

Nova's Stargazing Journal: Expanded Noun Phrases

Learning objective: To use expanded noun phrases to add detail, precision, and imagery to descriptive writing.

Help Nova the owl describe the wonders of the night sky! To create an expanded noun phrase, add adjectives or prepositional phrases to your nouns. For example, instead of 'a star', write 'a shimmering, golden star in the velvet darkness'. Use the word bank to help you expand your descriptions.

Word bank: luminous · vast · twinkling · obsidian · distant · celestial · glowing · ancient · hazy · infinite

1. Describe the moon: Use an expanded noun phrase to describe the moon you see tonight. Think about its shape, color, or how it sits in the sky. (2 marks)

2. Describe a constellation: Choose a group of stars. Use at least two adjectives and a prepositional phrase to describe them. (2 marks)

3. Describe the night sky: Write a sentence about the sky using an expanded noun phrase that includes a prepositional phrase (e.g., 'above the trees' or 'across the horizon'). (3 marks)

4. Describe a planet: Imagine you are looking through Nova's telescope. Describe a planet you can see using interesting adjectives to expand your noun phrase. (2 marks)

5. Challenge: Write a short paragraph (2-3 sentences) about Nova's telescope. Use at least two expanded noun phrases to make your writing more descriptive. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Try writing a 'Super Sentence' using three expanded noun phrases in a row to describe the atmosphere of a quiet forest at night.