

SIMILES

	as big as...		as clean as...		as easy as...		as boring as...	
	as cold as...		as hot as...		as fresh as...		as hard as...	
	as soft as...		as dry as...		as hungry as...		as nice as...	
	as clear as...		as long as...		as slow as...		as fast as...	
	as straight as...		as tall as...		as small as...		as sweet as...	
	as wise as...		as white as...		as black as...		as blue as...	
	as silent as...		as loud as...		eat like a...		race like a...	
	swim like a...		work like a...		behave like a...		sleep like a...	
			cry like a...		smell like a...			

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

This can be written more succinctly by expanding the noun phrase with:

The man with the red hat sat on the bench.

Although expanded noun phrases don't formally enter the national curriculum until year 2, you can start helping your child at home by completing the following activities in the steps below.

As well as using the resources in this category and the keyword searches to help your child with expanded noun phrases, a few ideas for games and activities to help your child learn how to use them 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.

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 can help your child develop their ability to describe characters which will help when they come to writing.

Opposites

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

Beginning to Use Description

Before being able to write expanded noun phrases, children need to be exposed to lots of description to help develop their vocabulary. The best way to do this is through reading together. The more exposure your child has to descriptive writing, the better! When reading together, focus on the adjectives the writer has used to describe things. For example, when reading Little Red Riding Hood together, you could ask questions such as 'What word did Little Red use to describe Grandma's teeth?' to see if your child can pick out the describing word (adjective).



Identifying Adjectives

You can support your child by helping them to choose appropriate adjectives to describe things. Try giving your child two options and asking them which would be the most appropriate adjective to describe that thing. For example, when reading about the giant in 'Jack and the Beanstalk', you could ask your child if the giant is kind or mean? This will help deepen your child's understanding of adjectives and how to choose appropriate ones for description when it comes to their own writing. Encourage your child to list a range of adjectives for characters in their favourite stories.

Step 2



Using Adjectives in Expanded Noun Phrases

You could help your child develop their vocabulary further by making expanded noun phrases. Encourage them to use adjectives when they are describing things. You could make this into a game by placing all of these adjective cards face down and taking it in turns to choose a card before saying an expanded noun phrase with that adjective in. Remember, at this stage, your child doesn't need to know that this is called an expanded noun phrase, you are simply giving them the tools and experience they need to help them when they come to formally learn about expanded noun phrases in year 2.

Step 3

