains adverbials and shows how they can be added to a verb to say more about it. It helps to show that a sentence makes sense without the adverbial, but that it has less information.

Vocabulary

Children should already know:
noun, noun phrase, adverb, adjective

In Year 4 children need to know:
determiner, adverbial
A noun phrase acts like a noun. It contains a noun, as well as other words that give information about the noun. This noun is the main word in the phrase. You can add words to a noun to make a noun phrase. You can add more words to the noun phrase.

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A large, green alien came down the road.

A large, green alien with three brown eyes and a smiling face came down the road.

A large, green alien with three eyes came down the road.

A large, green alien with three eyes and a smiling face came down the road.
Noun phrases

Objective
Consider how noun phrases can be expanded.

Background knowledge
This section introduces ways of expanding noun phrases by adding modifying adjectives, nouns and preposition phrases. It is useful to remind children about the job done by nouns in a sentence (they are the names of things, people, places and so on).

A noun phrase is a phrase headed by a noun (the noun is the most important word in the phrase, which could not stand without it). A noun phrase can be expanded by adding words such as an article, adjectives (and adjectival phrases), prepositions (and prepositional phrases) before or after the noun as appropriate. Importantly, a noun phrase acts as a noun in a sentence. For example, *The fox jumps over the dog* contains two nouns, ‘fox’ and ‘dog’, which can be made into noun phrases by adding adjectives: *The quick, brown fox jumps over the lazy dog*. The noun phrases could be expanded: *The quick, brown fox with a large bushy tail jumps over the large, lazy dog that hardly ever moves*. Although there is a verb in the second noun phrase, the verb forms part of the noun phrase and modifies the noun.

Further ideas

- **Shrink it**: Children could look at a range of texts to try and identify where a noun phrase has been ‘expanded’, which words have been added and how these change the noun. This could involve stripping the noun phrase back to the noun and commenting on the difference this makes.
- **Special effects**: Using different texts, children could identify nouns that are part of a noun phrase, and the words that form the noun phrase and add information to the noun. They could substitute these for others to create a different effect. Passages from Dickens novels could be useful for this.
- **Extra detail**: Provide passages from non-fiction texts that make use of noun phrases for adding information, for example: clothing and holiday brochures (printed or online), instructions, rules and regulations and estate agents’ leaflets. Children could identify noun clauses and explain how they are useful and what they add.

Digital content

On the digital component you will find:
- Printable versions of all three photocopiable pages.
- Answers to ‘Grow a noun phrase’.

Activities

- **Photocopiable page 82 ‘Build a noun phrase’**
In this activity the children add words to nouns to create noun phrases. As they do so, encourage them to consider how they can create different effects by changing these.

- **Photocopiable page 83 ‘Grow a noun phrase’**
This activity reminds children what a noun phrase is and, through using the idea of a pyramid, shows how it can be expanded by adding words. It is important to point out that the additions to the noun phrase that give extra information can consist of more than one word, for example: *in a desert, built by the Egyptians, thousands of years ago*.
Build a noun phrase

Each picture has a caption that includes a noun. Write a word in the space to say what the object is like. This makes the caption a noun phrase.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Picture 1</th>
<th>Picture 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the _______ hand</td>
<td>the _______ monster</td>
<td>the _______ spaceship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the _______ diary</td>
<td>the _______ star</td>
<td>the _______ cat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the _______ ring</td>
<td>the _______ dog</td>
<td>the _______ fire</td>
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<tr>
<td>the _______ mug</td>
<td>the _______ house</td>
<td>the _______ ball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the _______ pirate</td>
<td>the _______ bath</td>
<td>the _______ bird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the _______ snake</td>
<td>the _______ mouse</td>
<td>the _______ music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the _______ baby</td>
<td>the _______ dress</td>
<td>the _______ elephant</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Noun phrases in my writing

- Use this page to plan a short description of a place you know.
- Think about how you can use noun phrases to tell a reader what the place is like.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place:</th>
<th>Type of place</th>
<th>Useful noun phrases</th>
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<tr>
<td>Where it is</td>
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<td>What it is like</td>
<td>Useful noun phrases</td>
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<td>Special things to see</td>
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