

Mastering Expanded Noun Phrases with Pip the Bookworm

Learning objective: To identify and create expanded noun phrases to add detail and precision to descriptive writing.

Read the short story below about Pip's garden adventure. Look closely at the highlighted sections and answer the questions to practise expanding your own descriptions.

Pip the bookworm crawled slowly across the [damp, mossy log]. He was searching for a quiet place to read his favourite story. Above him, [the golden, late-afternoon sun] filtered through the [tall, swaying oak trees]. Suddenly, he spotted a [small, colourful beetle] resting on a [delicate, velvet petal]. Pip adjusted his [tiny, round spectacles] and began to write a poem about the [peaceful, sun-drenched garden].

Word bank: shimmering · ancient · vibrant · meticulous · fragrant · mysterious · towering · intricate

1. Identify the two adjectives used to describe the 'log' in the first sentence. What effect do these words have on the reader? (2 marks)

2. Find an expanded noun phrase in the text that describes the sun. Can you suggest one alternative adjective to replace 'golden' that keeps the same meaning? (2 marks)

3. Look at the phrase 'small, colourful beetle'. Add an extra prepositional phrase to the end of this noun phrase to tell us exactly where it is (e.g., '...on the garden path'). (2 marks)

4. Rewrite the following simple noun phrase into an expanded noun phrase: 'The book'. You must include at least two adjectives and one prepositional phrase. (3 marks)

5. Why do authors use expanded noun phrases in their writing? Explain how they help the reader visualise a scene. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Pip the bookworm sitting on a large leaf. Include at least three different plants or objects around him, and label them using expanded noun phrases (e.g., 'the jagged, emerald-green leaf').



Extension challenge: Choose an object in your classroom. Write a paragraph of 3-4 sentences describing it, ensuring every noun is accompanied by an expanded noun phrase.