

An Introductory English Grammar

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Second Year

Name of the Course: Syntax

The first lecture : Noun and Verb Phrases

Second Semester 2018-2019

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Noun Phrase

- ❖ A noun phrase consists of a noun and all the words and word groups that belong with the noun and cluster around it.
- ❖ In this sense, the noun itself is called “headword” or “head” and the other words and word groups are modifiers

❖ The word groups that cluster around the headword are of two kinds:

1. Prenominal modifiers: they are all the words that precede the headword of the noun phrase such as: Determiners, adjectives, conjunction, nouns, and so on.

For example:

- The yellow tulips
- The first clever and good university student

Noun Phrase

2. Post nominal Modifiers: they can be defined as the group of words that follow the headword. They can be realized in different forms:

a. Prepositional phrase

- **The yellow tulips *in the garden***

b. Relative Clause

- The yellow tulips in the garden
- The yellow tulips *which were gaily blooming*

C. Reduced clause

- The man *standing over there*

Look at these examples

- 1. The fence**
- 2. The old fence**
- 3. The new aluminum fence**
- 4. The fence between the houses**
- 5. The old fence which was painted green**

Verb Phrase

- ❖ A verb phrase consists of a verb and all the words and group of words that belong with the verb and cluster around it .**
- ❖ In this regard, one can say that any verb phrase has a head.**
- ❖ In addition, all the words that cluster around the head are called auxiliaries, modifiers, and complements of the verb.**

- Examples:
- *Soon arrived*
- *arrived* late
- *Soon arrived* at the station
- *Arrived* just at the place
- *Was waiting* at the door
- *May have been stolen* by the cashier

Verb phrase

❖ As for the complements of the verb, they are:

1. Direct object

He *studied* English well.

They *played* football well

2. Indirect object

We *gave* him an apple.

3. Objective complement

- They *made* him a chairman.

Verb phrase

4. Subjective complement

E.g.: The man *looks* a teacher

Thus, from what is presented so far, we can conclude that for the sentence to well formed and understood, it must consist of noun phrase and verb phrase. Next time we have to focus on the relation of subject to verb.