

Complex Noun Phrases

Post-modifiers, apposition, stacked premodifiers

NAME _____

DATE _____

KEY RULE:

Nouns can be post-modified by to-inf, that-clauses, and prep phrases.

1 Post-Modifying Noun Phrases

EASY

Choose the correct post-modifier.

Word bank: to approve / that / in / to solve

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Decision ____ the merger was big. | 2. Fact ____ she lied was hard. |
| 3. Increase ____ cost of living noted. | 4. Ability ____ problems impressed. |
| 5. Announcement ____ sold came. | 6. Evidence ____ treatment effective. |
| 7. Need ____ urgent reform is clear. | 8. Refusal ____ acknowledge frustrated. |
| 9. Claim ____ vaccine had side effects. | 10. Attempt ____ record ended in fail. |

2 Apposition & Stacked Premodifiers

MEDIUM

Choose the correct or better form.

Word bank: Prof. Smith, the researcher, ... / cost-cutting

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Correct apposition with title/name? | 2. Better formal: 'plan that cuts costs'. |
| 3. Appositive clause after 'idea'? | 4. Correct compound premodifier use? |
| 5. Apposition: same referent NPs? | 6. Stacked modifier: 'long-term ____'. |
| 7. 'govt-funded research' vs relative. | 8. Appositive: belief ____ he is right. |
| 9. Which is more concise in formal? | 10. Correct 'evidence of/that' use? |

3 Mixed Complex Noun Phrases

HARD

Complete with the correct form.

Word bank: that / to / of / for

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. The suggestion ____ we cut costs. | 2. Her hope ____ pass the exam. |
| 3. The risk ____ failure is real. | 4. Their plan ____ expand globally. |
| 5. Belief ____ progress is possible. | 6. Chance ____ succeed is slim. |
| 7. Decision ____ resign surprised us. | 8. Evidence ____ fraud was found. |
| 9. The view ____ reform is needed. | 10. The aim ____ reduce emissions. |

4

Rewrite Noun Phrase**VERY HARD**

Rewrite using a complex noun phrase.

1. They decided to merge.

3. They claimed the test failed.

5. The plan cuts costs.

7. They announced the company sold.

9. They need urgent reform.

2. She refused to attend.

4. They attempted to break record.

6. Research funded by government.

8. She has the ability to lead.

10. They believe reform is needed.

Answer Key

Check your answers below

1 Exercise 1 Post-Modifying Noun Phrases

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| 1 to approve | 6 that / of (both correct) |
| 2 that | 7 for |
| 3 in | 8 to |
| 4 to solve | 9 that |
| 5 that | 10 to break |

2 Exercise 2 Apposition & Stacked Premodifiers

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Prof. Jane Williams, the lead researcher, presented. | 6 long-term economic development strategy |
| 2 a cost-cutting plan | 7 'government-funded research programme' is more concise |
| 3 The idea that failure is not an option | 8 the belief that he is right |
| 4 a government-funded research programme | 9 Stacked compound premodifier |
| 5 My colleague, the project manager, will handle it. | 10 Both 'evidence of' and 'evidence that' are correct |

3 Exercise 3 Mixed Complex Noun Phrases

- | | |
|--------|-------------|
| 1 that | 6 to |
| 2 to | 7 to |
| 3 of | 8 of / that |
| 4 to | 9 that |
| 5 that | 10 to |

4 Exercise 4 Rewrite Noun Phrase

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 their decision to merge | 6 a government-funded research programme |
| 2 her refusal to attend | 7 the announcement that the company would be sold |
| 3 their claim that the test had failed | 8 her ability to lead |
| 4 their attempt to break the record | 9 the need for urgent reform |
| 5 a cost-cutting plan | 10 the belief that reform is needed |