

Year 5 English Assessment: The Art of Expanded Noun Phrases

Learning objective: To demonstrate the ability to expand noun phrases using adjectives, prepositional phrases, and relative clauses to add detail and precision to writing.

Read each question carefully. Use your best handwriting and ensure you use accurate punctuation. For the extended writing task, focus on vocabulary choices that enhance the reader's mental imagery.

Max the monkey sat in the jungle. He watched a butterfly land on a flower. Nearby, the river flowed towards the mountains. Above, the sky began to change colour as the sun started to set. Pip the caterpillar crawled along a leaf, observing the world with wide, curious eyes.

Word bank: glistening · ancient · formidable · ethereal · meticulous · vibrant · labyrinthine · tranquil · shimmering · obscure

1. Identify the noun phrase in this sentence: 'Max observed the vibrant, fluttering butterfly.' Explain what the adjective 'vibrant' adds to the reader's understanding. (2 marks)

2. Expand the noun phrase 'the river' by adding two adjectives and a prepositional phrase to create a more vivid image. (2 marks)

3. Rewrite the following sentence using a relative clause to expand the noun phrase: 'Pip the caterpillar crawled along the leaf.' (2 marks)

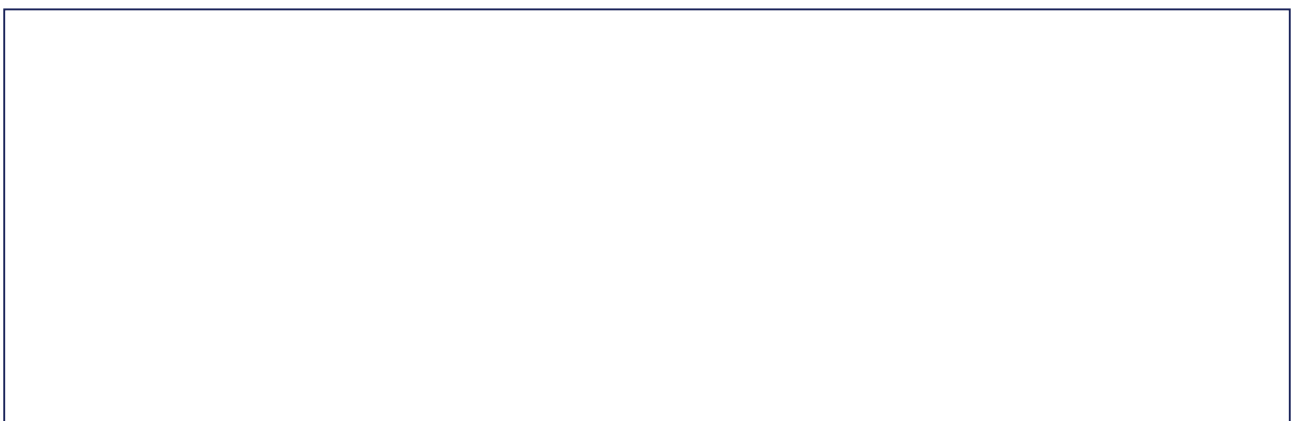
4. Compare and contrast the effect of these two noun phrases: 'The dark, gloomy forest' versus 'The labyrinthine forest, which was hidden by thick, silver mist.' Why might a writer choose the second option? (4 marks)

5. Look at the passage provided. Select three nouns and expand each into a complex noun phrase using at least one adjective and one prepositional phrase. (6 marks)

6. Justify why using a variety of expanded noun phrases is essential for effective creative writing. How does this impact the pace and tone of a story? (4 marks)

7. Extended Writing: Write a descriptive paragraph (approx. 50–70 words) about Nova the owl preparing for a night of stargazing. You must include at least four expanded noun phrases. Focus on using ambitious vocabulary. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Max the monkey or Nova the owl in their natural habitat. Label your drawing using three highly descriptive expanded noun phrases.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: What might happen to the reader's engagement if a story contained only simple noun phrases? Write a short reflection justifying your opinion, ensuring you use at least two examples of expanded noun phrases in your answer.