

Adventures with Pip: Expanding Our Noun Phrases

Learning objective: To use expanded noun phrases to add detail and description to sentences.

Read the story about Pip the caterpillar below. Use the word bank to help you expand the nouns in the questions to make your writing more descriptive.

Pip the caterpillar crawled onto a leaf. He looked up at the sky and saw a sun. He wanted a snack, so he found a berry. Nearby, a tree stood tall in the garden. Pip felt happy as he read a book under the shade.

Word bank: shimmering · delicious · emerald · gigantic · sparkling · velvety · ancient · golden

1. Find the noun 'leaf' in the first sentence. Rewrite the sentence using an expanded noun phrase to describe the leaf. (2 marks)

2. Expand the noun phrase 'a sun' in the second sentence. Use an adjective from the word bank. (2 marks)

3. Look at the phrase 'a berry'. Add two adjectives before the noun to create an expanded noun phrase. (2 marks)

4. Rewrite the sentence about the tree, including an expanded noun phrase with at least two adjectives. (2 marks)

5. Change 'a book' into an expanded noun phrase. Why does adding adjectives help the reader imagine Pip's story? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw Pip the caterpillar sitting under a tree. Make sure you draw the specific items you described in your expanded noun phrases (e.g., if you wrote about a 'shimmering, emerald leaf', draw a leaf that looks like that).



Extension challenge: Write two new sentences about an adventure Pip might have. In each sentence, include at least one expanded noun phrase that uses a prepositional phrase (e.g., 'the golden sun above the garden').