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THE COMPLEX NOUN PHRASE: FORMS AND FUNCTIONS
A WORKBOOK

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ABOUT THIS WORKBOOK: WHO IS IT FOR AND HOW TO USE IT?

For as long as I have been teaching Morphosyntax at the University of Banja Luka's English Department, both my students and I have been struggling to survive the ordeal. Ask the students and most of them will tell you to run for your life. Ask me and I will tell you that teaching Morphosyntax is a massive challenge. I suppose it would not be entirely wrong to say that this workbook was originally inspired by a sense of mutual despair, but I hope it will continue its life with a more noble purpose in the days to come.

Truly getting to know a language is so much more than being able to guess the meaning of its words and idioms. Using random strings of words without knowing what you are really doing is like making bricks without straw. That is why we need courses like Morphosyntax – to help us understand the language better.

Think of this little handbook as a good source of mental workout, and please do not check the answers before you have even tried to do the task at hand. This is not something you can learn by heart. Well, you actually could (given that this is a very slim book), but I see no point in doing that. What you need to do instead is try to understand it. And you need to like it, too. In case you still have doubts and questions, bring them to class with you and we shall address them together.

This booklet will be well put to use as your exam practice since most of the tasks are representative of those you will have to do on the actual test. I have also put together five mock tests for you complete with answers. However, do not expect all the very same sentences to reappear when you have to sit the exam for real. It is the principle behind them that matters, so adding a couple of new sentences should really make no difference.

There is a brief theoretical introduction at the beginning of each exercise telling you what the task is basically about and suggesting some of the ways to approach it. This is followed by an example section in which I talk you through the task step by step, and which I also use as an excuse to comment on some bits and pieces that you may find tricky and troublesome once you are left to your own devices.

A total of approximately 500 sentences organized into 33 exercises were taken from a variety of sources: novels, old and contemporary, newspapers and magazines, print and online, textbooks and workbooks, etc. You will be exposed to a range of styles, which will hopefully be an added bonus to our primary goal, which I remind you is the exploration of the structure of English at phrase level.

Our main concern is going to be the complex noun phrase, but because there are a number of other phrases and clauses in English built into the complex noun phrase, you will be hearing and reading a lot about these other structures too. Also, you will learn that the way a noun phrase is placed in a sentence determines its role in it. You must have already realized that English is a language with relatively fixed word order, which makes it very different from Serbian and other languages that are much more flexible in this respect.

Because this is such a big area to cover, there is really no beginning and no end. The truth is that we had to start somewhere, but there could have easily been several other ways of doing it. The good thing is that you do not have to go through the exercises single file; instead, approach them in any order that you find more suitable or accessible at any given time. Try to tackle them on your own or using the brainpower of your class. You can practice at home or at a bus stop, at midnight or early in the morning – any way, any time, any place that works for you. I do hope it helps.

Banja Luka, May 2019

T. M.

EXERCISE 1

Determine **the word class** of the underlined lexemes (e.g. adjective).

Note

To say that word classes (or parts of speech, as they used to be called in the past) seem to be about as old as the ancient Greeks is no exaggeration at all. What is interesting, though, is that all this pondering and musing and trying to come up with a definitive set of categories still has not resulted in a uniform answer that will suit every grammarian's taste.

For instance, some classifications have done away with interjections, words whose main purpose appears to be that of expressing emotions and spontaneous reactions such as surprise (e.g. *oh, huh, hey, wow, gosh*, etc.). In all likelihood, this has to do with a marginal role of interjections in the actual sentential structure as words that do not normally become any of the clausal constituents known to us: subject, predicate, complement, object, or adverbial.

Other grammarians have decided to put together nouns and pronouns, not taking the productivity parameter and other points of divergence as compelling enough a reason to have them as two distinct word classes.

There are also classifications that treat numerals separately from other determiners because they occasionally behave like nouns or pronouns (e.g. *eight* divided by *four*, those *two*, etc.).

As far as we are concerned, we can think of the following ten categories forming two subsets, four of which are regarded as open classes and the other six as closed systems. The classes include nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs, while the systems make room for pronouns, determiners, auxiliaries, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections. Classes are considered to be productive, easily generating and welcoming new members, unlike systems, which are far more conservative in this respect.

When we think of ways to account for these two subsets and their discreet categories, morphological, syntactic, and semantic criteria spring to mind most readily. This means that membership is determined mainly by formal and distributional properties, as well as meaning. Knowing

where a word belongs is a crucial step in understanding structures at phrase level, which is where we are headed.

You have already been taught that one or two morphemes will give you a word, and now we want to see what else we can build from there. Moving up the structural ladder, we learn that individual words can partner up to form phrases while phrases team up to form clauses.

If we get word classes wrong, we can easily misunderstand everything else that follows from there. Getting it right helps us to identify our subjects and predicates, just as it helps us to see how an individual word evolves into a full-fledged complex phrase and ties in with the rest of the clause. Believe me, you do want to get your word classes right.

Example

Most troubling of all to some social scientists is the message men get that being a good father means learning how to mother.

Comment

The word **most**, when used out of context, can claim membership of at least two different word classes, one being a determiner and the other an adverb. It is clearly not a determiner in this case since there is no noun to accompany it. If you wanted to make a determiner out of it, you would use it before a noun (e.g. *the most answers*).

Most of your answers (with the word **most** now used as a pronoun!) mostly (pay attention to this most deliberate word choice that should give you more food for thought) lie in either what precedes or what follows the word that you are trying to classify. Because **most** precedes the adjective **troubling** in the example above – and we know that adjectives are often preceded by modifying adverbs in English – it is indeed correct to call it an adverb in this context.

As for the word **all**, putting aside the slight idiomaticity of the prepositional phrase **of all** in the context of the larger phrase **most troubling of all**, your major concern, the way I see it, should be to determine whether you are looking at a determiner or a pronoun. If it were a determiner, there ought to be a noun tailing it; otherwise, it does not leave us much choice but to take it for a pronoun, one of those items that form a limit-

ed set much like the other closed systems we have briefly touched upon in the previous section. Although pronouns can stand alone, much like nouns and unlike determiners, nouns are the only content (as opposed to function) words in this lot.

I assume that the word **social** is easy to recognize and categorize as an adjective, on the grounds of both its suffixation and its distributional properties. In other words, we are instructed by the derivational suffix *-al* and the fact that adjectives typically precede nominal heads (i.e. nouns used as headwords) and thus make one of the most common pre-modifiers in English.

Finally, the word **father** is what you would normally expect it to be – just another noun. This semantically intuitive reading is easily backed up by the string of words preceding the noun: a determiner is followed by an adjective, which is then followed by a noun.

Surprisingly or not, the word **mother** is assigned a different word class: the presence of the infinitival particle tells us it is a verb. In case you are still wondering how to tell apart the infinitival particle from the identically shaped preposition, look for your answer in what precedes the infinitive and try to come up with a few more structures sharing the same pattern (e.g. *where to go, when to start, what to do, etc.*).

1 To assist in promoting increased dog awareness, Council is supplying this booklet as a tool for dog owners to become better equipped in the day-to-day management and care of their pet.

2 While not a book for everyone – its dreamy-sharp, intoxicating prose is likely to leave more down-to-earth readers cold – those who fall for it will fall hard.

3 The real reason I distanced myself, though, was because it hurt less to step away than to risk that inevitable moment where I would become an afterthought.

4 Intensely aroused by these forbidden deeds, she rearranged tables, chairs, lamps, whenever nobody was watching, like a favourite secret game, which she played with a frightening stubborn gravity.

5 This time he takes me past the cell where I was kept waiting when I first arrived, which has only two women in it now, both curled on the floor asleep.

6 Rather than asking her mind to search for a solution to a potentially impossible challenge, Vittoria asked her mind simply to remember it.

7 Since, according to Marcela, honour and virtue are ornaments that adorn the soul, without them, the body, even if beautiful, should not seem beautiful.

8 With the decision made for her, Stormy pushed her way into the saloon and then flattened herself against the wall near the door.

9 He had always urged his students to understand the overall tones and motifs of an artistic period rather than getting lost in the minutia of dates and specific works.

10 Mother mentioned the matter to Margo in a slightly less bloodcurdling manner than Spiro's.

EXERCISE 2

Determine **the function** of the underlined noun phrases (e.g. subject complement).

Note

Half the work here has been done for you so you can get a general idea of how noun phrases are built, how complex they can be, and how their distribution and verbal allegiances reflect or determine their role in the sentence.

Remember that noun phrases can act as subjects, subject and object complements, direct and indirect objects, and adverbials. As you can see, they can be anything except predicates, so it is vital that you take into account the position they have in the clause, what precedes and/or follows them, and how their semantic roles change along with their syntactic ones.

Now we shall take a quick look at their distributional properties. We expect subjects in declarative clauses to occur mainly before their predicates. Because English is an SPO language, this word order is so common that the only instance of the subject following the predicate is a transformation called inversion. However, there are requirements to meet before making your subject and predicate switch places in a declarative clause, so please remember that in English this is not something done randomly or on a whim. You will still be able to identify the subject and not confuse it with any other clausal constituent; you simply need to know which boxes to tick.

For the time being, let me suggest one of the surefire ways to pick out a subject, especially if you fail to find it in its staple preverbal position. Semantically speaking, subjects are agents or the agentive force behind all different kinds of processes engrained in the predicate. Some processes are clearly those of doing (e.g. *play, eat, buy*, etc.), but sometimes the predicate will express no more than a relational process, as when you use the copula *be*, for example. Whatever the nature of the process, it departs from and hinges on the agent, which is always picked out as the subject of the clause.

As long as we understand inversion to be a syntactic transformation, we can return to the SPO word order as our main point of departure and ask the following question: If you see a noun phrase in postverbal position, is it guaranteed to give you a direct object no matter what? I am afraid not. Although the final O in the SPO pattern suggests a preference for this kind of complementation, this is certainly not the only clause pattern that English has at its disposal.

Provided that there is no inversion and the subject can be ruled out as a contender for this position, we then need to ask ourselves whether the outstanding postverbal constituent could be a subject complement, for instance. Our choice of the right constituent, whatever it may be, is informed by the nature of the process and the argument structure of the predicate, as explained below.

If the process is a relational one and represented by a linking verb (e.g. *be, seem, appear, look*, etc.), then the postverbal constituent is going to be a subject complement rather than a direct object (e.g. *we are lifelong students of English*). If you happen to have two objects following a predicate, which is then called ditransitive (e.g. *give, hand, lend*, etc.), the first one will typically be an indirect object, playing the semantic role of recipient, while the other one will give you a direct object. If you have two immediate constituents following a predicate, the first of which is not a recipient, then you are probably dealing with a direct object and its complement, typically used in that order. Object complements are not used after linking verbs but they do engage in the same semantically intensive relationship with their objects as subject complements do with their subjects. In conclusion, it looks as if postverbal position can host any of the five clausal constituents, even the subject, which we now know to be the least likely of them all to fill that slot.

We should not forget our adverbials either. They are mainly optional, which means they are not immediate constituents like the rest of the lot. They are also semantically different from all the other constituents in that they convey circumstances in which processes unfold, as suggested by questions such as *how, when, where to, how often, to what extent*, etc.

All this should advise you to give careful consideration to every single postverbal constituent before assigning it the right functional label. For example, you could have an intransitive verb followed by an optional adverbial (e.g. *they study hard*), which means that you do not want to call

the adverbial in final position an object or a complement. Intransitive verbs will not take any objects or complements but they certainly do not mind the company of one or more adverbials. Last but not least, note that your sentences may consist of one or more clauses, both independent and dependent, which raises the odds of you having, say, two subjects per sentence instead of just one.

Example

The country's position on the edge of the monsoon region has made productive rice cultivation possible.

Comment

Both the postverbal position of the noun phrase and the transitivity of the verb itself make **productive rice cultivation** a direct object. Semantically speaking, the process is extended to a brand new participant, which represents neither a subject-related quality nor a recipient. This explains why we can safely rule out subject complements and indirect objects. As for object complements, it is not even remotely possible for a constituent to be both the object and its complement at the same time. Indeed, how could a single constituent simultaneously perform two different functions in the same sentence?

1 I did not tell them about the change I had made that my master approved of.

2 Through your behaviour, you may, quite unintentionally, be triggering a behaviour pattern in someone else that is for you a problem.

3 The chests and books and dishes and cushions kept there did not interest them.

4 Now, in his highly anticipated follow-up, Grogan again works his magic, bringing us the story of what came first.

5 He was a small, rosy-cheeked man in a dark three-piece suit.

6 Shawn had a perfect sense of whether a writer was really excited about a project being proposed.

7 Was this a cynical marketing decision or a protective barrier thrown up by the still-wary, still-grieving widow?

8 And from a steep hillside rose a column of smoke, cool as marble, pungent as pine.

9 Universities Secretary David Willetts provoked fury last night when he revealed that students studying privately would be given access to Government loans and grants.

10 Prepared to reap the benefits of her independence by spending more on her own self-improvement, the quest for dream-fulfillment makes this female prototype a target for vacation packages, luxury cars, home improvement and anti-depressants.

11 The city of Columbus, Ohio offers adventure travelers and outdoor enthusiasts any trails, rivers and areas to explore.

12 Those who enjoy an active lifestyle that includes camping, hiking, water sports and biking will find eating out at these upscale steak restaurants a culinary adventure worth trying.

13 The craziness doesn't stop there, as Prince Frederick von Anhalt, the husband of Zsa Zsa Gabor, has now indicated that he may be the baby's father.

14 She lowered her gaze at the heated look from the man who drove her crazy every other minute of her day.

15 It prefers by day the gloom of caves and ruins, or of the burrows which it occasionally forms, and issues forth at sunset, when it commences its unearthly howling.

EXERCISE 3

Determine whether the underlined segments act as independent **clausal constituents** (e.g. subject) or **phrasal** ones (e.g. premodifier).

Note

This should serve as a reminder that functional labels are also assigned to all the various phrasal constituents, such as premodifiers and postmodifiers in noun phrases, modifiers in adjective phrases, or prepositional complements in prepositional phrases. These labels are just as useful to us as those that refer to the big five that we have already introduced (i.e. subject, predicate, object, complement, and adverbial).

For instance, we are used to prepositional complements typically taking the form of noun phrases (along with a few other clausal structures), much like we have grown accustomed to the idea of associating noun phrases with both subjects and objects in English clauses. The main difference between the two is that phrase-level functions (with all the forms attached to them) apply to the layout of individual phrases, while the big five play independent roles in the clauses which they help build. The former are therefore said to be operating at phrase level whilst the latter are referred to as clausal constituents.

Example

Add in the fact that Donna Sharp allows one to flex their creative muscles from the comfort of their own home while utilizing her exclusive fabrics, and it is no wonder then that this line has become so popular.

Comment

The prepositional phrase **of their own home** is part of the noun phrase **the comfort of their own home**, which then makes it a phrasal constituent. Because this is a postmodifier in a noun phrase, it does not have an immediate bearing on the structure of the clause itself. Nor does, for that matter, the noun phrase of which it is part! We need to factor in the preposition **from** as that which marks the beginning of an independent

clausal constituent such as the adverbial **from the comfort of their own home**. This prepositional phrase clearly has a different job to do than both the postmodifying prepositional phrase and the noun phrase acting as prepositional complement.

The noun phrase **her exclusive fabrics** represents an independent unit on account of both its form and function: it is a whole phrase acting as direct object in the non-finite clause **while utilizing her exclusive fabrics**.

1 He tried to say something, but his face suddenly puckered and wrinkled; he waved his arm at Toll and turned to the opposite side of the room, to the corner darkened by the icons that hung there.

2 The difference between his former and present self was that formerly when he did not grasp what lay before him or was said to him, he had puckered his forehead painfully as if vainly seeking to distinguish something at a distance.

3 Before winter I built a chimney, and shingled the sides of my house, which were already impervious to rain, with imperfect and sappy shingles made of the first slice of the log, whose edges I was obliged to straighten with a plane.

4 With nothing but her troubled thoughts, the cold rain, and a lonely room in the bed and breakfast down the road, she didn't feel like leaving just yet.

5 The chickens, which had also taken shelter here from the rain, stalked about the room like members of the family, too humanized to roast well.

6 The countess in turn, without omitting her duties as hostess, threw significant glances from behind the pineapples at her husband, whose face and bald head seemed by their redness to contrast more than usual with his gray hair.

7 She interacted daily with the warrior members of her husband's family, but she'd never seen one quite like this, with a predatory walk and soulful, ancient intelligence in his black gaze.

8 Edward, though only in his fifty-seventh year, was entering into a premature and decrepit old age, in which he became the prey of unworthy favorites, male and female.

9 Moreover, the maintenance of the tribal system and the support given to the lawful chiefs did much to win the confidence and respect of a people naturally suspicious and mindful of their exiled king.

10 Judges and juries alike were maddened with excitement, and listened greedily to the lies which poured forth from the lips of profligate informers.

EXERCISE 4

Identify **the heads** of the underlined noun phrases.

Note

Phrases are built around their headwords, which are pivotal elements that ultimately determine the type of the phrase as a whole. Noun phrases will mostly have nouns as heads, but do not forget that this role can also be performed by pronouns, and sometimes even by adjectives (e.g. *the rich*).

We usually talk about one headword per phrase, but bear in mind that there are coordinated phrases and those with coordinated heads, i.e. those connected and kept together by conjunctions such as *and*.

Finally, heads must agree with their determiners, which means you cannot have an uncountable noun preceded by the indefinite article. If you believe that you have identified such an implausible combination, it is very likely that what you are looking at is not a headword at all.

Example

Police across the country were on the lookout for the 49-year-old trauma surgeon at the central hospital in Buffalo.

Comment

Start from the beginning and take note of the determiner **the**, the adjective phrase **49-year-old**, and the noun **trauma**. Although this is clearly a noun, think carefully whether it is the headword or just another premodifier. Always remember that nouns and noun phrases are very common premodifiers in the English noun phrase. That kind of thinking will eventually lead you to the headword, which is the noun **surgeon**.

If you are familiar with the concept of postmodification, you will look no further for the head, simply acknowledging that the chunk **at the central hospital in Buffalo** is a postmodifying prepositional phrase. It is helpful

to know at this point that most postmodifiers, e.g. prepositional phrases and clauses, are a lot bulkier than most premodifiers.

1 From delicate designs to bold geometrics, we've scoured the site for the most glorious custom bookbindings available.

2 All we had was a fur-trapping apothecary from Cornwall whose piety was exceeded only by his stinginess.

3 The term leporello refers to printed material folded into an accordion-pleat style.

4 On a thickly wooded mountainside overlooking Russia's Black Sea coast, an extraordinary building has gradually taken shape.

5 Jorden had been profiled in The Buffalo News as a homegrown success story in 1996 and was among those honored with Buffalo's Black Achievers in Industry award in 2002.

6 I always feel embarrassed when you belittle things and people that belong to a part of your life you have decided is behind you.

7 Grogan's workmanlike writing, certain and readable, gives off a calculated sincerity.

8 It lies at the root of the average American's incapacity to understand and appreciate life.

9 Years of hauling water, wringing out clothes, scrubbing floors, emptying chamberpots stretched before me like a landscape of flat land.

10 Beard begins her essay by depicting her daily routine of caring for her collie and the daily frustrations of feeling a sense of hopelessness.

11 There was trepidation by the teachers that mayhem would ensue but thankfully the children conducted themselves immaculately.

12 This naturally caused profound disappointment and dissatisfaction in the liberal section of the educated classes and especially among the young officers of the regiments which had spent some years in western Europe.

13 Yet at that moment the adoption of a clear line of policy in accord with the central powers might have saved Italy from the loss of prestige entailed by her bearing in regard to the Russo-Turkish War and the Austrian acquisition of Bosnia.

14 There was no attempt to overwhelm whole empires by pouring into them masses of troops, but commerce was combined with territorial acquisition, and a continuity of European interest secured by the presence of merchants and settlers.

15 Charming hardy bulbous dwarf plants of the liliaceous order bloom in the early spring in company with *Scilla siberica*, and are of equally easy cultivation.

EXERCISE 5

Label the underlined segments appropriately as

- a) **phrase**
- b) **finite clause**
- c) **non-finite clause.**

Note

Unlike phrases, clauses are not built around a single word referred to as the head. Instead, it is the presence of a predicate – and everything else that goes with it, e.g. complements and adverbials – that makes us think of a structure in clausal terms.

The easiest way to recognize a clause is by identifying its subject and predicate, which have to agree with each other in person and number. Because such clauses have finite predicates (i.e. tense), we call them finite. But do not expect all clauses to have subjects: subject-free clauses are perfectly acceptable in English as long as the predicate stays tense-free (i.e. encoding neither past nor present). If that is the case, it means you are dealing with a non-finite clause, either infinitival or participial (V-ing or V-ed). Since non-finite clauses usually have no subject, you should focus on identifying the predicate instead and notice how it dictates the arrangement of any other constituents within the clause (e.g. if there is a direct object in the clause, it is because the verb wants and requires it). However, always remember that no predicate in declarative and interrogative clauses deserves to be devoid of its subject.

Finally, do not be intimidated by a clause that forms part of a phrase in which it acts, say, as postmodifier. Do what it takes to distinguish such phrase-embedded clauses from those that stand on their own as full-fledged constituents in a sentence. My advice would be to try and identify the headword if you are in doubt. If it is indeed a clause, you should not be able to find one.

Example

There was barely a moment when Obama offered any sense that he was prepared to challenge Romney on his weakest point.

Comment

An analysis of the underlined segment reveals that it contains a subject, predicate and direct object, which are listed here in order of appearance: **Obama, offered,** and **any sense that he was prepared to challenge Romney on his weakest point.** The presence of these constituents suggests that the structure is a clause.

An additional feature that may help you decide whether it is a phrase or a clause is a conjunction at the beginning of the clause, in this case *when*, as clauses are often (but not always) introduced by such elements. The last step is to decide whether the clause is finite or non-finite. As the subject agrees with the past tense predicate, it is definitely a finite one.

1 Because of their charming temperament, having a pet rat for only two years can be a painful loss for anyone who has become attached.

2 But being in a busy state also suggested being worried or fretful.

3 Someone gave me a copy, and I read it in one sitting – I still can't work out how she did it.

4 While I was finding my bearings and conducting an initial exploration I lodged with my friend Panos, a school-master, in two small clean rooms overlooking the harbour, the only port in Cyprus which has some true allure.

5 I who love words and the endless possibility of words am saddened by this inevitability.

6 After a day spent chasing clients, attending meetings, coping with office politics, buying groceries, paying bills and juggling debts, most of us crave a breather from 'grown-upness'.

7 Does not the bare fact that a work of art has meant something to someone somehow change, however minutely, the overall condition for the better?

8 Enjoy this selection of books whose eye-catching design proves that a little goes a long way.

9 The day he came was very different from the formal visit the artist and his wife had made several months before.

10 When carrying his grandfather's watch became a day's burdensome task, Jem no longer felt the necessity of ascertaining the hour every five minutes.

11 The emperor's share in the work is not clear, but it seems certain that the general scheme and many of the incidents are due to him.

12 Cosmological materialism is that form of the doctrine in which the dominant motive is the formation of a comprehensive world-scheme: the Stoics and Epicureans were cosmological materialists.

13 Assisted by the Duke of Ossuna, Viceroy of Naples, he formed a plan to bring the city into the power of Spain, and the scheme was to be carried out on Ascension Day 1618.

EXERCISE 6

Identify **the subjects** and specify **their form** (e.g. V-ing clause).

Note

English is an SPO language, which means that the subject typically appears at the beginning of the clause, though this should by no means be taken for granted. We prefer to say instead that the subject typically occupies preverbal position in English declarative clauses. Much as it may sound banal, a declarative clause not making use of ellipsis, either textual or contextual, cannot afford to leave the subject slot empty. As some subjects are preceded by conjunctive or adverbial structures, for example, we use the main predicate – first making sure we are able to identify it – as a point of reference in determining the subject.

The subject normally precedes the predicate, with which it has to agree in person and number. Interrogative clause subjects, on the other hand, follow the operator and precede the lexical verb (e.g. *does he know?*). Mind that subject wh-questions (e.g. *how many are arriving and who is going to pick them up?*), which stick to the word order typically found in declarative clauses, are somewhat of an exception.

Additionally, you could use a question tag probe since question tags revolve around pronominal subjects and operators (e.g. *John knows, doesn't he?*). Semantically speaking, subjects are agents (remember that they do not have to do anything special to be called agents) and things, which is a general label covering both animate and inanimate subjects. When subject and predicate switch places, the result is inversion, which is clearly considered a departure from the way subjects are commonly used in English clauses.

As for the forms subjects can take, these range from pronouns and other simple noun phrases to complex ones. Nominal clauses, both finite and non-finite, are also relatively common in subject position. The other phrases, such as adverb and prepositional phrases, play only a marginal role as subjects in English clauses.

Example

Then in the 1940s, another American, Oswald Avery, was able to show, through an ingenious method, that the genetic information had to be carried by the DNA.

Comment

As the example contains two finite clauses, one of which is superordinate and the other embedded, there will also be two subjects to identify. The first one is a noun phrase containing an appositive postmodifier, **another American, Oswald Avery**. That this subject is preceded by both a conjunct and an adverbial is less important than the fact that it itself precedes the predicate.

The second subject is the noun phrase **the genetic information**, this time used in an embedded – as well as passive – clause. All the extra information, however, should not make you doubt or overlook its well-deserved subject role.

1 Fortunately, as with many disorders, diets for health conditions such as gout may help you find relief during a gout flare-up.

2 Seeing Scooby-Doo in cartoons doesn't change our expectations of canine behavior because we have so much experience with real dogs.

3 To finish her shift without spilling another pizza into a customer's lap is Michelle's only goal tonight.

4 Focusing on the present, Carmen straightened Destiny's frilly yellow Easter dress and brushed the thumb from her mouth.

5 Just ahead of them were the gates of Hugson's Ranch, and Uncle Hugson now came out and stood with uplifted arms and wide open mouth, staring in amazement.

6 Then I thought of our own warm little house, and how snug we could make him until he came to his senses again.

7 What many children think of with dread, as a painful plodding through grammar, hard sums and harder definitions, is to-day one of my most precious memories.

8 Only much later did I come to understand that what I was witnessing as a child was really lost glory on its way out.

9 'How is it,' she began, as usual in French, settling down briskly and fussily in the easy chair, 'Annette never got married?'

10 In addition, how food affects us unquestionably has a lot to do with genetic factors, and because everyone has a different genetic makeup, different foods affect each of us differently.

11 Thursday's storm had roared into town with uncommon severity, bringing with it more than two feet of fresh snow and a wind that set the white stuff swirling about the town, like a wild rhumba or some native fertility rite.

12 One of the most striking changes in the appearance of Norman London was caused by the rebuilding of old churches and the building of new ones, and also by the foundation of boroughs of London, although the houses of nuns, many of which were dotted over the suburbs of London, were governed by this rule.

13 Despite his desperate shouts that used to seem so terrible to the soldiers, despite his furious purple countenance distorted out of all likeness to his former self, and the flourishing of his saber, the soldiers continued to run, talking, firing into the air, and disobeying orders.

EXERCISE 7

Identify and name accordingly the noun phrases acting as **complements (subject and object) and objects (direct and indirect)**.

Note

Although there are other phrases that can act as subject and object complements (e.g. adjective phrase), here we focus on noun phrases alone. Adverbials have been left out of this exercise because they deal with circumstances rather than things and qualities.

As you will see, the noun phrases in the exercise range from one-word units to heavily modified structures. In order for a single complement to act as direct object (DO or Od), the following criteria have to be fulfilled: it is typically placed immediately after the predicate (which means it can be found in other positions, too, such as when an adverbial comes immediately after the predicate); it typically becomes the subject in a passive clause (if the passive is possible), thus entering into an extensive relationship with the predicate (i.e. the process extends to a new participant); finally, it is placed after the indirect object, if present.

In other words, if the predicate is followed by two complements, each of which can typically become the subject in a passive clause, the first one is going to be the indirect object (IO or Oi). The direct object can stand alone without affecting the grammaticality of the clause, whereas the indirect object, once present, cannot disappear from the clause as easily. This practically means that it is recoverable even if not expounded, i.e. not used explicitly.

As for subject and object complements, the former are described as obligatory clausal constituents that follow a class of verbs referred to as linking or copular (as opposed to non-linking, further divided into intransitive and transitive verbs). The following are some examples of linking verbs in English: *be, become, seem, appear, remain, get, go, grow, turn, look, feel, smell, sound, taste*, etc. Semantically speaking, these verbs are labelled as those of being, seeming, transition, and perception. However, you are advised to remain open to the possibility that some of them may double as non-linking verbs, too.

The relationship between subject and subject complement (SC or Cs) is intensive and co-referential, i.e. the process does not extend to a new participant but harks back to the subject through its attribution or identification. The subject complement cannot be made subject in a passive clause, nor can it co-occur with an intransitive verb.

The object complement (OC or Co) typically follows the direct object specifying some of its characteristics. The intensive relationship with the copula is in this case implicit since copulas do not make an appearance in clauses with object complements. Semantically speaking, the kind of verbs to expect in such clauses are those expressing resultative state (e.g. *keep, hold, leave, etc.*), mental verbs (e.g. *find, hold, consider, etc.*), and verbs of affection (e.g. *want, prefer, like, etc.*). The reason linking verbs cannot be used here is that the object complement is accessed through the direct object rather than directly, which is exactly what differentiates it from the subject complement.

Example

Sylvia tacitly handed the puzzled assistant her three pennies and walked out.

Comment

The verb is followed by two objects, the first of which is **the puzzled assistant**. It is a separate unit semantically different from the other object in that it performs the semantic role of recipient, which is best known to us as the indirect object.

The indirect object is followed by the direct object, which in this case is **her three pennies**. If there are two objects in a clause, it is the second one that is direct. Try not to confuse this sequence with that composed of a direct object and object complement – taking into consideration their semantic roles should help you with it.

1 Animals have a number of highly developed senses that humans cannot even relate to.

2 Livingston gave Victoria Falls that name after a queen.

3 I found the idea vaguely comforting but continued to battle guilt and doubt.

4 Discover the art of an illustrator who will always be remembered for the absurd.

5 A member of the staff had handed him a stiff square of stationary.

6 Next month will mark the 100th anniversary of Tarzan's first appearance in print.

7 I consider them fellow living creatures with certain rights that should not be violated any more than those of humans.

8 I poured myself a strong black coffee and left for the office.

9 Interestingly, many of the wisest teachers, philosophers, geniuses, and gurus throughout history have made compassion toward animals a very core element of their teachings.

10 The relentlessness of the situation that's borne out over the four-hundred pages is probably the strongest message to emerge from the text.

11 Shipbuilding and the manufacture of ropes, paint and sails are industries.

12 In the morning, when he went to call at Rostopchin's he met there a courier fresh from the army, an acquaintance of his own, who often danced at Moscow balls.

13 They also think your suggestion about a fixed handlebar a good one.

14 His regard was casual on the surface, but something in his eyes suggested an undertone of tension.

15 Better paint your house your own complexion; it will turn pale or blush for you.

EXERCISE 8

Identify and name accordingly **the complements (subject and object) and objects (direct and indirect)** in both independent and dependent clauses.

Note

Direct objects are chiefly realized by noun phrases although finite and non-finite clauses are not uncommon as direct objects either. Remember that the odd prepositional phrase acting as direct object is best treated as a kind of ellipsis allowing the possibility of reinstating the missing nominal head (e.g. *before noon*). Likewise, adverb phrases have to be of a rather nominal kind to be considered suitable for this position, which happens very rarely anyway (e.g. *tomorrow*). Indirect objects are almost exclusively noun phrases, occasionally V-ing and wh-clauses.

Subject complements can take the form of adjective and noun phrases, both definite and indefinite, as well as clauses, both finite and non-finite. Most object complements are noun and adjective phrases, too; the possibility of having a finite clause in this slot is less common than with subject complements, while non-finite clauses as object complements seem to be virtually non-existent.

Example

The 239-page report revealed that public interest in her case left her medically unfit to fly.

Comment

You are now asked to look for objects and complements in as many clauses as you can identify in a sentence, even those clauses that are constituents themselves (e.g. direct object, subject complement, etc.). For example, if a direct object is a clause, that clause may in turn contain some of the constituents that you need to identify.

The sentence above features a that-clause acting as direct object, **that public interest in her case left her medically unfit to fly**, following the

monotransitive verb **reveal**, but it does not stop there. Namely, the embedded clause also features a direct object, the pronoun **her**, followed by an object complement, the adjective phrase **medically unfit to fly**. It turns out that this sentence alone contains three of the clausal constituents that we have set out to identify.

If you insert the copula *be* between the object and the object complement, as in *she is medically unfit to fly*, you will not run the risk of mistaking this sequence for one with two objects. Of course, the mere fact that the object complement is an adjective phrase should automatically eliminate the possibility of it acting as direct object. All it takes is a simple reminder that direct objects are not realized by adjective phrases.

1 Moreover, toward evening, as if everything conspired to make Petersburg society anxious and uneasy, a terrible piece of news was added.

2 He suspected that the little girl would think him a coward, so he advanced slowly to the edge of the roof.

3 Many great men were glad to call him their friend, and even kings asked his advice and were amused by his fables.

4 When a female voice answered, he pressed the speaker button and the phone call became theirs.

5 Deacons may conduct any of the ordinary services in the church, but are not permitted to pronounce the absolution or consecrate the elements for the Eucharist.

6 Besides, if they buy the fact that Edith Shipton is nuts, maybe they will abandon the idea that they owe her the normal concern they'd give a sane spouse.

7 At first he heard the sound of indifferent voices, then Anna Mikhaylovna's voice alone in a long speech, then a cry, then silence, then both voices together with glad intonations, and then footsteps.

8 He knew that she had not sung since her illness, and so the sound of her voice surprised and delighted him.

9 They told her where the barn was and how she should stand and listen, and they handed her a fur cloak.

10 Her enormous figure stood erect, her powerful arms hanging down (she had handed her reticule to the countess), and only her stern but handsome face really joined in the dance.

11 If she could see and hear, I suppose she would get rid of her superfluous energy in ways which would not, perhaps, tax her brain so much, although I suspect that the ordinary child takes his play pretty seriously.

12 The blue skirt and sweater were a little dressy for jail, but they'd no doubt give her some fashionable stripes to wear anyway.

13 He leaned back in a chair across from her with muscular, feline grace, managing to appear both at ease and ready to pounce.

EXERCISE 9

Identify and label accordingly the clauses acting as

- a) **subject**
- b) **direct object**
- c) **subject complement.**

Note

Much as phrases and clauses differ in a structural way, they have a lot in common too. Both can fulfill the roles of subject, object, complement, and adverbial. This exercise is a reminder that clauses can just as easily perform most of the functions characteristically attributed to phrases.

Clauses filling the slot of object complement have a somewhat restricted distribution in English, which is why they have not been dealt with here. All the other options – subject, direct object, and subject complement – are grouped together and described as nominal functions. In case you are wondering, the adjective *nominal* is a term primarily associated with noun phrases and extended to other structures such as clauses if and when they occur in similar contexts. This should explain why adverbials are also out of the picture for the time being.

Expect a variety of clausal forms, both finite and non-finite, and be prepared to rule out those clauses that function as phrasal constituents as well as those that are not considered nominal. For example, look beyond the clauses that act as postmodifiers or adverbials but do not disregard those that perform one of the designated roles within clauses embedded at any level. More than one clause/function per sentence is also on the table.

Example

We had learned long ago that the interests of a man and a dog in the forest are not always the same.

Comment

There is a *that*-clause in postverbal position in this sentence, and such distribution normally suggests a strong possibility of it acting as either direct object or subject complement. Which of the two it is going to be depends on the verb: if it is a copula such as *be*, the clause is a subject complement. As this is obviously not the case here, and the verb *learn*, which is the main predicate, is transitive rather than copular, the clause **that the interests of a man and a dog in the forest are not always the same** is a direct object.

Nothing has been underlined for you beforehand, which means that you have to do most of the work yourself. Nevertheless, you only get to choose from a very limited number of options. English is all about distribution, i.e. understanding that meanings and functions are context-bound. When you really get the hang of this aspect of English, you will understand that its word order is much less flexible than, say, that of Serbian.

You may also have difficulty deciding where the clause you are looking for begins and where it ends. My advice is to think of the verb in this embedded clause and all the complementation that it claims on both distributional and semantic grounds. Lastly, it certainly helps to be able to identify the main predicate: at least you will know that it cannot be part of the embedded *that*-clause.

1 Brother Luca firmly believed that there were in nature as many healing forces as there were diseases among people and animals.

2 For businessmen on trips abroad getting messages from the office can be a problem.

3 The fact that science is among the influences cited to explain the emergence of modern art does not mean there are simple correlations between modern science and modern art.

4 Lucy had supposed Susy owned the bungalow her parents had lived in but she only rented it.

5 One view is that life on earth is the result of an incredibly unlikely set of circumstances.

6 To live in Arabic is to live in a labyrinth of false turns and double meanings.

7 From where I was seated I could see that there was nothing written on it at all.

8 The idea was to raise revenue in accordance with the taxpayer's wealth.

9 He suggested sending in a team of dogs disguised as wolves to scare away the soldiers.

10 The narrator may feel there is a storm raging inside her, but it's really the storm of words she releases that manifests her desire to leave everything behind.

11 It is based on the idea that what we believe about the future determines what we do in the present.

12 When she is in a new place, especially an interesting place like Niagara, whoever accompanies her is kept busy giving her an idea of visible details.

13 But only gradually did he come to realize that his source of spiritual consolation might undermine altogether the artfully constructed fabric of the medieval Church.

EXERCISE 10

Decide whether the underlined adjective phrases function as

- a) **subject complement**
- b) **object complement**
- c) **premodifier**.

Note

The most important thing here is to accept that functions can also be assigned to different parts of phrases in pretty much the same way they are assigned to different parts of clauses. The only difference is that the former are phrase-embedded rather than completely independent clausal functions.

The reason we like to talk about functions so much is because the form-function interface enables us to start from a position in a phrase or clause and then list all the possible forms or structures that can occupy that slot. It is actually meant to put things into perspective rather than add to your confusion, so I strongly recommend you give it a try.

Example

The transcripts of the emails she sent to her friends in the immediate aftermath of her loss, and of letters she received in return, are genuinely sad to read.

Comment

The adjective **immediate** is a premodifier in the noun phrase **the immediate aftermath of her loss**, so it is obviously embedded at phrase level. On the other hand, the adjective phrase **genuinely sad to read** is an independent clausal constituent acting as subject complement.

1 The room became darker but the light shone on her high round forehead.

2 I grew anxious about this delay, expecting Maria Thins to blame me, even though we both knew that it was not my fault.

3 Frans, who had been tying knots in a length of string, went very still.

4 The evolution of the Grogan family is not always easy to read about, but the author keeps it entertaining, funny and honest at its core.

5 I always enjoy talking about writing and books with kids, whose enthusiasm is truly contagious.

6 Read the unforgettable story of a family in the making and their wondrously neurotic dog.

7 Part of her aim is to show how a calm outward appearance or professional demeanour can hide the sinkhole of ever-present and unchanging misery beneath the surface.

8 Asimov considered the term somewhat inadequate, as it described what he did not believe rather than what he did.

9 I have always been quick to chide and the sight of the flowers made it impossible for me to hide my anger.

10 These people remain steadfast in their principles and their commitment to helping those in need.

11 It still remains a monument of fertile invention, exuberant facility and energetic handling of material.

12 As I have heard Bush say, only a wartime president is likely to achieve greatness, in part because the epochal upheavals of war provide the opportunity for transformative change of the kind Bush hoped to achieve.

13 That the vegetation during this period was unusually exuberant there can be no doubt, and that a general uniformity of climatic conditions prevailed is shown not only by the wide distribution of coal measures, but by the uniformity of plant types over the entire earth.

EXERCISE 11

Form noun phrases composed of **determiner(s) + premodifier(s) + head-word**.

Note

Remember that you need to come up with noun phrases that contain only premodifiers and determiners (usually several premodifiers and one or two determiners), and that postmodification in any form is not what we are looking for in this exercise. You may not need to use all forms of premodification in a single noun phrase, but make sure you know what you can choose from: most notably adjectives and adjective phrases, nouns and noun phrases, and participles; genitives, adverbs, and (hyphenated) sentences are much less common as premodifiers in the English noun phrase.

Keep in mind that you start from descriptive fragments and aim at complete and orderly noun phrases, which also means commas have to be used strategically as well as sparingly (especially between two nouns or a noun and another premodifier). Hyphenation, on the other hand, will at times be a highly desirable feature of premodification, especially in noun phrases containing numerals (e.g. *a sixty-dollar black dress*) and adjectival compounds (e.g. *a few user-friendly machines*). It is strongly recommended that you figure out the headword first, and then build upon it adding the premodifiers. Of course, if present, determiners will be placed before premodifiers.

Example

authors on the short list for the Booker Prize, several of them

Comment

The answer is **several shortlisted Booker Prize authors**, with the post-determiner **several**, the compound adjective **shortlisted**, and the noun phrase **Booker Prize** preceding the head **authors**; mind the order in which these units are placed before the head.

- 1 the best resorts in the world where one goes to ski
- 2 four technologies consume time, waste energy, and are used widely
- 3 the pan I use to fry food belonged to my great-aunt and is resistant to fire
- 4 appliances used at home that belong in the top ten for saving time
- 5 pollution of air and land that is without precedent
- 6 values of the middle class in Europe that change slowly
- 7 the systems of care for health are the most advanced ones in the region
- 8 the results of an exam in astrophysics from this term encourage and inspire
- 9 a break for coffee of ten minutes is needed badly
- 10 youths without a home, they are dressed shabbily, there are a dozen of them
- 11 a book by this young writer sells best and is about popular anthropology
- 12 policies of hotels with four stars that are proclaimed universally
- 13 those two players of volleyball on the beach speak Portuguese
- 14 a knife that is as sharp as a needle and made of silver
- 15 a species of bird from Indonesia that flies low and that one rarely sees

EXERCISE 12

Form noun phrases composed of **determiner(s) + premodifying noun phrase(s) + headword**.

Note

In this exercise the only premodifiers you are allowed to use are noun phrases, which should give you a taste of how common and economical (i.e. space-saving) such sequences are in English. The headword of a complex noun phrase will at times be premodified by another noun phrase with extensive submodification, i.e. the headword of the premodifying noun phrase will be premodified by another noun, and that noun by yet another, and so forth. Each of these nouns behaves like a link in a chain, which is a thrill to watch.

On other occasions the headword will be premodified by two separate noun phrases, both of which are very likely to engage in some form of submodification. If they are structurally required, determiners cannot be omitted.

Note that the majority of premodifying nouns are singular, which is not so difficult to understand if we know that concord or agreement takes place between the head and its determiners rather than the head and its premodifiers. Nouns that premodify other nouns take the plural form only if it entails a change in meaning, e.g. *arm* vs. *arms*.

Finally, no commas are necessary (or even allowed) between two noun phrases premodifying the same head. Hyphenation, on the other hand, can at times prove quite useful, especially in compounds and with numerals before nouns. Hyphenation can also be a way to disambiguate the meaning of a phrase, e.g. *the end of the world news* vs. *the end-of-the-world news*.

Example

contents of kit for first aid

Comment

The answer is **first-aid kit contents**, with the headword **contents** premodified by a single but complex noun phrase, **first-aid kit**, the headword of which is premodified by another noun phrase, **first aid**. You may have also noticed that in less formal styles hyphenation is often omitted.

- 1 activists in a campaign for the rights of animals
- 2 a concept of department stores selling luxury goods
- 3 a suit for bathing made of satin which comes in one piece
- 4 one judge with a district court from the US
- 5 several programmes for educating teachers in elementary schools
- 6 rates of ruptures of implants in breasts
- 7 a series of documentaries presented by the BBC in three parts
- 8 the site of the Center of World Trade
- 9 costs of the ownership of a car in the UK
- 10 a process of assessment of risk in five steps
- 11 a proposal for a loan with a mortgage bank
- 12 a training programme of six weeks for a student of law

13 staff of the laundry and kitchen, there are about two hundred of them

14 curves that indicate performance in the management of time

15 trends in the production and consumption of food for babies

EXERCISE 13

Identify **the premodifiers** in the noun phrases and specify their form (e.g. noun phrase).

Note

Now it is time to deal with premodification in sentential context. You need to single out and name the form of each of the premodifiers placed before each noun, even in those noun phrases that are part of other noun phrases. This should actually make the task easier for you! Problems may arise when you are in two minds whether you are looking at only one premodifier or more of them, i.e. whether your premodifiers include modifiers or not. I recommend checking whether what you think is a single premodifier is compatible with the head: if the combination works both structurally and semantically, it is most probably a case of multiple premodification (i.e. separate structures premodifying the same head).

In order to name the structures correctly, it is not enough to be vaguely familiar with word classes (or parts of speech), but you really need to be well-rehearsed in that department, too. Please do not assume that premodifying nouns in English are actually adjectives just because we tend to make almost every single premodifier in Serbian adjectival. Remember that we choose to treat determiners and premodifiers separately simply because the meanings they express differ significantly. Some premodifiers will be coordinated, and you will know that this has happened by the use of conjunctions such as *but*.

Lastly, in order for a structure to be used as a premodifier, there has to be a noun following it. I know it sounds almost too trivial, but you would not believe how many of us have blundered precisely at this point.

Example

But you said those books were not depressing enough and we were bombarded with recommendations for truly bleak literature.

Comment

The only premodifier here is the adjective phrase **truly bleak**. It forms a single unit, with the adjectival head preceded by a modifying adverb. It would be seriously wrong to assume that the adverb **truly** premodifies the head **recommendations** on its own: we should know that *-ly* adverbs are never used in this way.

The other adjective phrase, *depressing enough*, acts as subject complement, and is thus no contender for premodifying function.

1 A large percentage of these high-paying low-skill jobs were in the steel and automobile industries.

2 To show that elementary-school teachers regard boys and girls as separate social groups, the sociologist quotes a teacher who said, "The girls are ready and the boys aren't."

3 Lewis & Clark made a historic two-year transcontinental journey across America and yet Americans had forgotten about their achievements by the end of the 19th century.

4 A Dutch man linked to last year's disappearance of a U.S. teenager is in custody in Chile, facing murder and extortion charges in Peru.

5 One rapid but fairly sure guide to the social atmosphere of a country is the parade-step of its army.

6 Younus was a teenage dancing girl working in the red light district of the southern city of Karachi when she met her husband.

7 Five or six women were sitting with their elbows on the marble-topped tables, talking in barely audible voices about their love affairs.

8 Winder is an enormously witty and entertaining writer, who crams his book with amusing anecdotes and funny descriptive passages.

9 The tapping of knitting needles and the occasional rustle of the now-glowing fire were sounds that touched only the outermost edge of my mind.

10 As I approach the career exit door, the thought of some untrammelled pursuit of these and other under-developed research interests gets even more inviting.

11 Nancy was thrown ruthlessly on the floor and pushed to one side, while a large, pink-cheeked, fuzzy-haired member of the family received the little mother's undivided attention.

12 Hardly a man takes a half-hour's nap after dinner, but when he wakes he holds up his head and asks about the news as if the rest of mankind had stood his sentinels.

13 But contrary to what had always happened in their former battles, instead of the news they expected of the enemy's flight, these orderly masses returned thence as disorganized and terrified mobs.

EXERCISE 14

Identify **the noun phrases containing prepositional phrases** and specify the form of the prepositional complements (e.g. noun phrase).

Note

We now set out to explore what comes after the headword in the complex noun phrase in English. Noun phrase heads can be both pre- and postmodified by both phrases and clauses. As the most common post-modifier in phrasal form is the prepositional phrase, it makes perfect sense to make it our point of departure.

As you will have learned, prepositional phrases are made of prepositions and their complements, both of which are indispensable in this type of structure. In order to be able to identify a prepositional phrase, it is not enough to know that something is a preposition: we also need to be well-informed about all the different forms of the prepositional complement, both phrases and clauses (mostly V-ing and wh-ones).

The most common prepositional complement is actually the noun phrase, which just might add to our confusion. The presence of a preposition before a noun phrase makes all the difference: without the preposition it is simply a noun phrase, and with the preposition it becomes a prepositional one (e.g. *the house* vs. *in the house*). Since the noun phrase is the number one prepositional complement, it is necessary to take into account all the possible pre- and postmodifiers within it because chances are it will usually be a complex one.

While we understand that prepositional phrases can be used independently, mostly as adverbials, but also as building blocks in some other phrases, at the moment we are only interested in postmodifying prepositional phrases and the way they contribute to the complex noun phrase in English.

Example

Thus far there was no difficulty in accounting for his time – there were boys who had seen a man ‘acting sort of crazy’.

| |
|---------|
| Comment |
|---------|

The first preposition you encounter in this sentence is actually the beginning of a postmodifying prepositional phrase, **in accounting for his time**, and the postmodifier is reunited with the head and its determiner to form the noun phrase **no difficulty in accounting for his time**. Always make sure to include whatever determination and premodification there is in a noun phrase containing a postmodifying prepositional phrase. The fact that we are dealing specifically with postmodification at the moment does not mean that we can forget all we have learned about determination and premodification in the process.

The form of the prepositional complement in this case is a non-finite V-ing clause, **accounting for his time**. It goes without saying that a postmodifier has to be semantically related to its head, so the right question to ask here would be *what kind of difficulty*.

There is another preposition in the sentence but it has nothing to do with what we are looking for: it is an integral part of *sort of*, an informal modifier in the adjective phrase *sort of crazy*. It is possible, however, for any one sentence to hold more than one noun phrase containing a post-modifying prepositional phrase.

1 Any poverty rate is unacceptable although there may be broad disagreement on what to do about it.

2 He suddenly felt a little instinctive thrill of pleasure that he could hardly have defined or explained.

3 The trouble with some women is that they get all excited about nothing and then marry him.

4 In the working class this hypocrisy takes the form of not knowing that the Empire exists.

5 This beautifully written, engrossing read makes me glad that I am a woman with choices.

6 Toddlers, teenagers and people in their thirties are all liable to be told to 'stop being such a baby.'

7 The flickering fires in his eyes concentrated as he looked into her eyes.

8 The short walk to the farm became more and more difficult, and when she got there she couldn't work nearly as hard as she had done.

9 It has been known for nearly a century that starvation for about two weeks increases the speed and accuracy of mental processes.

10 The training will give you suggestions for coping with any situations that may arise.

11 Or perchance, at evening, I hear him in his stable blowing off the superfluous energy of the day, that he may calm his nerves and cool his liver and brain for a few hours of iron slumber.

12 Nations are possessed with an insane ambition to perpetuate the memory of themselves by the amount of hammered stone they leave.

13 In character he was modest, kind and sympathetic, ever ready to help and encourage serious students, generous in his judgment of the works of others, a most cheery companion, full of wit and humour.

EXERCISE 15

Decide whether the underlined prepositional phrases act as **postmodifiers or adverbials**.

Note

We know that it is not always easy to determine where a constituent, either clausal or phrasal, begins and where it ends. For example, you may be wondering whether a prepositional phrase is a postmodifier (i.e. part of a noun phrase) or an adverbial (i.e. an independent clausal constituent). This happens because a prepositional phrase that may have little to do with postmodification is preceded by a noun.

The presence of a noun might mislead you into taking an actual adverbial for a postmodifier, and a good way to distinguish between the two is to ask some of the following questions: Does the prepositional phrase provide more information about the circumstances which accompany the process expressed in the clause? Is it informative about the predicate and providing answers to questions such as *how*, *where*, and so on? If the answer to both questions is affirmative, then the prepositional phrase is most likely an adverbial.

Mind that verbs such as *put*, *place*, *keep*, *hold*, etc. all take a direct object, which is typically realized by a noun phrase and followed by a prepositional phrase acting as adverbial. It may also be worth remembering that most optional adverbials (unlike the ones following the aforementioned predicates) are highly mobile, so if you can relocate them and still make them work well in the sentence, it is certainly something to think about.

If, on the other hand, you can ask a question about the actual noun preceding a prepositional phrase (e.g. *what kind of*, *which*, etc.) and obtain a valid answer using the information expressed in the prepositional phrase, then it is most likely a postmodifier.

Example

The only consequence that came of the parliamentary scare was that Hobbes could never afterwards get permission to print anything on subjects relating to human conduct.

Comment

In the example above, the prepositional phrase **on subjects relating to human conduct** postmodifies the pronominal head **anything**. The presence of the pronoun and the fact that the prepositional phrase informs the reader about the topics not going into print at the time both suggest that the prepositional phrase cannot be an adverbial. However, if the pronoun was not there and the same verb was used intransitively, then the prepositional phrase would have to be analyzed as an adverbial.

1 Sofia stopped at the edge of the driveway, horrified by the bloodied and broken bodies spread across the expansive area in front of her.

2 Then he took out a knife, cut something, closed the knife, placed it under the head of his bed, and, seating himself comfortably, clasped his arms round his lifted knees and fixed his eyes on Pierre.

3 I guarded both doll and cradle with the most jealous care; but once I discovered my little sister sleeping peacefully in the cradle.

4 As the sun climbed over the mountains, it spread its glow across the snow still nestled in the cracks and crevices above him.

5 After that they took his right hand, placed it on something, and told him to hold a pair of compasses to his left breast with the other hand and to repeat after someone who read aloud an oath of fidelity to the laws of the Order.

6 The subject is not important, but the depth of your feelings and the conviction in your voice may be just the thing you need to snare him!

7 All seemed to be in perilously dangerous situations, clinging to the sheer walls with outstretched arms and spread legs, somehow adhered to the clear surface before them.

8 Baby Claire helped, too, by demanding attention while I spent the time worrying about how I could protect the nest of fragile souls under my care.

9 Telluride's sixty-six trails, spread over more than a thousand acres, were an awesome change from the crowded slopes Dean had skied in the East in years gone by.

10 Let him go and come freely, let him touch real things and combine his impressions for himself, instead of sitting indoors at a little round table, while a sweet-voiced teacher suggests that he build a stone wall with his wooden blocks, or make a rainbow out of strips of coloured paper, or plant straw trees in bead flower-pots.

EXERCISE 16

Identify **the determiners in the noun phrases containing restrictive relative clauses** and specify their category (e.g. central).

Note

This exercise is going to put your multitasking abilities to a test as you work your way through the following issues: first you have to identify the noun phrases containing relative clauses; in order to be able to do that, you also need to know that relative clauses can be restrictive and non-restrictive; then you have to account for all the determiners that the ultimate noun phrases are home to, making sure you specify the category they belong to. Let us briefly address each of these issues in turn.

As for relative clauses, they are allegedly the second most common post-modifier in the English noun phrase, so you are bound to come across quite a few of these in your exploration of the language. You will have noticed that with some relative clauses we use commas, while we let others stay comma-free. The latter type is restrictive or defining, which means that such a clause contains information which in a way restricts or defines the antecedent noun for us (better still, whatever or whoever the noun refers to). This is not an easy distinction to make, but a reasonable amount of exposure to each type should help you develop a better understanding and increase your success rate in choosing the right type for your own communicative purposes.

The next step is to reunite the postmodifying clause with the head and whatever determination and premodification precedes it. Only then can you start your search for determiners, which are closed-system items that specify nouns with which they occur in terms of identifiability, distribution, possession, number, quantity, order, along with a few other grammatical meanings.

You need to identify all of the determiners that are part of that one big noun phrase containing a restrictive relative clause, regardless of where exactly in the noun phrase they occur. What I am trying to say is that because the postmodifier is a clause, it will most likely contain its own noun

phrases, so look for all determiners within the entire noun phrase that a restrictive relative clause is part of.

Determiners are grouped according to their distribution in the noun phrase. It is true that determiners usually do not come in clusters – one determiner per head is all you need most of the time, even if it is ‘invisible’, i.e. the zero article. However, when there is more than one, there is an order in which one follows the other, hence pre- and postdeterminers. Predeterminers precede central determiners, which come before postdeterminers. You do not want to confuse these with pre- and postmodifiers.

Most postdeterminers are quantifiers, while articles, along with demonstrative, possessive, distributive, indefinite, and a few other sets of determiners, are central members of the category. Predeterminers are restricted to a small set including functional words like *all*, *both*, and *half*.

There are restrictions on some determiners co-occurring in the same noun phrase. For example, if you have already used a demonstrative determiner, you cannot use an indefinite one before the same noun. This makes sense because the meanings they express are contradictory and therefore mutually exclusive. Similarly, some determiners have to either precede or follow the other members of the same category when they are allowed to co-occur (e.g. *his every attempt* rather than **every his attempt*). On top of that, there are complex determiners (e.g. *one hundred thousand viewers*), coordinated ones (e.g. *this or that reason*), and those that are modified by adverbs (e.g. *over eight hundred spectators*).

Example

The men were misshapen from all the tedious, back-breaking tasks that make up the life of the agricultural labourer.

Comment

As determiners are relatively restricted in number, there is bound to be some repetition: recurring articles, for example, are common in exercises of this type. It is for that reason that individual determiners have to be underlined or marked off in some other way: we first have to indicate their exact position in the sentence, and then specify their category. You can make your answers look like this:

The men were misshapen from all the tedious, back-breaking tasks that make up the life of the agricultural labourer.

All the different contexts in which the definite article **the** is used do not change the fact that it is a central determiner; there is another determiner, **all**, which is one of the predeterminers in English.

Do not let yourself be deceived by something that looks like a determiner but is actually not one at all. Remember that looks can be deceptive, and that the word *that* is actually a relative pronoun in this case. This is what we call homomorphous items, i.e. those that have identical shape but different meaning. The relative clause – **that make up the life of the agricultural labourer** – is reunited with the head, premodifiers and determiners to form the complex noun phrase **all the tedious, back-breaking tasks that make up the life of the agricultural labourer**.

1 Of all the teachers in the school Waldo was the one who commanded the most respect.

2 She is frozen thus, many times over, in those hours that both our lives contain.

3 I feel honoured to surround myself with those who are taking great strides in making our world a better place for all.

4 How distinctly his eyes revealed the passionate rapture which agitated his soul!

5 Dill had seen Dracula, a revelation that moved Jem to eye him with the beginning of respect.

6 Here I'll make a point which I believe to be a historic constant and to which we will be returning: If property rights of the rich are respected and tax rates, while high, still allow for indefinite gain, then the rich will keep producing.

7 I considered this suggestion carefully and told Mr. Rhoades that I should be proud and glad to have wise friends to whom I could always turn for advice in all important matters.

8 She sat running her finger over the braille manuscript, stopping now and then to refer to the braille notes on which she had indicated her corrections, all the time reading aloud to verify the manuscript.

9 I made her understand, by pointing to a trunk in the hall and to myself and nodding my head, that I had a trunk, and then made the sign that she had used for eating, and nodded again.

10 There was a hopeless look in the dull eye that I could not help noticing, and then, as I was thinking where I had seen that horse before, she looked full at me and said, 'Black Beauty, is that you?'

EXERCISE 17

Identify the **determiners in the noun phrases containing non-restrictive relative clauses** and specify their category (e.g. central).

Note

This is merely an extension of the previous task as the only parameter that has changed is the type of the relative clause, which is now non-restrictive or non-defining. Such clauses are said to contain additional information about the head or provide commentary about it. Unlike restrictive relative clauses, they are not meant to help us identify the head since we should be able to do that with or without the postmodifying clause being present. Commas fit well in this type of clause because they suggest a looser semantic relationship between the head and its postmodifier. Unless its end coincides with the end of the sentence, the non-restrictive relative clause will be set off by commas on both sides, i.e. at the beginning, after the head, as well as at the end of the relative clause.

Finally, determiners are usually short words, but there are many other short words in English which certainly do not convey the same range of grammatical meanings that are inherent in determiners. It is precisely these meanings that you should think about when deciding which determiner to use. For instance, *each* is used to refer to every individual or thing regarded separately, and *either* is synonymous with *both* in its determiner usage. All three, of course, can be used pronominally, i.e. not requiring a nominal head. If you let your choices be informed by both the form of a word and its distribution in English clauses, you will navigate these waters with more confidence and, ultimately, more success.

Example

The items, which are believed to be family heirlooms, included a grandfather clock worth around £3,000.

| |
|---------|
| Comment |
|---------|

The only determiner in the noun phrase with a non-restrictive relative clause as postmodifier is the definite article **the**, which we already know is a central determiner. The relative clause itself, **which are believed to be family heirlooms**, contains no determiners (mind that although the word *which* is a relative pronoun in this context, it could be a determiner in another, e.g. *which book do you need?*). In order for a determiner to do what it is supposed to do, it has to be followed by a noun at some point (e.g. after a sequence of premodifiers). It may sound too trivial again, but my experience teaches me that one can never be too careful. The remaining determiner, the indefinite article *a*, is not part of the noun phrase you are looking for, so do not let it interfere with your work at the moment. You can make your answer look like this:

The items, which are believed to be family heirlooms, included a grandfather clock worth around £3,000.

This one was fairly simple, but you will also be dealing with complex or phrasal determiners, i.e. semantic units made up of more than one word. If you find it difficult to tell them apart from a string of individual determiners, remember that the point of concord is head-determiner. In other words, if one of the component parts is incongruous with the head, what better proof do you need that it only forms part of a complex determiner? Also expect an additional challenge in the form of a coordinated noun phrase containing a partitive relative clause (introduced, for example, by *one of whom*, *all of which*, etc.).

Last but not least, remember that the same form may be used in different contexts to convey different meanings and serve different functions; for example, the s-genitive is a premodifier in *a girls' school* but a determiner in *Europe's past and present*.

1 Finally, a great many questions, which in other countries are decided at the national level, are here settled by the individual states and communities.

2 All this and more is revealed by satellite images of the area and photographs on the internet, some of which you see here.

3 She said Younus became a liability to her family, for whom she was once a source of income.

4 Jespersen cites Professor E. S. Holden, who early in the century laboriously tested himself on every single word in Webster's Dictionary.

5 The young man felt that his articles, in which he recounted the speeches of the great orators or described rousing scenes of patriotic fervour among their audience, had universal and everlasting significance.

6 Then she looked at Zeb, whose face was blue and whose hair was pink, and gave a little laugh that sounded a bit nervous.

7 The adobe structure was guarded by several Guardians, none of whom looked like Damian from the distance.

8 He was peppered with questions from the rescuers, many of whom he recognized, but he held responses to a negative shake of his head and Billy Langstrom's name.

9 Excited and irritated by these thoughts, Prince Andrew went toward his room to write to his father, to whom he wrote every day.

10 Discussions and questions of that kind, which are like the question of how to get the greatest gratification from one's dinner, did not then and do not now exist for those for whom the purpose of a dinner is the nourishment it affords; and the purpose of marriage is the family.

EXERCISE 18

Give as many variations as possible concerning **the relative pronoun**.

Note

The best way to start is by looking for the relative clause and its corresponding relative pronoun. Proceed by paying attention to the antecedent noun, which will ultimately govern the other choices available to you: animate vs. inanimate is a useful dichotomy that should not be overlooked in this case.

Also keep in mind that the zero relative pronoun is many an English speaker's first choice, and make sure you know how to use it correctly. In other words, such usage is only compatible with object pronouns, as in *a man she loves*. The loss of a subject relative pronoun would make the entire relative clause disappear, as in *a man (who) loves her*. If in doubt, remember that the relative pronoun *that* is also very common in English and that it suits both animate and inanimate nouns. Lastly, note that prepositions can be moved away from relative pronouns, which is perfectly acceptable in present-day English.

Example

Silas sat behind the wheel of the black Audi **the Teacher had arranged for him**.

Comment

The relative clause **the Teacher had arranged for him** allows the following two alternatives: **that the Teacher had arranged for him** and **which the Teacher had arranged for him**. The inanimate antecedent noun blocks the use of the relative pronoun *who*, and the preposition *for* in the phrase *for him* has nothing to do with the relative pronoun itself.

If it was up to you to decide how many variations, if any at all, were possible in each sentence, my guess is that the exercise would be a lot trickier. Anyway, we are keeping it relatively simple for now – one relative clause per sentence. Just be careful not to confuse relative and non-finite claus-

es because we choose to treat them separately while being fully aware that one is derived from the other.

1 Please release my client from the torment through which he has been put during the last seven months.

i)

ii)

iii)

2 Again, this goes back to blatant disregard for the other beings with whom we share this incredible planet.

i)

ii)

iii)

iv)

3 Some of our neighbours are selfish, heartless people I have no respect for.

i)

ii)

iii)

iv)

4 He was a member of a club which I belonged to, and I had often sat next to him at lunch.

i)

ii)

iii)

5 The blackness of the night had rolled away to reveal the country we had been looking for.

i)

ii)

6 Likewise, she acknowledges that there were areas of Ray's life she was excluded from by mutual, almost unspoken, consent.

i)

ii)

iii)

7 The commonplace expressions I had read so often in the past suddenly took on a real meaning.

i)

ii)

8 Perhaps one of the most sobering things a person can do is visit an animal shelter filled with the innocent victims of human irresponsibility.

i)

ii)

9 Wrapped in a mantle of tattered clouds, the city nostalgically reminisces about the countryside it hails from.

i)

ii)

iii)

10 I noticed that under her housecoat she was wearing the wine-red negligee I had given her for Christmas.

i)

ii)

EXERCISE 19

Identify the noun phrases containing reduced relative clauses.

Note

We shall first try to come to terms with what reduced relative clauses mean to us since different authors have used the term to refer to different structures. We shall narrow it down to the point where it represents only those relative clauses without overt relative pronouns in them.

It is important to be aware of contexts in which it is possible to omit the relative pronoun (most notably when the relative pronoun is the object in the clause), as well as contexts in which the relative pronoun cannot be omitted (most notably when the relative pronoun is the subject in the clause).

Some call reduced relative clauses contact clauses because they wish to highlight the point of contact between such a clause and the head of the noun phrase it is part of. Some also choose to treat reduced relative clauses and non-finite clauses as if they were one and the same. If we did that, however, we would possibly fail to see some important differences between reduced relative clauses proper and non-finite clauses.

Once you have identified a reduced relative clause, reunite it with the rest of the noun phrase. This relatively straightforward exercise will hopefully provide enough exposure for you to be able to construct complex noun phrases of this kind completely unassisted. Lastly, be careful not to confuse restrictive and reduced relative clauses.

Example

Shoba was lying on a bed in a wing of the hospital they hadn't been to on the tour for expectant parents.

Comment

If you do it the other way around and try to locate the spot where the relative pronoun could be reinstated, you will see that the only place

that permits that kind of maneuver is after the noun *hospital*. Because relative clauses are what they are, i.e. clauses, they will often take up a lot of space in the actual sentence.

The relative clause **they hadn't been to on the tour for expectant parents** contains a subject, predicate, as well as an adverbial. If you go back a little, you will come to what you probably think is the headword, and you will probably think that the noun phrase you are asked to identify is *the hospital they hadn't been to on the tour for expectant parents*. That would surely be nice and tidy, but I am afraid the answer is no. Move a little further to the left and stop at the noun **wing**. Now, that is the actual head of the noun phrase containing a reduced relative clause.

The trouble is that the noun phrase **a wing of the hospital they hadn't been to on the tour for expectant parents** has two postmodifiers: one is the prepositional phrase **of the hospital**, and the other is the aforementioned reduced relative clause. You can test this assumption by separating one postmodifier from the other: if it works that way, the head will definitely be the one that goes well with either postmodifier. We can do this together: **a wing they hadn't been to on the tour for expectant parents**. As I hope you can see, it looks perfectly fine even without the postmodifying prepositional phrase. Not every noun phrase formed in this way will be so elaborate; on the contrary, some will be surprisingly short and simple.

Marking the boundaries of postmodifying clauses, especially the ending point, is where I anticipate most difficulty; but being able to identify the main predicate as a pivotal point in the whole sentence should help you with this, especially if the reduced relative clause precedes the main predicate.

1 It is amazing how well they seem to manage the affairs of those they were chosen to represent.

2 Everything she had complained about was fair and I wondered if I dared phone her from home.

3 On the glass table in the centre of the room stood the 'Snoopy' coffee mug I usually drank from.

4 Mr. Bhoollabhoj had managed Smith's for years before the woman he married turned up as its new proprietor.

5 Younus' story highlights the horrible mistreatment many women face in Pakistan's conservative, male-dominated culture.

6 The summer reading I'm most looking forward to involves very old books, rather than new ones.

7 He talks about doing all the things you are no longer supposed to do now that you are grown-up.

8 This is something only the moms can handle; mine calls hers, Elizabeth gets sent back home, and I go off to school alone, in a stupid dress that doesn't look right.

9 Behind every word one uses lie the ranked shadows of all the other words in the family, crowding insistently in to give body and depth to the most casual utterance.

10 The Secretary General said that the new plan the Russians had proposed was, in most respects, the same as the one that had been rejected earlier.

11 Then he ordered his treasurer to pay the poet five hundred pieces of gold; for, indeed, the poem he had recited was wonderfully fine.

12 So Zeb unharnessed Jim, and several of the servants then led the horse around to the rear, where they selected a nice large apartment he could have all to himself.

13 However, it is amusing to read of the elaborate preparation I underwent to fit me for the great task my friends entrusted to me.

EXERCISE 20

Identify the that-clauses and label them accordingly as

- a) **relative**
- b) **appositive**
- c) **nominal**.

Note

This exercise serves as yet another reminder that there are words in English that express different meanings through one and the same form. The case at hand concerns the different uses of *that* – as a relative pronoun or a complementizer in either nominal or appositive clauses. What you think you are looking at is seemingly the same clause, but you may be surprised to learn that it is actually three different clauses. And you will have guessed by now that one of those is nominal.

It is possible, even customary, for nominal that-clauses to omit the complementizer *that*. The fact that the complementizer is no longer overt does not change the clause itself. Remember that this type of clause is called nominal because it fills the slots typically associated with noun phrases – those of subject, object, and complement. So, in this case expect clauses where you would normally encounter phrases.

Just as nominal clauses are independent or standing on their own, so the other two, relative and appositive, are part of the noun phrase. Use the example below to work out the differences between them before you take on this exercise. Also, do not be surprised to find more than one that-clause in a single sentence.

Example

Somehow, no matter how many times I witness such deliberate behaviours, I am touched at a core level by the fact that they are taking place among a species that my own species generally considers valueless.

Comment

The clause **that they are taking place among a species that my own species generally considers valueless** is neither nominal nor relative. It is not nominal because, instead of standing on its own, it postmodifies the noun **fact**. It is not relative because the clause clearly enters an intensive semantic relationship with the head, which is an abstract noun. Appositive clauses and their heads share the same content in that the head is no more and no less than what the clause says it is. As a final test, note that the complementizer *that* cannot be replaced with a relative pronoun.

There is another *that*-clause within the appositive one: this time it is the relative clause **that my own species generally considers valueless**. It is important that you see how semantically different this postmodifier is from the previous one. To make it even more fun, have a good look at how one is embedded into the other.

1 Compared to the great distance that had separated him from Daisy it had seemed very near to her, almost touching her.

2 At the time of writing this review, I haven't come across any explanatory interviews with the author, but the episodic structure and the use of dates and the present tense suggest to me that she's lifted sections from her own diary entries or fragmented notes at the time.

3 There are also fears that the reserves could encourage a revival of ivory trading, which has been banned for at least a year now.

4 He reminded us that the lawn mower and snowblower needed to be winterized.

5 Looking back, I don't suppose we are any worse now than people were a hundred years ago.

6 Darwin searched for confirmation that animals weep, but found inconclusive evidence that elephants cry under great duress.

7 Tobacco companies in North Carolina are not too happy about the strong health warnings that must be put on their products.

8 Largely conducted out of sight of Europeans, the complex interplay between black and red is a hidden drama that historians and archaeologists have only recently begun to unravel.

9 John Buchan published more than 25 novels and yet he had a remarkable life away from writing that included being a Member of Parliament and Governor-General of Canada.

10 His duplicity being so well known, he realized dimly that he would never be able to establish his innocence.

11 Sometimes a new word revived an image that some earlier experience had engraved on my brain.

12 Then they told him dinner would be served directly and he replied that they could not serve it too quickly to suit his convenience.

13 If you have an unwavering commitment to an idea that all things will be good all the time, then that is irrational.

EXERCISE 21

Identify the relative clauses and label them accordingly as

- a) **restrictive**
- b) **non-restrictive**
- c) **reduced**
- d) **sentential.**

Note

The only addition to the relative clauses we have discussed before is the sentential type. It differs from the rest of the lot in that it does not perform a postmodifying function, i.e. it is not part of the noun phrase in English.

Sentential relative clauses do not rely on a nominal antecedent like the rest of the relative clauses listed above. The antecedent of a sentential relative clause is much larger than a noun: it is either the entire preceding clause or a part of it. The role of a sentential relative clause is to comment on the content of the clause that precedes it. The only pronoun that can introduce this type of relative clause is *which*, and it is always used non-restrictively, i.e. with a comma.

If necessary, refresh your memory of the other relative clauses that you are asked to identify in the task at hand.

Example

He seemed comfortable with his surroundings, which was surprising in itself.

Comment

The example is straightforward enough as it only contains the sentential relative clause **which was surprising in itself**. It clearly comments on the proposition that *he*, whoever he may be, *seemed comfortable with his surroundings*. Note that the noun *surroundings* cannot be the anteced-

ent in this case since its plural form does not agree with the third person singular verb *was*.

There is very little room for confusion here, but that might change when you have to deal with several relative clauses within the same sentence. Worse still, some sentences will not have a single relative clause for you to identify but may host similar structures that are easy to mistake for one of those you need. For example, the sentence *Whoever has them will be able to take control* contains a *wh*-clause in subject position, i.e. *whoever has them*. It is true that such clauses resemble what you are looking for just about closely enough to make you wonder. I recommend that you use the absence of an antecedent noun to prove that this is neither a postmodifying nor a sentential relative clause.

1 Whatever happens and whoever may stand at the head of affairs, the theory can always say that such and such a person took the lead because the collective will was transferred to him.

2 When I learned that there was a gift for each child, I was delighted, and the kind people who had prepared the tree permitted me to hand the presents to the children.

3 Ferapontov's wife, who till then had not ceased wailing under the shed, became quiet and with the baby in her arms went to the gate, listening to the sounds and looking in silence at the people.

4 The teachers at the Wright School were always planning how they might give the pupils every advantage that those who hear enjoy and lead them out of the cramping circumstances in which their lives were set.

5 One does not need to read *A Boy I Knew* to understand him – the most generous, sweet-natured boy I ever knew, a good friend in all sorts of weather, who traces the footprints of love in the life of dogs as well as in that of his fellowmen.

6 The Wizard opened his satchel and got out some sticking-plaster with which he mended the cuts Jim had received from the claws of the bears.

7 To his delight they were now plainly visible, which proved that they had passed beyond the influence of the magical Valley of Voe.

8 I am sorry to say that our train was delayed in several places, which made us late in reaching New York.

9 The following chapter catalogs the difficulties inherent in trying to end war, which in the past brought misery and destruction and in the future could bring annihilation.

10 I have since read Shakespeare's plays many times and know parts of them by heart, but I cannot tell which of them I like best.

EXERCISE 22

Identify **the noun phrases containing non-finite clauses** and name their type (e.g. V-ing clause).

Note

Although non-finite clauses can perform almost all clausal roles on their own, they can also be embedded at phrase level. Much as our focus here is on the noun phrase that includes such clauses, we are aware that the noun phrase is not the only syntagmatic setting in which we encounter non-finite clauses (for example, they are often used as complements in prepositional and adjective phrases). It is only for the purposes of the task at hand that we shall turn a blind eye to all the other contexts and look specifically for those in which non-finite clauses are part of the noun phrase.

If a postmodifying clause is non-finite, it can come in any one of its three forms: V-ing, V-ed, and to-infinitive. There is no rule that prevents us from having more than one postmodifying non-finite clause per sentence, so do not ignore this possibility. If you can be persuaded that you are ultimately aiming to identify complex noun phrases containing non-finite clauses, the next logical step would be to bring together both the postmodifying non-finite clause and the rest of the noun phrase in your analysis. Note that some of the non-finite clauses contain rather complex noun phrases (see how our perspective has changed here), which will extend the boundaries of the postmodifying clauses and, consequently, of the noun phrases you are asked to identify.

Example

The priest had rented this shack put up in a field five minutes' walk from his presbytery.

Comment

First of all, you need to understand that not all V-ed forms are non-finite: if that were the case, what would we make of the simple past tense? No main predicate which agrees with its subject can be non-finite. This,

then, should rule out the predicate *had rented*. What we are left with is another V-ed (or V-en, which also accounts for irregular verbs of this kind) predicate, **put up**. Since we are looking for a clause, we expand our search to include the prepositional phrase **in a field five minutes' walk from his presbytery**. This adverbial (now we switch to a functional label) provides spatial information that belongs with the phrasal verb **put up**, which means the entire clause will stretch from the verb to the end of the actual sentence: **put up in a field five minutes' walk from his presbytery**. All we need to do now is reunite it with the noun **shack** and its determiner, and the result is a noun phrase containing a non-finite clause: **this shack put up in a field five minutes' walk from his presbytery**.

I would like to add that some non-finite clauses are non-restrictive, i.e. flanked by commas; if you are familiar with restrictive and non-restrictive relative clauses, you will see that it is basically the same concept applied to a different kind of clause. Do not let a comma or two get in your way. Also make a clear distinction between a premodifying participle and a postmodifying non-finite clause; as the names suggest, one is a participle, the other a clause. Of course, it is crucial to see that the absence of finiteness occurs when the predicate involves no finite auxiliary (or tense): a non-finite clause is governed by a tenseless predicate.

1 In one famous example, an exposé of the CIA published in *The New York Times* also appeared in 400 other American papers.

2 While she was agonizing over her unfaithful husband, her beloved dying collie and the family of rambunctious squirrels nesting in the upstairs bedroom, a deranged graduate student walked into the physics department at the university and opened fire.

3 It is a love story presented as an auction catalogue, and tells the story of a relationship by the objects to be auctioned.

4 On her feet were new-looking white sandals, strapped with a broad white band and fitted with platform soles.

5 And slotted into this are clips of film, looking in contrast somehow amateurish, quaint and not quite real.

6 Alabama was pretty, too, better than Florida, which was billboards and condos built on old dump sites.

7 Even before I was told the meaning of the mysterious words that filled the garden that day like a chalice overflowing with dark wine, I knew that I was confronted not with a blind man, but with the indomitable spirit of a nation that would simply never be subdued.

8 The sensible resolution to be contented with the simple wardrobe which suited a poor man's daughter was weakened by the unnecessary pity of girls who thought a shabby dress one of the greatest calamities under heaven.

9 The company founded to run the commercial reserves has already paid a large sum for an option on several hundred thousand hectares in Mozambique.

10 For the law, anyone belonging to a group of men who attack and rob with violence is a bandit.

11 Then the three held a counsel to decide what they should do next, but could think of no way to better their condition.

12 The image accompanying him into a light doze was that of a beautiful woman sleeping in the bed nearby.

13 Mr. Pagan, who was at the news conference, has circulated petitions requesting the transfer to adult court since Mr. Robles was kicked, stomped, punched and hit with a bottle on June 20 as he sat on his usual corner in an industrial area of town, sipping from a beer bottle.

EXERCISE 23

If possible, convert the non-finite clauses into corresponding **relative clauses**.

Note

This is yet another exercise dealing with noun phrases and, more specifically, postmodification. When a relative clause is stripped of a relative pronoun and a tensed predicate, the result is a non-finite clause. I suggest that you locate the non-finite clause first, and then reconstruct it by restoring the predicate and the relative pronoun as appropriate. The tenseless predicate will have to become tensed again, and your choice will be largely governed by the tense of the main predicate and the context of the sentence as a whole. Do not forget that non-restrictive non-finite clauses should lead to non-restrictive relative clauses in the process of conversion, just as restrictive ones should match their own kind. If there are some extra features of non-finite clauses that can be retained in their relative clause counterparts, such as aspect (which has to do with actions interpreted as either complete or progressive, and which is not to be mistaken for tense), make sure they do not get lost in this transition.

Also, it would be an oversimplification, as well as a mistake, to assume that non-finite V-ing clauses always correspond to progressive verbs (e.g. *working, sleeping, eating*, etc.) in their relative clause counterparts – most of the time the V-ing form in a non-finite clause simply indicates that the verb is active. On a final note, you may be surprised to see that some non-finite clauses can revert back to partitive relative clauses, but luckily this does not happen too often.

Example

Data from a similar questionnaire administered to students in the same context were even more decisive.

| |
|---------|
| Comment |
|---------|

There are two predicates in the sentence, but the only finite verb form is *were*. When we rule that one out, we are left with the V-ed form *administered*. When we factor in the adverbials *to students* and *in the same context*, we get a full clause, i.e. **administered to students in the same context**. Mind that we have no right to encroach on the territory of the main (tensed) predicate of the sentence.

Now, the easiest way to test whether this clause is really non-finite is by expanding it into a corresponding relative one. In doing so, you can choose between **which** or **that** as relative pronouns because the noun to the left of the non-finite verb is inanimate; the noun *questionnaire* is the actual head of the noun phrase, which you can also identify on semantic grounds, e.g. in English questionnaires do indeed get administered, so it is a tried-and-tested collocation. Next, the predicate of the clause will have to be in the past tense in order to keep it in line with the main sentential predicate. This relatively simple two-step process will yield the relative clause **which/that was administered to students in the same context**, which works perfectly well with the headword we have already identified.

I hope you can see that this is a passive structure, and that non-finite V-ed clauses correspond to relative clauses in the passive voice, just as non-finite V-ing clauses correspond to active verbs in relative clauses. Infinitives, on the other hand, imply some kind of modality (i.e. a corresponding relative clause will make use of a modal verb in the process). It is possible for a sentence to contain more than one non-finite clause that can be transformed into a corresponding relative one. And one last remark before we move on: you need not identify the entire noun phrase which is home to the clause in question – this time it is all about the clause.

- 1 It is a land of snobbery and privilege, ruled largely by the old and silly.
- 2 The retired gentleman living next door was itching to talk, like any southerner, but for some time he did not dare.
- 3 Here is something for you to do while you are waiting.

4 Once in a rare while, in the margins, among Shawn's meticulous corrections and suggestions, all aimed at greater exactness, one would find a word like 'wonderful' or 'beautiful'.

5 Everywhere you go in central London there are blocks of flats being pulled down and huge hotels being erected.

6 The computers would then see that most people who got better bought their radishes in stores stocked from certain farms.

7 It means I can trade you a good or service for an intermediate store of value known as money, and then trade that money to the person who actually has the goods I want.

8 When her attention was drawn to a marble slab inscribed with the name Florence in relief, she dropped upon the ground as though looking for something and turned to me with a face full of trouble.

9 The hills forming its shores are so steep and the woods on them so high that, as you look down from the west end, it has the appearance of an amphitheatre for some land of sylvan spectacle.

10 He treated his Serene Highness with a somewhat affected non-chalance intended to show that, as a highly trained military man, he left it to Russians to make an idol of this useless old man, but that he knew whom he was dealing with.

EXERCISE 24

If possible, convert the relative clauses into corresponding **non-finite clauses**.

Note

This time the point of departure is the postmodifying relative clause, and the rest should be fairly easy: simply make it tenseless, i.e. non-finite, by dropping the relative pronoun and changing the predicate to the right non-finite form. If necessary, remind yourself of how and why to choose between V-ing, V-ed, and to-infinitive forms.

Although less frequent than their restrictive counterparts, non-restrictive non-finite clauses still remain a viable option. If you spot the odd non-finite clause that is not a postmodifier, ignore it and look for a post-modifying one. Mind that modal verbs are inherently finite, which means that you cannot both keep the modal verb and have a non-finite clause – these actions are mutually exclusive. But if there is a modal verb in the relative clause, replace the predicate with a to-infinitive form. Although you will not encounter such clauses in this particular exercise, it is worth remembering that infinitives can easily take the passive form (e.g. *to do* vs. *to be done*). In other words, you would make the infinitive passive if the passive voice was also at work in the corresponding relative clause.

Example

Then there were the Night People of the Museum – those who were writing books or theses.

Comment

The clause **who were writing books or theses** is the only relative clause in the sentence. It is preceded by a pronominal headword, which we do not even need to include in our analysis. The verb is active so we can safely opt for the V-ing clause **writing books or theses**, which is the answer to our question.

Remember that your choice of this particular non-finite verb form is informed by an active finite verb rather than its progressive aspect in the relative clause. Lastly, some sentences will contain more than one relative clause that lends itself to being transformed into a corresponding non-finite one.

1 Students, who work in groups of three, copy the web onto a piece of paper.

2 As a psychologist who is married to an economist, I find this new balance enormously pleasing.

3 Kofi Annan opened a critical international meeting in Ethiopia which was aimed at solving the crisis in Darfur.

4 But the word, for reasons that defy logic, adopted the verb pronunciation and the noun spelling.

5 The way you can get to the head of the queue is to slip in through the kitchen.

6 I was then for a time the Head of the finest Flying Machine that was ever known to exist, and we did many wonderful things.

7 Then, suddenly, an awkward half-grown boy who sat right in front of the master's desk turned squarely around and whispered to Tommy Jones, three desks away.

8 And then we come to Greece, the home of Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine, who left us not just the oath that bears his name but also a corpus of roughly sixty medical texts based on his teaching.

9 For instance, I could hand carve bird calls and then advertise them only to people who are looking at online content about hand-carved bird calls or who search the Internet for information about hand-carved bird calls.

10 Now, if words and images come to me without effort, it is a pretty sure sign that they are not the offspring of my own mind, but stray waifs that ought to be handled with care.

EXERCISE 25

Identify the noun phrases containing postmodifying adjective phrases.

Note

This section deals with what we call minor types of postmodification, i.e. postmodifying structures that are not as common in this position as, say, prepositional phrases. Though adjective phrases are regularly used as pre-modifiers, their post-head occurrence is restricted to several contexts.

Interestingly, there are a couple of adjectives which are comfortable enough in post-head position (*available* and *present* spring to mind most readily) but mind that such order of constituents (the head followed by a postmodifying adjective or an entire adjective phrase) signals temporariness.

This kind of postmodification is generally acceptable if the head of the noun phrase is indefinite or negative (e.g. *somebody*, *anyone*). Coordinated adjective phrases are also easily placed after the headword, as are adjective phrases involving complementation (i.e. the adjectival head is followed by a phrase or a clause which is an integral part of the adjective phrase). All these postmodifying structures can be transformed into relative clauses (remember that we have seen the same transformation take place with non-finite clauses), but for the time being it is more useful for us to treat them simply as adjective phrases.

Example

Spectators are willing to pay a lot of money for the odd game replete with drama and high tension.

Comment

Actually, this sentence contains four adjectives but only one of them will be the head of a postmodifying adjective phrase, i.e. one acting as post-modifier. You can rule out the adjective *willing* for obvious reasons: it is not preceded by a nominal head, and the presence of a copular verb suggests that the adjective phrase extending all the way to the end of the

sentence acts as subject complement. The adjectives *odd* and *high* are clearly premodifiers, so we are left with a fourth one, which is the adjective **replete**. Even if you are unfamiliar with the meaning of the adjective, do not let it distract you – the only thing you are interested in is the word class it belongs to. You can always turn to morphology for some hints; for example, recall some other morphologically similar adjectives such as *complete*, which you can use to make an educated guess about the class of this less familiar one.

The word **replete** is beyond doubt the head of the adjective phrase **replete with drama and high tension**, with the accompanying prepositional phrase acting as adjectival complement. Now that we have identified the postmodifying adjective phrase, all we need to do is reattach it to the rest of the noun phrase. The headword **game** is preceded by both a premodifying adjective and a determiner, and when you put these three together with the postmodifier, the result is the noun phrase **the odd game replete with drama and high tension**.

1 Grogan and his three siblings grew up in a house full of saints' effigies, attended a school run by ruler-wielding nuns and even spent family vacations at religious shrines, chapels and monasteries.

2 And in their place will be a national speech, standard and tasteless.

3 Anyone interested in the Hebrew Bible and Old Testament can hardly avoid thinking about its pervasive 'land theology'.

4 But those brave enough to bet on the bond markets must have had a spectacular year.

5 Originally conceived as a modest holiday house with a swimming pool, it now boasts a magnificent columned facade reminiscent of the 18th century country palaces.

6 The documentation is thorough but complex enough to appear daunting to those not technically inclined.

7 For more than a week preparations were being made, rough drafts of letters to Nicholas from all the household were written and copied out, while under the supervision of the countess and the solicitude of the count, money and all things necessary for the uniform and equipment of the newly commissioned officer were collected.

8 Nicholas understood that something must have happened between Sonya and Dolokhov before dinner, and with the kindly sensitiveness natural to him was very gentle and wary with them both at dinner.

9 It ran into a narrow cleft which he had not seen before, and then through a long, dark passage barely large enough for a man's body.

10 If we obtained this ten-thousand-fold increase simply by allowing specialization and dividing work up among people, then what astronomical gains will we achieve by outsourcing that work to robots capable of working with unimaginable precision at unimaginable speed?

EXERCISE 26

Identify the noun phrases containing postmodifying adverbs.

Note

Adverbs (and to a much lesser extent adverb phrases) represent another minor type of postmodification in English, their usage being restricted to common expressions such as *everywhere*, *today*, *together*, along with a few other forms. Most importantly, there can be no *-ly* adverbs (e.g. *importantly*) in post-head position: such adverbs are actually incompatible with both pre- and postmodification in English. Adverbs (or adverb phrases) placed after nominal heads can at times be expanded to fuller forms, e.g. relative clauses. Semantically speaking, an adverb is indeed a postmodifier if it provides more information about the noun in question rather than predicate-related circumstances.

The real trouble with adverbs is that they are extremely heterogeneous and versatile, so be prepared to see their many different forms performing many different functions in English. Their roles range from independent adverbials to modifiers in every phrase type in English.

Example

The Longest Trip Home, a book about the author's upbringing in a devotedly Roman Catholic household, echoes emotions that Mr. Grogan has already described to such best-selling effect.

Comment

The sentence contains a total of three adverbs: *home*, *devotedly*, and *already*. And you are guessing right – only one of them is a postmodifier. We can start by eliminating the implausible candidates. The adverb *devotedly* is a modifier in the adjective phrase *devotedly Roman Catholic*, which is a premodifier in the noun phrase headed by the word *household*. The adverb *already* clearly relates to the predicate *has described*, so it must be an adverbial. If you think the word *home* is a noun, you are actually not far off the mark; it is just that in this particular context

it can take neither a premodifier nor a determiner, which is something most nouns are capable of doing. In this context, **home** is an adverb that follows a noun, which is in turn preceded by a premodifying adjective and a determiner. Finally, the postmodifier **home** is semantically related to the head **trip**.

The noun phrase containing a postmodifying adverb is thus the title of a book, i.e. **The Longest Trip Home**. We shall leave it at that with no more than a comment that this noun phrase is followed by another one used in apposition to it and describing what the book is about. Technically speaking, though, the title itself is the only noun phrase with a postmodifying adverb in the sentence.

1 But as Grogan's parents age and their health begins to fail, baby boomers everywhere will recognize that feeling that now it's the child trying to take care of the parent in a role reversal that is so difficult to undertake.

2 According to the World Health Organization, over 450 million people worldwide suffer from mental illness of some variety.

3 Mama turned and left, closing the door behind her, so as not to wake the traveling preacher who was sleeping in the room upstairs.

4 The information below has been compiled by the task group and will be passed on to the head office as soon as possible.

5 Our twice-monthly visits together were just about the right amount of Becky for me.

6 Through a collection of objects from travels abroad and affordable home furnishings we've created a crisp yet laid-back beach house for everyone to kick their feet up and just chill, which happens to be the motto and mantra of our small business.

7 The tools offered by neuroscience improve our understanding of the links between hearing, processing linguistic sounds, and the development of literacy – and this is increasingly critical to ensuring that children everywhere are learning to read.

8 He saw the senior officer lying on the earth wall with his back turned as if he were examining something down below and that one of the soldiers he had noticed before was trying to free himself from some men holding him by the arm.

9 I took down this dwelling the same morning, drawing the nails, and removed it to the pond-side by small cartloads, spreading the boards on the grass there to bleach and warp back again in the sun.

10 Three frolicsome little streams ran through it from springs in the rocks above, leaping here and tumbling there in laughing cascades wherever the rocks tried to bar their way.

EXERCISE 27

Identify the **pre- and postmodifiers** in the underlined phrases and specify their form (e.g. adjective phrase).

Note

It is time to find out what you have learned about pre- and postmodification in English, and this seems to be just about the right way to do it: you will have to choose from all pre- and postmodifiers available to us. As each of these noun phrases contains only one headword, all the pre- and postmodifiers identified should cluster around that one word. In other words, your task is to focus on the big noun phrase rather than the smaller ones within it.

Although most of the noun phrases in this exercise contain both pre- and postmodifiers, there is nothing stopping us from using postmodification alone. And do not be surprised if you spot two postmodifiers in a single noun phrase – it only means you are dealing with multiple postmodification. In case you are wondering, multiple premodification is perfectly acceptable too.

Example

And the latest Chevy commercial features a pregnant woman househunting with her slightly less demanding husband.

Comment

The noun phrase **a pregnant woman househunting with her slightly less demanding husband** has one adjectival premodifier, **pregnant**, and one postmodifier in the form of a non-finite clause, **househunting with her slightly less demanding husband**. As they both modify the same headword, **woman**, we stop there and look no further. It is true that there is another premodifier (*slightly less demanding*) within this larger segment, but it has a different headword (*husband*) and cannot be said to modify the headword of the entire phrase, which we have already identified.

1 To many, the flea market is the village fair that was lost upon arrival to the city and recreated from poverty and misery.

Premodifier(s):

Postmodifier(s):

2 She is a high-powered career woman who contributes heavily to the household income, and may even be the main breadwinner in the family.

Premodifier(s):

Postmodifier(s):

3 You will also find a textbook from 1788 written by a mathematician who survived the carnage of the French Revolution.

Premodifier(s):

Postmodifier(s):

4 In a military maneuver worthy of the CIA, secret sealed orders were opened all across Europe on Friday 13.

Premodifier(s):

Postmodifier(s):

5 The book at bedtime is just part of the daily routine for many families, but choosing the right titles to read aloud to an inquisitive six-year-old can be difficult.

Premodifier(s):

Postmodifier(s):

6 I cannot exclude the theoretical possibility that tomorrow I shall have some fabulous idea for my best play yet.

Premodifier(s):

Postmodifier(s):

7 By the tens of thousands, African slaves escaped the harsh conditions of the European plantations and mining operations and headed for the interior, into lands controlled by Indians.

Premodifier(s):

Postmodifier(s):

8 The new arrivals had a streetwise, mess-with-me-at-your-own-peril toughness about them.

Premodifier(s):

Postmodifier(s):

9 Death rates in nations with the longest life-spans suggest that even if health conditions fail to improve three quarters of babies will live to 75.

Premodifier(s):

Postmodifier(s):

10 San Francisco-based Arion Press has a long heritage of producing stunningly beautiful publications that combine fine book design and fine art.

Premodifier(s):

Postmodifier(s):

11 Christian Andersson has a paragraph from a science-fiction story about the molecular dematerialization of reality projected onto a wall, on the other side of which the glowing letters reappear in reverse as though the wall were dematerializing.

Premodifier(s):

Postmodifier(s):

12 Then she told me that she had a beautiful story about a little boy which she was sure I should like better than *The Scarlet Letter*.

Premodifier(s):

Postmodifier(s):

13 There is in German literature a fine reserve which I like; but its chief glory is the recognition I find in it of the redeeming potency of woman's self-sacrificing love.

Premodifier(s):

Postmodifier(s):

EXERCISE 28

Specify both the **form and function** of the underlined phrases (e.g. adjective phrase as postmodifier).

Note

We have already done a couple of similar exercises, but this one is special on two accounts: it deals with both form and function, and it contains a mixture of phrases operating at either clause or phrase level. Once you figure out which phrase it is, decide whether it does something in the sentence as a whole or just in another phrase of which it is part. Remember that functional labels reflect these different linguistic realities. As I am sure you will notice, one of the phrases is coordinated, which means it uses commas and/or conjunctions to keep several discrete units of the same kind within the boundaries of one larger phrase.

Example

The delightfully dark story of an orphan rescued from his cruel aunts by a gang of oversized insects is unforgettable.

Comment

The very beginning of the underlined phrase tells us in no uncertain terms that we are dealing with a prepositional phrase. The rest of it reveals that it is quite a complex one: the prepositional complement is a noun phrase containing a non-finite clause, *an orphan rescued from his cruel aunts by a gang of oversized insects*. As we can see, the postmodifying V-ed clause contains a predicate (*rescued*) and two adverbials (*from his cruel aunts* and *by a gang of oversized insects*), which together create a semantic whole.

In order to determine the function of the underlined phrase, we need to take a look at the context, i.e. what precedes and follows it. The context tells us that this prepositional phrase is part of the noun phrase *the delightfully dark story of an orphan rescued from his cruel aunts by a gang of oversized insects* acting as subject. However, being part of a subject

is by no means the same as being the subject itself. In conclusion, **of an orphan rescued from his cruel aunts by a gang of oversized insects** is a prepositional phrase acting as postmodifier.

1 It seemed to him that the glow upon the snowfields and glaciers that rose about the valley was the most beautiful thing he had ever seen.

Form:

Function:

2 I was taken aback to find that a man with so English a name could have such a strong Glaswegian accent.

Form:

Function:

3 In the age of pump shotguns, drugs, and gold bullion robberies the death of a thirty-two-year-old industrial personal assistant had passed unnoticed by the BBC.

Form:

Function:

4 To be fair, Sir Humphrey could have made the Archangel Gabriel look like a soccer hooligan.

Form:

Function:

5 Outside are formal gardens, a private theatre, a landing pad with bays for three helicopters, and accommodation for security guards.

Form:

Function:

6 Just then they heard the big voice of Jim the cab-horse calling to them, and going to the doorway leading to the dome they found the Princess and a throng of her people had entered the House of the Sorcerer.

Form:

Function:

7 In addition to servicing good food, this establishment does good for the planet by making a conscious effort to recycle, compost and offset all their energy usage through purchasing carbon offsets.

Form:

Function:

8 It seemed that from such a basis of truth and frankness as the poor weak-headed pauper had laid, our intercourse might go forward to something better than the intercourse of sages.

Form:

Function:

9 Dr. Ivy Williams was the first woman to be called to the Bar in England in 1922 and the first woman to be awarded the degree of Doctor of Civil Law in Oxford in 1923.

Form:

Function:

10 In Beverly Hills, your poor neighbor might be one who had to buy the 14K-gold back scratcher instead of the diamond-encrusted platinum one everyone else is buying.

Form:

Function:

EXERCISE 29

First identify **the phrase as a whole** (e.g. adjective phrase), and then specify **the form and function of the underlined segment** within it (e.g. adverb phrase as modifier).

Note

Although still dealing mostly with noun phrases themselves or their constituents, this exercise makes room for other phrases as well. What you should by no means attempt to do here is assign functional labels such as subject, object, complement, etc. The reason is fairly obvious: these segments are phrases removed from clauses in which they most certainly act as one of the aforementioned constituents, but there is no telling what they do in those clauses without looking at the actual clauses!

Your task is to determine phrasal functions such as head, premodifier and the like, which cannot be done without deciding on the form of the entire phrase first. Do not forget to specify the form of the phrasal constituent either.

On a final note, remember that determiners (more specifically, pre/post or central) are informative about function, and that different determiners can belong to different classes. Knowing the class of a determiner allows you to make the right decision about its formal status (e.g. definite article, genitive, etc.).

Example

a mortar bomb fired from the area

Comment

The presence of a determiner followed by a noun followed by another noun should lead to the realization that we are dealing with a noun phrase. As for the underlined segment, we see that it comes in post-head position and is opened by a V-ed verb, which is in this case more than enough to conclude that it is a non-finite clause acting as postmodifier.

You can write down your answers in the following manner:

- i) noun phrase
- ii) non-finite V-ed clause as postmodifier.

1 Jessica Valenti's decision not to take part in a panel based on the magazine's recent list of hip and important young feminists

- i)
- ii)

2 almost hallucinatory in its recreation of the early life and adventures of Theseus

- i)
- ii)

3 a wine old enough to be heavenly

- i)
- ii)

4 bitter rants against those who share the attic with her

- i)
- ii)

5 no recorded ancestors on either side of the Battle of Hastings

- i)
- ii)

6 this century's first Booker Prize winner

- i)
- ii)

7 a Mrs Song, an ardent believer who was forced through circumstance to start up her own black market trade

i)

ii)

8 someone sitting near me in an animal hospital waiting room

i)

ii)

9 full of light or amusing reading

i)

ii)

10 with the likes of Kazuo Ishiguro and Peter Carey

i)

ii)

11 a somewhat insane desire of the king to perpetuate his own memory in a singularly unfortunate manner

i)

ii)

12 a patriotic rising of the masses under the leadership of a butcher called Minin

i)

ii)

13 in a soul-shaking voice which expressed joy for himself, severity for the regiment, and welcome for the approaching chief

i)

ii)

EXERCISE 30

First name the underlined phrase (e.g. adjective phrase) and determine its function (e.g. subject complement), and then break it up into **constituents** (e.g. adjective as head, adverb as modifier).

Note

Forms and functions are becoming old news, so the analysis of constituent structure will add more flavour to the exercise. Although all of the underlined segments are phrases operating at clause level, all of the sentences contain either subordinate/embedded clauses (both finite and non-finite) or at least two main clauses (i.e. resulting in compound sentences). This should not cause you too much concern because the issue of whether a clause is independent or subordinate/embedded does not, in and of itself, affect the function of a phrase in it.

What matters is that you are able to distinguish between the head, determiners, and pre- and postmodifiers – provided the phrase is nominal, of course. Once you have identified whichever of the aforementioned constituents make up a phrase, your work is done. Just be careful not to overdo it: even if, say, a premodifier is a complex structure itself, there is no need at this point to break it up into smaller constituents.

Example

When the old people died the houses in which they had lived all their lives died with them.

Comment

The sentence contains a subordinate clause, *when the old people died*, a main clause, *the houses in which they had lived all their lives died with them*, and a third one embedded in the underlined phrase, *in which they had lived all their lives*. The phrase is the subject of the main clause, as it is obviously congruent with the finite predicate of the main clause. The head of the phrase is preceded by a determiner and followed by a postmodifying relative clause. Do not be misled into thinking that the

relative clause is a prepositional phrase – remember that prepositions are allowed to accompany relative pronouns.

It is also important that you do not overstep the bounds of what we can tentatively call a top-down analysis: in other words, do not necessarily account for every single word but focus on the big picture, i.e. larger constituents. To sum up, the underlined segment is a noun phrase acting as subject, and its constituent structure can be analyzed as follows: **the** is a definite article acting as central determiner; **houses** is a noun acting as head; and **in which they had lived all their lives** is a relative clause acting as postmodifier.

1 The ambulance moved quickly off and the man behind me started to press his horn.

Form:

Function:

Constituents:

2 The University and College Union said the Government was wrong to allow private education providers access to taxpayers' money.

Form:

Function:

Constituents:

3 The controversial doctor clearly spent a lot of money to keep the grounds of his white, gabled home by the lake manicured and lush.

Form:

Function:

Constituents:

4 Drawing on her own research, surveys of executives, and the latest science on willpower for her forthcoming ebook, Vanderkam argues that making smart use of the early morning is a practice most highly successful people share.

Form:

Function:

Constituents:

5 This Michaelmas term I have been finalising arrangements for a one-day conference organised by the Faculty of Divinity.

Form:

Function:

Constituents:

6 Farther back beyond the dark trees a roof glittered with dew, to the right was a leafy tree with brilliantly white trunk and branches, and above it shone the moon, nearly at its full, in a pale, almost starless, spring sky.

Form:

Function:

Constituents:

7 The clouds far above were starting to swirl with hypnotic slowness, the rain beginning to fall again, and the sea beneath their feet rippling and shifting beneath the rubbery surface.

Form:

Function:

Constituents:

8 Bring us nice news of a victory by the Archduke Karl or Ferdinand (one archduke's as good as another, as you know) and even if it is only over a fire brigade of Bonaparte's, that will be another story and we'll fire off some cannon!

Form:

Function:

Constituents:

9 Boris was thus the first to learn that the French army had crossed the Niemen and, thanks to this, was able to show certain important person-

ages that much that was concealed from others was usually known to him, and by this means he rose higher in their estimation.

Form:

Function:

Constituents:

10 In their tendency to perpetuate and prolong the existence of the weak and those who are least well equipped and endowed by nature, they are anti-social in character and inimical to the survival of the strongest and most vigorous type of humanity.

Form:

Function:

Constituents:

EXERCISE 31

Identify **the complex noun phrases acting as subject**.

Note

Your first thought may be ‘been there, done that’ but there is more to this exercise than it meets the eye. Most of the phrases contain somewhat unusual (either extensive or less frequent) postmodifiers, some occupy positions that challenge the overly simplistic subject-always-comes-first assumption, and some involve coordination. There is even a discontinuous noun phrase calling your attention in one of the examples.

How do you hit the nail on the head, metaphorically speaking? Try to remember that a crucial step in identifying the subject of a finite clause is making sure it agrees with the predicate in person and number. The focus of your attention in this exercise is the main clause subject, which means that you should only target independent clauses. If the instruction was explicit about the coverage of dependent clauses as well, your analysis would need to include all the subjects rather than only a portion of them. This is a way for you to demonstrate your ability to differentiate between main and dependent clauses. As instructed, restrict your answers to the subjects realized by complex noun phrases alone and ignore the rest of them.

Example

From her throne on the opposite side Miss Hallowell, who had a powerful voice, led the piping sopranos in singing ‘Jesus Loves Me’ and other childish hymns, and outside the circle, rather with the air of animal-trainers, lingered two or three young women whose duty it was to suppress quarrels and quiet tears.

Comment

This is a compound sentence with two main clauses and, consequently, two subjects. Pay attention to the conjunction *and* marking the boundaries between the main clauses, but do not fail to see how the same

conjunction has been used to connect two phrases (*'Jesus Loves Me' and other childish hymns*) as well as two clauses (*to suppress quarrels and quiet tears*).

The second clause involves inversion, i.e. the subject and predicate switch places and the subject ends up in postverbal position. The clause is introduced by an adverbial of place – which is very conducive to inversion – followed by a predicate that is semantically matching, simple, and intransitive (i.e. relating to place, consisting of a single word, and taking no object).

The opening phrase of the entire sentence is just another adverbial of place, and is not to be mistaken for a subject. Finally, both subjects contain postmodifying relative clauses: the first one is non-restrictive and the second restrictive. In conclusion, the subjects of the main clauses are realized by the following complex noun phrases: **Miss Hallowell, who had a powerful voice** and **two or three young women whose duty it was to suppress quarrels and quiet tears**.

1 Teacher talk, a variable obviously subject to teacher control, was our target.

2 Anyway, McCarthy's book, one of the shortlisted novels for this year's Man Booker Prize, is the latest in a surprisingly long line of short titles plucked from the alphabet and emblazoned on book covers.

3 Could this invisible star, which exerts such a great force, be a black hole?

4 Anybody so confident that peace is just round the corner is guilty of wishful thinking.

5 The sight of her upright and neatly dressed figure, her modest demeanour, the manner in which she attended and followed every phase of the service had always reassured him about the fitness and decency and meaning of what they were all gathered together to do.

6 Discouragement and weariness cast me down frequently; but the next moment the thought that I should soon be at home and show my loved

ones what I had accomplished spurred me on, and I eagerly looked forward to their pleasure in my achievement.

7 But the fact remains that Miss Canby's story was read to me once, and it came back to me so naturally that I never suspected that it was the child of another mind.

8 Your father, a man of the last century, evidently stands above our contemporaries who so condemn this measure which merely reestablishes natural justice.

9 Is a scribe, who recognizes under a corruption the word certainly intended, to perpetuate the error of the exemplar?

10 The magnificence of its mosques and other public buildings, the number of its schools, and the extent of its warehouses shed lustre on the city, but wealth and luxury began to undermine its prosperity.

EXERCISE 32

Identify **the complex noun phrases acting as direct object**.

Note

We approach the end of this workbook with an exercise testing your understanding of both the structure of the complex noun phrase and its distributional properties. Unlike the subject in its predominantly preverbal position, the direct object has a strong preference for postverbal distribution in English.

The exercise provides additional challenges such as the placement of an intervening adverbial, or the presence of more than one direct object in the same sentence containing two or more independent clauses, or the introduction of a direct object realized by a noun phrase containing another postmodifying (i.e. appositive) noun phrase.

You will also need to be able to draw the line between phrases acting as direct objects and those acting as adverbials, i.e. know the boundaries between the two in sentences where they follow each other in immediate succession. As most of the object noun phrases used here are quite complex, this task presupposes a great deal of knowledge about the structure of the noun phrase in English. Interestingly enough, the additional coverage of dependent clauses would only bring the existing number of direct objects in this exercise up by one.

Example

Johnny's grandmother and the three greataunts preserved until the end of their lives an intense intimacy, constantly visiting one another, criticizing one another's households, and suggesting reforms in the upbringing of one another's children and the discipline of one another's husbands.

Comment

The verb *preserved* is followed by an adverbial, *until the end of their lives*, and then by the noun phrase **an intense intimacy** acting as direct object. Although the phrase itself may be simple enough, the sentence

contains three more subordinate clauses, all of them non-finite and each containing a direct object of its own.

Fortunately, in this exercise our scope is restricted to the main clause (or clauses if there is more than one in the same sentence). Although there is absolutely no harm in identifying a dependent clause object as well, it is useful to know that the object of a main clause is always the more prominent one.

1 Though her cheeks were high-colored and her teeth strong and yellow, she resembled a mechanical woman, a machine with flashing, glassy circles for eyes.

2 Just drop the plastic belt in favour of something a little more organic and you have a supremely easy, elegant modern look.

3 Dick Diver came and brought with him a fine glowing surface on which the three women sprang like monkeys with cries of relief.

4 As I stood beside his grave I could only feel a deep impersonal sorrow for brilliant youth thrown remorselessly away.

5 But who could endure a life which was becoming increasingly difficult and costly in moral terms?

6 But when several nations of Europe had acquired distinct though rude written languages of their own, sufficient for the purposes of their rising literatures, scholars could discern from that remoteness the treasures of antiquity.

7 He remained motionless as the snowflakes fluttered above the fire and remembered a Russian winter at his warm, bright home, his fluffy fur coat, his quickly gliding sleigh, his healthy body, and all the affection and care of his family.

8 In the darkness of the night one of the servants noticed, above the high body of a coach standing before the porch, the small glow of another fire.

9 On November 1 Kutuzov had received, through a spy, news that the army he commanded was in an almost hopeless position.

10 He cautioned against any of the dead or moribund principalities being resuscitated, and punished with merciless severity any attempt to resist or undermine his authority.

EXERCISE 33

Identify the **discontinuous noun phrases**.

Note

We have come to the point when we should realize that there is more to the English language than the rules of grammar. It is important to understand that grammaticality does not always lead to the acceptability or naturalness of the sentences we build in English. That is why it is a good idea to rely on a few principles that help make our sentences in English sound natural. Although these principles are not binding in the same way grammatical rules are, they do show a tendency to recur at a regular rate and should not be disregarded. If we are unaware of them, or choose to ignore them, we may never come close to native-like speech or writing.

The two most important principles in English are called end-focus and end-weight. Their names are very telling: the former is about placing the most informative content towards the end of the clause, and the latter is concerned with placing weighty, heavy, or bulky structures in postverbal position ('shortest first, longest last').

The end-focus principle is inconceivable without taking into consideration the phonological aspects of our utterances, but there are syntactic signals that may be easier to pin down at a time when we are merely trying to introduce these novelties to our linguistic repertoire. The idea is to think of clauses as containing elements such as 'given' and 'new'. These are functional labels just like subject, predicate, or object – it is just that they operate at a different level of analysis. When we communicate in English, we tend to organize our utterances by starting with what our listeners may be familiar with (because that information is somehow recoverable from the context, hence given) and saving the best (information which is not recoverable from the context, hence new) for last. We need not necessarily go to the very end of the message, i.e. sticking with postverbal position will be just fine in our case. Much as this may sound strange to us, it is truly the way English works.

Now, how do we distinguish between what is given and what is new in the utterances we hear? The cues are phonological in that speakers try

to draw our attention to what they believe is new knowledge or the most important segment of an exchange – the focus of information – by making a syllable particularly salient, i.e. more prominent than the others in the same clause. This syllable will simply stand out in a way as the focal point of new information. If you remember our English Phonetics course and what we said about intonation, you should be able to get an idea of how new information, potentially a string of words in an utterance, and particularly its focal point, which can be perceived as the syllabic climax of new information, are represented in speech. Truth be told, it is not always easy for us non-native speakers to pick this up even when we listen, let alone when we need to do the same thing ourselves. But, as we have already pointed out, let us take some time for this thought to sink in, and in the meanwhile think of how this principle is represented in English grammar. If we really oversimplify it, we might be able to say that givenness is encoded in some central determiners such as the definite article *the*, or the demonstrative *this*, or the possessive *my*. The list is much longer, but these functional words suggest what we mean by contextually recoverable information: all three determiners seem to indicate that what they stand next to is within reach – we listeners just have to take note of it. On the other hand, newness is best represented by the indefinite article (and why this is so should now be fairly obvious). It is because of the end-focus principle that we might have a problem with a clause such as *A book is on the desk* and might want to transform it into, for example, *There is a book on the desk*. This is not to say that the former is ungrammatical, but it surely is true that the latter is much more acceptable in English. I hope you now realize that moving the noun phrase *a book* to postverbal position is in line with the end-focus principle. When you come to think of it, there are utterances galore in support of this principle: do you not prefer saying *I need a book* to *A book I need*? As for the end-weight principle, I would like to remind you that English is an SPO language. The pattern can be interpreted in some of the following ways: English prefers this order of constituents to, say, an OSP word order; English prefers transitive to intransitive structures (e.g. those with objects to those without them); and English tends to have a lighter S constituent and a weightier PO structure. This is not to say that these preferences are always at work in English clauses, which is why they are called preferences or tendencies in the first place. However, the end-weight principle is especially important to us in light of our understanding that

NPs, which are potentially very complex structures, are found in subject position more often than any other structure – phrase or clause – in English. The question is, then, what can be done in order to satisfy the end-weight principle in such sentences? The answer is postponement or discontinuous postmodification, i.e. we simply identify the postmodifier and relocate it to the end of the sentence. However, we should first make sure we do not compromise the meaning of the sentence or create ambiguity, and then decide whether this transformation is justified by assessing the length of the remaining (i.e. non-subject) part of the sentence. For example, a sentence such as *The time when no-one will write by hand any more will come* is a perfectly clear example of when discontinuous postmodification is not only justified but also strongly recommended. The subject is a long noun phrase featuring a postmodifier, which also happens to be a clause, and the predicate is merely a two-word verb phrase. I hope you can see what you gain by turning the original sentence into *The time will come when no-one will write by hand any more*. It is also not true that all complex NPs should undergo this kind of treatment: if they are already in postverbal position, then no such transformation may be needed after all.

Finally, it is not always possible (or even essential) to satisfy both the principles within the same sentence. For example, a sentence such as *A man carrying a puppy appeared* seems to be working against both the end-focus and end-weight principles, but because principles are not rules after all, and provided you do not make a habit of disregarding them, I guess the odd sentence that starts with an indefinite article will not do you any harm. Of course, by transforming it into *A man appeared carrying a puppy*, you have discontinued the postmodifier and satisfied the end-weight principle. There is actually a way here to satisfy both the end-weight and end-focus principles in one go, as in the sentence *There appeared a man carrying a puppy* (although this transformation does not involve discontinuous postmodification at all). As this is sometimes difficult to achieve due to restrictions imposed by the rules of grammar, use the tools you have been given only when and if you are sure you are not breaking any grammatical rules to begin with. You might also not want to interfere with the meaning of the sentence, which can happen if you are indiscriminately trying to satisfy the principles.

Example

At headquarters and among the troops nearby the news spread that the Emperor was unwell.

Comment

Although the sentence itself is neither particularly complex nor long, it would not read nearly as well without undergoing the kind of transformation capable of satisfying the principles of end-weight and end-focus. The sentence opens with the coordinated adverbial *at headquarters and among the troops nearby* and continues with the subject noun phrase **the news that the Emperor was unwell**.

In the example sentence, however, this noun phrase has been discontinued after the headword to place the one-word predicate *spread* before the postmodifying appositive clause *that the Emperor was unwell*. Leaving the predicate in final position would be very counterintuitive on at least two accounts: not only do the pre-verbal constituents by far outweigh the predicate, but it is also hard to see how a word like *spread* could be made the focal point of the message.

Lastly, expect that some of the sentences below, regardless of how complex they are, will not make use of discontinuous postmodification at all. Although this may present an additional challenge, it should help you differentiate between discontinuous noun phrases and those that are complex but not discontinued.

1 As she looked and thought, the strangest fancies unexpectedly and disconnectedly passed through her mind: the idea occurred to her of jumping onto the edge of the box and singing the air the actress was singing, then she wished to touch with her fan an old gentleman sitting not far from her, then to lean over to Helene and tickle her.

2 Pynchon's previous novel, the seemingly all-encompassing second world war adventure and postmodern box of tricks *Gravity's Rainbow*, had been published in 1973; during the 17-year wait for a follow-up, all sorts of rumours had spread about what the famously brainy and reclusive American prodigy, only 35 in 1973, would produce next.

3 In recent months, the workers here have grown more anxious, as news has circulated about a plan the postal service is considering to outsource to private contractors much of the parcel handling that is, as Mr. Mullahey said, the lifeblood of this facility.

4 Attempts have been made to bring it into more general use, but without success; and it is only in particular circumstances that navigation, with the aid either of locks or inclined planes to surmount the elevations, will not present a more convenient medium for an extended trade.

5 At this time Protestant opinions were being disseminated in England chiefly by the surreptitious circulation of the works of Wycliffe, and especially of his translations of the New Testament.

6 A legend of his surreptitious bestowal of dowries upon the three daughters of an impoverished citizen, who, unable to procure fit marriages for them, was on the point of giving them up to a life of shame, is said to have originated the old custom of giving presents in secret on the Eve of St Nicholas, subsequently transferred to Christmas Day.

7 Now, on a regular basis, videos appear which bring to life something that would otherwise be merely an ill-formed image in our minds.

8 She was surprised to see three people within, none of whom looked like they fit in the refined, elegant spaces of the parlor.

9 The three largest quarters were located on the third floor, all presently booked by the two Dawkins brothers and wives, one pair of whom was not sleeping with his mate.

10 A method has been developed which allows the simultaneous determination of both a skier's drag area and the friction coefficient of his skis against the snow a single measurement.

MOCK TEST 1

Time: 1 hour

1 Determine **the form and function** of the underlined segments (e.g. noun phrase acting as subject etc.):

i) Spare yourself the trouble of trying to find age-appropriate Christmas gifts for your nieces, nephews and godchildren.

ii) Again, this makes it raw, it makes it real, but it also makes it excited and informal in ways that distanced me from the actual content.

iii) The one thought unendurable to her was that her boy had no great love for her.

iv) Even to peer through a chink in the wall of the language is enough to glimpse the depth and darkness of that forest of ambiguity.

2 Form noun phrases composed of **determiners + premodifying noun phrases + headword**:

i) a chair that was made of oak in the eighteenth century

ii) the company has a service for customers with five stars

iii) a lecture on the management of stress lasts three hours

iv) painters of miniature portraits, two hundred of them

3 Identify (i.e. underline) **the that-clauses** and label them accordingly as **relative, appositive, or nominal**:

i) Looking down from above, you wouldn't know that the tiny numbers of Europeans were supposed to be the stars of the story.

ii) I had an overwhelming feeling that he was somewhere nearby and that something was seriously wrong.

4 Give as many variations as possible concerning **the relative pronoun**:

There are students for whom I have the greatest respect.

i)

ii)

iii)

iv)

5 Identify (i.e. circle) **the determiners in the noun phrase containing a non-restrictive relative clause** and specify their category (e.g. central etc.):

Unlike many editors, who often appear to compete with their staff, William Shawn made a point of seeming almost ignorant.

6 Identify (i.e. copy) **the noun phrases containing reduced relative clauses**:

i) Nobody could deny the enormous good the modern Church did in today's troubled world, and yet the Church had a deceitful and violent history.

ii) His broad back still ached from the corporal mortification he had endured earlier today, and yet the pain seemed trivial.

7 Identify (i.e. underline) **the noun phrases containing prepositional phrases** and then specify the form of the prepositional complements (e.g. noun phrase etc.):

i) When the two boys entered this humble but impressive building, they entered an area of almost frightening silence.

ii) Several buildings, built and extended over many years and linked by a high wall, enclose a huge, elongated, steep courtyard of irregular shape.

8 Identify (i.e. circle) **the premodifiers** in the noun phrases below and specify their form (e.g. noun phrase etc.):

i) The hard-won international reputation of our University is threatened by both international and domestic competitors.

ii) Imagine flying, impossibly, over the Earth in the 17th century – during the time described in American history books as the colonial period, when Europeans dominated an almost empty wilderness.

9 Identify (i.e. copy) **the pre- and postmodifiers** in the underlined phrases and specify their form (e.g. adjective phrase etc.):

i) The air is alive with exaggeratedly enthusiastic meetings between women who never knew each other's names.

ii) There are quite remarkable distortions in art which seem to many people unnatural and shocking.

10 Identify (i.e. copy) **the clauses acting as subject:**

i) Sniffing food for about 30 seconds before you eat it can help you lose weight.

ii) Where Americans live and where they are moving also reveals how America has changed and is changing.

MOCK TEST 2

Time: 1 hour

1 Identify (i.e. circle) and name accordingly **the complements (subject and object) and objects (direct and indirect)**:

i) The days of sleep had left him disoriented, and yet his mind felt oddly lucid.

ii) Dorrington made himself master of his assistant's information, and proceeded to the head office.

iii) His first two clients were the last two persons that were hanged in the County jail.

iv) She unlocked Catharina's jewellery box and handed me the necklace and earrings.

2 Label the underlined segments appropriately as **phrases (PH), finite clauses (FCL), or non-finite clauses (NFCL)**:

i) I enjoyed sharing some of my own stories about June among kindred spirits, and I felt as though I really belonged there.

ii) There happened to be some other boys from the boarding school with whom he soon made friends.

iii) He thought her glowing black eyes were very fine, especially with her rather sallow face.

iv) Some run that newly built surveillance system that will track potentially deadly vaccine side effects.

3 Identify (i.e. circle) **the heads** of the italicized noun phrases:

i) *Hannah, a cute six-year-old child with a disproportionately large hair-do, stood dangerously close to the flames.*

ii) Santorum is increasingly seen as a champion in *fights with Democrats over contraception and gay marriage.*

iii) It belonged to Madame Krassotkin, *the respectable, nice-looking widow of a former provincial secretary who had been dead for fourteen years.*

iv) But *one matter the Society resisted pronouncing on for some time* had been the question of its own criteria for membership.

4 Form noun phrases composed of **determiners + premodifiers + head-word**:

i) these tiles on the floor in the bathroom sparkle

ii) a dictionary of English for an advanced learner

iii) news of this morning that has been awaited eagerly

iv) a toy made of modelling clay, full of dust

5 Identify (i.e. circle) **the determiners in the noun phrase acting as subject** and specify their category (e.g. central etc.):

All the guests at a party my husband is having call, one after the other.

6 First name **the phrase as a whole** (e.g. adjective phrase etc.) and then specify **the form and function of the underlined segment** within it (e.g. adverb phrase as modifier etc.):

i) in a misunderstanding arising from the alleged wrongful detention of a mare

ii) a stance like Mr. Graham's

iii) fond of violent exercise and aristocratic sports like fencing and shooting

7 Identify (i.e. underline) **the noun phrases containing non-finite clauses** and name their type (e.g. V-ing etc.):

i) A coral reef is a flower garden of stone, filled with the most colourful varieties of life.

ii) But amid an aging population and an economy burdened by heavy debt, luxury-goods companies have been reeling in Japan for years.

8 Identify (i.e. copy) **the noun phrases containing restrictive relative clauses**:

i) Many of these pairings of buddies occur among animals of the same gender who simply enjoy each other's company.

ii) Upon the half-decayed verandah of a small frame house that stood near the town of Winesburg, Ohio, a fat little old man walked nervously up and down.

9 Convert **the non-finite clauses into corresponding relative clauses**:

i) The mystery of why the palace was built and who provided the money required to pay for it is much harder to uncover.

ii) Why does literature set in the American South so often feature disturbing plotlines?

10 Convert **the relative clauses into corresponding non-finite clauses**:

i) Anyone who did not hear that noise must have been stone deaf.

ii) The issue that must be considered at our next meeting is how to invest the money.

MOCK TEST 3

Time: 1 hour

1 Identify (i.e. circle) and name accordingly **the complements (subject and object) and objects (direct and indirect)** in both main and dependent clauses:

i) When those who have decided to live within the truth have been denied any direct influence on the existing social structures, this independent life begins its structured growth.

ii) Again, this story evokes blatant disregard for the other beings with whom we share this incredible planet.

iii) But in these complaints one detected a sense of pride at being more diligent and therefore morally superior to the rest of humanity.

2 Form noun phrases composed of **determiners + premodifiers + head-word**:

i) those petals of white and yellow roses that wither slowly

ii) a book by a writer from working class which sells best and is about gardening and landscaping

iii) the validity of an evaluation of research on bacteria resistant in water

3 Identify (i.e. underline) **the that-clauses** in the sentences below and label them accordingly as **relative, appositive, or nominal**:

i) The syntax of the sentence indicates the directness of the experience with the chair by which I found the chair was comfortable.

ii) The Secretary General said that the new plan was, in most respects, more acceptable than the previous one.

4 Identify (i.e. circle) **the determiners in the phrase acting as subject complement** and specify their category (e.g. central etc.):

Younus' story highlights the horrible mistreatment many women face in Pakistan's conservative, male-dominated culture and is a reminder that the country's rich and powerful often appear to operate with impunity.

5 Identify (i.e. copy) **the noun phrases containing reduced relative clauses**:

i) Originally conceived as a modest holiday house with a swimming pool, it now boasts a magnificent columned facade reminiscent of the country palaces Russian tsars built in the 18th century.

ii) All we had was Simon Finch, a fur-trapping apothecary from Cornwall whose piety was exceeded only by his stinginess.

6 Identify (i.e. copy) **the noun phrases containing prepositional phrases** and then specify the form of the prepositional complements (e.g. wh-clause etc.):

I feel honoured to surround myself with those who are taking great strides in making our world a better place for all.

7 Identify (i.e. circle) **the premodifiers** in the noun phrases below and specify their form (e.g. adjective phrase etc.):

As a living and breathing reminder of the duties of care, for example, the dog took on a new role in the moral education of middle-class children.

8 Identify (i.e. copy) **the postmodifiers** in the noun phrases below and specify their form (e.g. adjective phrase etc.):

The scientists are using the findings of the European Space Agency project, a space-based observatory designed to search for planets.

9 Identify (i.e. underline) **the noun phrases containing postmodifying non-finite clauses** and name the type of the clauses (e.g. V-ing etc.):

i) The age-old technique of counting sheep stimulates thoughts about the imaginary sheep being counted.

ii) What subjectivism specifically misses is that our understanding is given in terms of a conceptual system grounded in our successful functioning in our physical and cultural environments.

10 Convert **the relative clause into a corresponding non-finite one**:

Some run that newly built surveillance system that tracks potentially deadly vaccine side effects.

11 Convert **the non-finite clause into a corresponding relative one**:

I staggered back to my room, away from the contented people playing around the pool, not wanting them to see me in tears.

12 Identify (i.e. copy) **the noun phrases containing minor types of post-modification** and specify their form (e.g. adverb phrase etc.):

i) Although at first he was thinking chiefly of performance events close to the sensibilities of those nonconformist groups, the term very rapidly came to be used for the whole area of independent and repressed culture.

ii) The discovery was a gas-giant exoplanet the size of Jupiter, with a surface temperature of more than 1,000 degrees.

MOCK TEST 4

Time: 1 hour

1 Identify (i.e. underline) and name accordingly **complements (subject and object) and objects (direct and indirect)**:

i) Other important features of the replicators are competition and scarcity of natural resources that leads to the creation of those cells that form all plants and animals.

ii) We remain survival machines and robot vehicles blindly programmed to preserve the selfish molecules known as genes.

iii) Most writing texts give you specific advice based on the assumption that writers are either all like the author or all like each other.

2 Form noun phrases composed of **determiners + premodifiers + head-word**:

i) staff of hotels with four stars are clad in uniform in Bali

ii) a novel by that writer from Norway has won awards and is about the history of the world

iii) too many coats have been made of faux fur and bought secondhand

3 Identify (i.e. underline) **the that-clauses** in the sentence below and label them accordingly as **relative, appositive, or nominal**:

What objectivism misses is the knowledge that understanding, and therefore truth, is necessarily relative to our cultural conceptual systems and that it cannot be framed in any absolute or neutral conceptual system.

4 Give as many variations as possible concerning **the relative pronoun**:

He glanced at the little flame I had enticed to play between the ribs, swept the cat from its elevation, and commenced the operation of stuffing a three-inch pipe with tobacco.

5 Identify (i.e. circle) **the determiners in the clause acting as direct object** and specify their category (e.g. predeterminer etc.):

Alyosha realised at the first glance that all the tragedy of her position in relation to the man she loved so dearly was no secret to her.

6 Identify (i.e. copy) **the noun phrases containing reduced relative clauses**:

i) This is such an important skill for geologists to master that I make sure I am present at all the sessions, even though it means that every lecture I give comes with an additional four hours in the lab.

ii) The selfish gene theory is Darwin's theory, expressed in a way Darwin did not choose but whose aptness, I should like to think, he would instantly have recognized and delighted in.

7 Identify (i.e. underline) **the noun phrases containing prepositional phrases** and then specify the form of the prepositional complements (e.g. adverb phrase etc.):

i) Later as she lay awake beside him, listening to the sound of his breathing, it occurred to her that they had fallen into the pattern of making up by making love.

ii) The idea diffuses itself in writing thanks to art and music and it is characterized by the survival value resulting from its great psychological appeal, because it represents a response to deep and disturbing problems.

8 Identify (i.e. circle) **the premodifiers** in the noun phrases below and specify their form (e.g. adjective phrase etc.):

Some of the world's most significant economists reckon we are heading towards a future of slow but steady growth in a there-are-fundamental-problems-that-are-hard-to-fix kind of way.

9 Identify (i.e. copy) **the pre- and postmodifiers** in the underlined phrases and specify their form (e.g. adjective phrase etc.):

i) And in their own dossiers, I found a few suggestive hints to the effect that Rains and Kruger were hardly spotless.

ii) There was a turquoise stone set in a pendant and hanging from a fine gold chain at Debbie's throat.

10 Identify (i.e. underline) **the noun phrase containing a postmodifying non-finite clause** and name the type of the clause (e.g. V-ing etc.):

Literature and autobiography are liberally sprinkled with accounts of the indignation and outrage felt when such a promise fails to materialize.

11 Convert **the non-finite clauses into corresponding relative ones**:

Another difficulty involved in considerations of this kind in our part of Europe is more serious than that deriving from the difference of opinion we have just described.

12 Convert **the relative clauses into corresponding non-finite ones**:

But what of the acts of apparent altruism found in nature – the bees who commit suicide when they sting to protect the hive, or the birds who risk their lives to warn the flock of an approaching hawk?

13 Identify (i.e. circle) **the subjects** of the main clauses and specify their form (e.g. prepositional phrase etc.):

At her girdle hung a gold chain and cross, and she carried a handkerchief and a little prayer book bound in gold.

MOCK TEST 5

Time: 1 hour

1 Identify (i.e. circle) and name accordingly **complements (subject and object) and objects (direct and indirect)** in both main and dependent clauses:

i) With his great, balding head and cadaverous body, his shabby, shapeless clothes and that immensely long raincoat that hung down close to his feet, he looked an absurdity.

ii) She had not acquired these genetically but I was quite willing to show her how to think and act.

iii) One of the most common mistakes struggling thesis writers make is self-flagellation; it impedes their progress.

2 Form noun phrases composed of **determiners + premodifiers + head-word**:

i) my late grandma had cookware made of cast iron and coated in enamel

ii) a few examples of managing stress in the culture of the corporate world

iii) a couple of allegations that copyright has been violated simply cannot be accepted

3 Identify (i.e. underline) **the that clauses** in the sentences below and label them accordingly as **relative, appositive, or nominal**:

i) One important lesson from the June referendum concerns the widespread sense that the goals of institutions like ours no longer reflect society's aspirations.

ii) The argument from industry that there will be fewer and fewer well-paid jobs might in general be true.

4 Identify (i.e. circle) **the determiners in the nominal clause** and specify their category (e.g. postdeterminer etc.):

Being Southerners, it was a source of shame to some members of the family that we had no recorded ancestors on either side of the Battle of Hastings.

5 Identify (i.e. copy) **the noun phrases containing reduced relative clauses**:

i) If you enjoy research and writing, the greatest gifts life can offer you are time, space, and a good rationalization for devoting yourself to a project that truly interests you.

ii) Another difficulty involved in considerations of this kind in our part of Europe is more serious than that deriving from the difference of opinion we have just described.

6 Identify (i.e. underline) **the noun phrases containing prepositional phrases** and then specify the form of the prepositional complements (e.g. noun phrase etc.):

i) But just when he was clumsily creeping toward the door, that dreadful something on the other side was already pressing against it and forcing its way in.

ii) The key to a humane, dignified, rich and happy life does not lie either in the constitution or in the criminal code.

7 Identify (i.e. circle) **the premodifiers** in the noun phrases below and specify their form (e.g. noun etc.):

i) Most critics regard Winder an enormously witty and entertaining writer who crams his book with amusing anecdotes and funny descriptive passages.

ii) In 1872 Darwin refuted the nineteenth-century code of human superiority over animals in his groundbreaking work, *The Expression of Emotions in Man and Animals*.

8 Identify (i.e. copy) **the postmodifiers** in the underlined phrases and specify their form (e.g. adjective phrase etc.):

i) When I speak about writing a dissertation, I mean the entire event, from the first stirrings you note in yourself of a deep interest in a field, a research problem, or a theme, through the iterations of possible ideas, to a finished manuscript.

ii) Our commitment to Europe runs deeper than both our access to research funding and the issue of student and staff mobility.

9 Identify (i.e. copy) **the noun phrases containing postmodifying non-finite clauses** and name the type of the clauses (e.g. V-ing etc.):

i) *Writing Your Dissertation* will be full of suggestions for ways to improve your writing process, to make it more efficient and more likely to result in something that's less likely to kill you in its making.

ii) That Lisa, the woman fettered by ignorance but also freed by it, is as dead now as ammonites and belemnites, as the figures in Victorian photographs, as the Plymouth settlers.

10 Convert **the relative clauses into corresponding non-finite ones**:

i) There is a gradually unfolding narrative of ideas that are shown finally to be linked to each other.

ii) Anyone who is even remotely drawn to the Hebrew Bible and Old Testament can hardly avoid thinking about its pervasive 'land theology'.

11 Convert **the non-finite clauses into corresponding relative ones**:

The relentlessness of the situation borne out over the four-hundred pages is probably the strongest message to emerge from the text.

12 Identify (i.e. copy) **the noun phrase containing a minor type of post-modification** and specify its form (e.g. adverb phrase etc.):

Originally conceived as a modest holiday house with a swimming pool, it now boasts a magnificent columned facade reminiscent of the country palaces Russian tsars built in the 18th century.

ANSWER KEY

EX 1

1 noun, determiner, noun, noun, noun 2 pronoun, adjective, adjective, adverb, pronoun 3 pronoun, adverb, determiner, adjective, noun 4 adverb, preposition, noun, preposition, pronoun 5 preposition, adverb, determiner, pronoun, adjective 6 verb, verb, adverb, adjective, adverb 7 verb, preposition, pronoun, verb, adjective 8 preposition, pronoun, determiner, preposition, preposition 9 adverb, determiner, conjunction, noun, noun 10 noun, preposition, adverb, adverb, adjective

EX 2

1 indirect object 2 subject 3 direct object 4 subject 5 subject complement 6 direct object 7 subject complement 8 subject 9 adverbial 10 object complement 11 indirect object 12 object complement 13 subject 14 adverbial 15 adverbial

EX 3

1 clausal (adverbial); phrasal (prepositional complement) 2 phrasal (postmodifier); clausal (adverbial) 3 clausal (adverbial); phrasal (postmodifier) 4 phrasal (postmodifier); clausal (adverbial) 5 clausal (subject); clausal (adverbial) 6 clausal (adverbial); phrasal (postmodifier) 7 phrasal (prepositional complement); phrasal (postmodifier) 8 phrasal (prepositional complement); clausal (subject complement) 9 phrasal (postmodifier); clausal (direct object) 10 clausal (subject); phrasal (prepositional complement)

EX 4

1 bookbindings 2 apothecary 3 material 4 mountainside 5 those 6 things and people 7 writing 8 incapacity 9 years 10 routine; frustrations 11 trepidation 12 disappointment and dissatisfaction 13 adoption 14 attempt 15 plants

EX 5

1 phrase 2 non-finite clause 3 finite clause 4 finite clause 5 finite clause
6 non-finite clause 7 phrase 8 finite clause 9 finite clause 10 phrase 11
finite clause 12 phrase 13 phrase

EX 6

1 noun phrase: diets for health conditions such as gout 2 V-ing clause:
seeing Scooby-Doo in cartoons; noun phrase (pronoun): we 3 to-infinitive
clause: to finish her shift without spilling another pizza into a customer's
lap 4 noun phrase: Carmen 5 noun phrase: the gates of Hugson's Ranch;
noun phrase: Uncle Hugson 6 noun phrase (pronoun): I; noun phrase (pro-
noun): we; noun phrase (pronoun): he 7 wh-clause: what many children
think of with dread, as a painful plodding through grammar, hard sums
and harder definitions; noun phrase: many children 8 noun phrase (pro-
noun): I; wh-clause: what I was witnessing as a child; noun phrase (pro-
noun): I 9 noun phrase (pronoun): it; noun phrase (pronoun): she; noun
phrase: Annette 10 wh-clause: how food affects us; noun phrase: food;
noun phrase (pronoun): everyone; noun phrase: different foods 11 noun
phrase: Thursday's storm 12 noun phrase: one of the most striking chang-
es in the appearance of Norman London; noun phrase: the houses of nuns,
many of which were dotted over the suburbs of London 13 noun phrase:
the soldiers

EX 7

1 direct object: a number of highly developed senses that humans can-
not even relate to 2 indirect object: Victoria Falls; direct object: that
name 3 direct object: the idea; object complement: vaguely comforting;
direct object: guilt and doubt 4 direct object: the art of an illustrator who
will always be remembered for the absurd 5 indirect object: him; direct
object: a stiff square of stationary 6 direct object: the 100th anniversary
of Tarzan's first appearance in print 7 direct object: them; object com-
plement: fellow living creatures with certain rights that should not be
violated any more than those of humans 8 indirect object: myself; direct
object: a strong black coffee 9 direct object: compassion toward animals;
object complement: a very core element of their teachings 10 subject
complement: the strongest message to emerge from the text 11 subject
complement: industries 12 direct object: a courier fresh from the army,

an acquaintance of his own, who often danced at Moscow balls 13 direct object: your suggestion about a fixed handlebar; object complement: a good one 14 direct object: an undertone of tension 15 direct object: your house; object complement: your own complexion

EX 8

1 direct object: Petersburg society; object complement: anxious and uneasy 2 direct object: that the little girl would think him a coward; direct object: him; object complement: a coward 3 subject complement: glad to call him their friend; direct object: him; object complement: their friend; direct object: his advice 4 direct object: the speaker button; subject complement: theirs 5 direct object: any of the ordinary services in the church; direct object: to pronounce the absolution or consecrate the elements for the Eucharist; direct object: the absolution; direct object: the elements for the Eucharist 6 direct object: the fact that Edith Shipton is nuts; subject complement: nuts; direct object: the idea that they owe her the normal concern they'd give a sane spouse; indirect object: her; direct object: the normal concern they'd give a sane spouse; indirect object: a sane spouse 7 direct object: the sound of indifferent voices, then Anna Mikhaylovna's voice alone in a long speech, then a cry, then silence, then both voices together with glad intonations, and then footsteps 8 direct object: that she had not sung since her illness; direct object: him 9 indirect object: her; direct object: where the barn was and how she should stand and listen; indirect object: her; direct object: a fur cloak 10 subject complement: erect; direct object: her reticule 11 direct object: she would get rid of her superfluous energy in ways which would not, perhaps, tax her brain so much; direct object: her brain; direct object: that the ordinary child takes his play pretty seriously; direct object: his play 12 subject complement: a little dressy for jail; indirect object: her; direct object: some fashionable stripes to wear anyway 13 direct object: to appear both at ease and ready to pounce; subject complement: both at ease and ready to pounce

EX 9

1 direct object: that there were in nature as many healing forces as there were diseases among people and animals 2 subject: getting messages from the office 3 direct object: there are simple correlations between modern science and modern art 4 direct object: Susy owned the bun-

galow her parents had lived in 5 subject complement: that life on earth is the result of an incredibly unlikely set of circumstances 6 subject: to live in Arabic; subject complement: to live in a labyrinth of false turns and double meanings 7 direct object: that there was nothing written on it at all 8 subject complement: to raise revenue in accordance with the taxpayer's wealth 9 direct object: sending in a team of dogs disguised as wolves to scare away the soldiers 10 subject complement: there is a storm raging inside her 11 subject: what we believe about the future; direct object: what we do in the present 12 subject: whoever accompanies her 13 direct object: that his source of spiritual consolation might undermine altogether the artfully constructed fabric of the medieval Church

EX 10

1 subject complement, premodifier, premodifier 2 subject complement 3 subject complement 4 subject complement, object complement 5 subject complement 6 premodifier, premodifier 7 premodifier, premodifier, premodifier, premodifier 8 object complement 9 subject complement, object complement 10 subject complement 11 premodifier, premodifier, premodifier 12 subject complement, premodifier, premodifier 13 subject complement, premodifier, premodifier, premodifier, premodifier

EX 11

1 the world's best skiing resorts 2 four widely-used, time-consuming, energy-wasting technologies 3 my great-aunt's fire-resistant frying pan 4 the top ten time-saving home appliances 5 unprecedented air and land pollution 6 slowly changing European middle-class values 7 the region's most advanced health care systems 8 this term's encouraging and inspiring astrophysics exam results 9 a badly needed ten-minute coffee break 10 a dozen shabbily dressed homeless youths 11 this young writer's best-selling popular anthropology book 12 universally proclaimed four-star hotel policies 13 those two Portuguese-speaking beach volleyball players 14 a needle-sharp silver knife 15 Indonesia's rarely-seen, low-flying bird species

EX 12

1 animal rights campaign activists 2 a luxury-goods department store concept 3 a one-piece satin bathing suit 4 one US district court judge 5 several elementary-school teacher education programmes 6 breast im-

plant rupture rates 7 a three-part BBC documentary series 8 the World Trade Center site 9 the UK car ownership costs 10 a five-step risk assessment process 11 a mortgage bank loan proposal 12 a law student's six-week training programme 13 about two hundred laundry and kitchen staff 14 time management performance indication curves 15 baby food production and consumption trends

EX 13

1 large, adjective; high-paying, compound adjective; low-skill, noun phrase; steel and automobile, noun phrase 2 elementary-school, noun phrase; separate, adjective; social, adjective 3 historic, adjective; two-year, noun phrase; transcontinental, adjective 4 Dutch, adjective; last year's, genitive; U.S., noun phrase; murder and extortion, noun phrase 5 rapid but fairly sure, adjective phrase; social, adjective 6 teenage, adjective; dancing, -ing participle; red light, noun phrase; southern, adjective 7 marble-topped, -ed participle; barely audible, adjective phrase; love, noun 8 enormously witty and entertaining, adjective phrase; amusing, adjective; funny, adjective; descriptive, adjective 9 knitting, noun; occasional, adjective; now-glowing, -ing participle; outermost, adjective 10 career exit, noun phrase; untrammelled, adjective; under-developed research, noun phrase 11 large, adjective; pink-cheeked, -ed participle; fuzzy-haired, -ed participle; little, adjective; undivided, adjective 12 half-hour's, genitive 13 former, adjective; orderly, adjective; disorganized and terrified, adjective phrase

EX 14

1 broad disagreement on what to do about it; prepositional phrase as postmodifier: on what to do about it; prepositional complement: wh-clause 'what to do about it' 2 a little instinctive thrill of pleasure that he could hardly have defined or explained; prepositional phrase as postmodifier: of pleasure that he could hardly have defined or explained; prepositional complement: noun phrase 'pleasure that he could hardly have defined or explained' 3 the trouble with some women; prepositional phrase as postmodifier: with some women; prepositional complement: noun phrase 'some women' 4 the form of not knowing that the Empire exists; prepositional phrase as postmodifier: of not knowing that the Empire exists; prepositional complement: V-ing clause 'not knowing

that the Empire exists' 5 a woman with choices; prepositional phrase as postmodifier: with choices; prepositional complement: noun phrase 'choices' 6 people in their thirties; prepositional phrase as postmodifier: in their thirties; prepositional complement: noun phrase 'their thirties' 7 the flickering fires in his eyes; prepositional phrase as postmodifier: in his eyes; prepositional complement: noun phrase 'his eyes' 8 the short walk to the farm; prepositional phrase as postmodifier: to the farm; prepositional complement: noun phrase 'the farm' 9 starvation for about two weeks; prepositional phrase as postmodifier: for about two weeks; prepositional complement: noun phrase 'about two weeks'; the speed and accuracy of mental processes; prepositional phrase as postmodifier: of mental processes; prepositional complement: noun phrase 'mental processes' 10 suggestions for coping with any situations that may arise; prepositional phrase as postmodifier: for coping with any situations that may arise; prepositional complement: V-ing clause 'coping with any situations that may arise' 11 the superfluous energy of the day; prepositional phrase as postmodifier: of the day; prepositional complement: noun phrase 'the day'; a few hours of iron slumber; prepositional phrase as postmodifier: of iron slumber; prepositional complement: noun phrase 'iron slumber' 12 the memory of themselves; prepositional phrase as postmodifier: of themselves; prepositional complement: noun phrase 'themselves'; the amount of hammered stone they leave; prepositional phrase as postmodifier: of hammered stone they leave; prepositional complement: noun phrase 'hammered stone they leave' 13 his judgment of the works of others; prepositional phrase as postmodifier: of the works of others; prepositional complement: noun phrase 'the works of others'; the works of others; prepositional phrase as postmodifier: of others; prepositional complement: noun phrase 'others'

EX 15

1 postmodifier 2 adverbial, adverbial 3 adverbial 4 postmodifier 5 adverbial, adverbial, postmodifier 6 postmodifier 7 adverbial, postmodifier 8 postmodifier 9 postmodifier 10 adverbial, adverbial, adverbial

EX 16

1 Of all the teachers in the school Waldo was the one who commanded the most respect. THE, central determiner; MOST, postdeterminer 2

She is frozen thus, many times over, in those hours that both our lives contain. THOSE, central determiner; BOTH, predeterminer; OUR, central determiner 3 I feel honoured to surround myself with those who are taking great strides in making our world a better place for all. OUR, central determiner; A, central determiner 4 How distinctly his eyes revealed the passionate rapture which agitated his soul! THE, central determiner; HIS, central determiner 5 Dill had seen Dracula, a revelation that moved Jem to eye him with the beginning of respect. A, central determiner; THE, central determiner 6 Here I'll make a point which I believe to be a historic constant and to which we will be returning: If property rights of the rich are respected and tax rates, while high, still allow for indefinite gain, then the rich will keep producing. A, central determiner 7 I considered this suggestion carefully and told Mr. Rhoades that I should be proud and glad to have wise friends to whom I could always turn for advice in all important matters. ALL, predeterminer 8 She sat running her finger over the braille manuscript, stopping now and then to refer to the braille notes on which she had indicated her corrections, all the time reading aloud to verify the manuscript. THE, central determiner; HER, central determiner 9 I made her understand, by pointing to a trunk in the hall and to myself and nodding my head, that I had a trunk, and then made the sign that she had used for eating, and nodded again. THE, central determiner 10 There was a hopeless look in the dull eye that I could not help noticing, and then, as I was thinking where I had seen that horse before, she looked full at me and said, 'Black Beauty, is that you?' A, central determiner; THE, central determiner

EX 17

1 Finally, a great many questions, which in other countries are decided at the national level, are here settled by the individual states and communities. A GREAT MANY, postdeterminer; OTHER, central determiner; THE, central determiner 2 All this and more is revealed by satellite images of the area and photographs on the internet, some of which you see here. THE, central determiner 3 She said Younus became a liability to her family, for whom she was once a source of income. HER, central determiner; A, central determiner 4 Jespersen cites Professor E. S. Holden, who early in the century laboriously tested himself on every single word in Webster's Dictionary. THE, central determiner; EVERY, central determiner; WEBSTER'S, central determiner 5 The young man felt that his articles, in

which he recounted the speeches of the great orators or described rousing scenes of patriotic fervour among their audience, had universal and everlasting significance. HIS, central determiner; THE, central determiner; THEIR, central determiner 6 Then she looked at Zeb, whose face was blue and whose hair was pink, and gave a little laugh that sounded a bit nervous. WHOSE, central determiner 7 The adobe structure was guarded by several Guardians, none of whom looked like Damian from the distance. SEVERAL, postdeterminer; THE, central determiner 8 He was peppered with questions from the rescuers, many of whom he recognized, but he held responses to a negative shake of his head and Billy Langstrom's name. THE, central determiner 9 Excited and irritated by these thoughts, Prince Andrew went toward his room to write to his father, to whom he wrote every day. HIS, central determiner; EVERY, central determiner 10 Discussions and questions of that kind, which are like the question of how to get the greatest gratification from one's dinner, did not then and do not now exist for those for whom the purpose of a dinner is the nourishment it affords; and the purpose of marriage is the family. THAT, central determiner; THE, central determiner; ONE's, central determiner

EX 18

1 which/that/∅ he has been put through during the last seven months 2 whom/who/that/∅ we share this incredible planet with 3 that/who/whom I have no respect for; for whom I have no respect 4 that/∅ I belonged to; to which I belonged 5 that/which we had been looking for 6 that/which she was excluded from by mutual, almost unspoken, consent; from which she was excluded by mutual, almost unspoken, consent 7 that/which I had read so often in the past 8 that/which a person can do 9 that/which it hails from; from which it hails 10 that/which I had given her for Christmas

EX 19

1 those they were chosen to represent 2 everything she had complained about 3 the 'Snoopy' coffee mug I usually drank from 4 the woman he married 5 the horrible mistreatment many women face in Pakistan's conservative, male-dominated culture 6 the summer reading I'm most looking forward to 7 all the things you are no longer supposed to do now that you are grown-up 8 something only the moms can handle 9 every word one uses 10 the new plan the Russians had proposed 11 the poem he

had recited 12 a nice large apartment he could have all to himself 13 the elaborate preparation I underwent to fit me for the great task my friends entrusted to me; the great task my friends entrusted to me

EX 20

1 relative clause: that had separated him from Daisy 2 nominal clause: that she's lifted sections from her own diary entries or fragmented notes at the time 3 appositive clause: that the reserves could encourage a revival of ivory trading, which has been banned for at least a year now 4 nominal clause: that the lawn mower and snowblower needed to be winterized 5 nominal clause: we are any worse now than people were a hundred years ago 6 appositive clause: that animals weep; appositive clause: that elephants cry under great duress 7 relative clause: that must be put on their products 8 relative clause: that historians and archaeologists have only recently begun to unravel 9 relative clause: that included being a Member of Parliament and Governor-General of Canada 10 nominal clause: that he would never be able to establish his innocence 11 relative clause: that some earlier experience had engraved on my brain 12 nominal clause: dinner would be served directly; nominal clause: that they could not serve it too quickly to suit his convenience 13 appositive clause: that all things will be good all the time

EX 21

1 none 2 restrictive relative clause: who had prepared the tree 3 non-restrictive relative clause: who till then had not ceased wailing under the shed 4 restrictive relative clause: that those who hear enjoy; restrictive relative clause: who hear; restrictive relative clause: in which their lives were set 5 reduced relative clause: I knew; reduced relative clause: I ever knew; non-restrictive relative clause: who traces the footprints of love in the life of dogs as well as in that of his fellowmen 6 restrictive relative clause: with which he mended the cuts Jim had received from the claws of the bears; reduced relative clause: Jim had received from the claws of the bears 7 sentential relative clause: which proved that they had passed beyond the influence of the magical Valley of Voe 8 sentential relative clause: which made us late in reaching New York 9 non-restrictive relative clause: which in the past brought misery and destruction and in the future could bring annihilation 10 none

EX 22

1 noun phrase: an exposé of the CIA published in *The New York Times*; postmodifying V-ed clause: published in *The New York Times* 2 noun phrase: the family of rambunctious squirrels nesting in the upstairs bedroom; postmodifying V-ing clause: nesting in the upstairs bedroom 3 noun phrase: a love story presented as an auction catalogue; postmodifying V-ed clause: presented as an auction catalogue; noun phrase: the objects to be auctioned; postmodifying to-infinitive clause: to be auctioned 4 noun phrase: new-looking white sandals, strapped with a broad white band and fitted with platform soles; postmodifying V-ed clause: strapped with a broad white band and fitted with platform soles 5 noun phrase: clips of film, looking in contrast somehow amateurish, quaint and not quite real; postmodifying V-ing clause: looking in contrast somehow amateurish, quaint and not quite real 6 noun phrase: condos built on old dump sites; postmodifying V-ed clause: built on old dump sites 7 noun phrase: a chalice overflowing with dark wine; postmodifying V-ing clause: overflowing with dark wine 8 noun phrase: the sensible resolution to be contented with the simple wardrobe which suited a poor man's daughter; postmodifying to-infinitive clause: to be contented with the simple wardrobe which suited a poor man's daughter 9 noun phrase: the company founded to run the commercial reserves; postmodifying V-ed clause: founded to run the commercial reserves 10 noun phrase: anyone belonging to a group of men who attack and rob with violence; postmodifying V-ing clause: belonging to a group of men who attack and rob with violence 11 noun phrase: no way to better their condition; postmodifying to-infinitive clause: to better their condition 12 noun phrase: the image accompanying him into a light doze; postmodifying V-ing clause: accompanying him into a light doze; noun phrase: a beautiful woman sleeping in the bed nearby; postmodifying V-ing clause: sleeping in the bed nearby 13 noun phrase: petitions requesting the transfer to adult court since Mr. Robles was kicked, stomped, punched and hit with a bottle on June 20 as he sat on his usual corner in an industrial area of town, sipping from a beer bottle; postmodifying V-ing clause: requesting the transfer to adult court since Mr. Robles was kicked, stomped, punched and hit with a bottle on June 20 as he sat on his usual corner in an industrial area of town, sipping from a beer bottle

EX 23

1 which is/has been ruled largely by the old and silly 2 who/that lived/
was living next door 3 that/∅ you can/could do while you are waiting
4 all of which were aimed at greater exactness 5 that/which are being
pulled down; that/which are being erected 6 that/which were/had been
stocked from certain farms 7 that/which is known as money 8 that/
which was/had been inscribed with the name Florence in relief 9 that/
which form/have formed its shores 10 that/which was intended to show
that, as a highly trained military man, he left it to Russians to make an
idol of this useless old man, but that he knew whom he was dealing with

EX 24

1 working in groups of three 2 married to an economist 3 aimed at solv-
ing the crisis in Darfur 4 defying logic 5 to get to the head of the queue 6
ever known to exist 7 sitting right in front of the master's desk 8 leaving
us not just the oath that bears his name but also a corpus of roughly sixty
medical texts based on his teaching; bearing his name 9 looking at online
content about hand-carved bird calls or searching the Internet for infor-
mation about hand-carved bird calls 10 to be handled with care

EX 25

1 noun phrase: a house full of saints' effigies; postmodifying adjective
phrase: full of saints' effigies 2 noun phrase: a national speech, standard
and tasteless; postmodifying adjective phrase: standard and tasteless 3
noun phrase: anyone interested in the Hebrew Bible and Old Testament;
postmodifying adjective phrase: interested in the Hebrew Bible and Old
Testament 4 noun phrase: those brave enough to bet on the bond mar-
kets; postmodifying adjective phrase: brave enough to bet on the bond
markets 5 noun phrase: a magnificent columned facade reminiscent of
the 18th century country palaces; postmodifying adjective phrase: rem-
iniscent of the 18th century country palaces 6 noun phrase: those not
technically inclined; postmodifying adjective phrase: not technically in-
clined 7 noun phrase: (money and) all things necessary for the uniform
and equipment of the newly commissioned officer; postmodifying ad-
jective phrase: necessary for the uniform and equipment of the newly
commissioned officer 8 noun phrase: the kindly sensitiveness natural to
him; postmodifying adjective phrase: natural to him 9 noun phrase: a

long, dark passage barely large enough for a man's body; postmodifying adjective phrase: barely large enough for a man's body 10 noun phrase: robots capable of working with unimaginable precision at unimaginable speed; postmodifying adjective phrase: capable of working with unimaginable precision at unimaginable speed

EX 26

1 noun phrase: baby boomers everywhere; postmodifying adverb (phrase): everywhere 2 noun phrase: over 450 million people worldwide; postmodifying adverb (phrase): worldwide 3 noun phrase: the room upstairs; postmodifying adverb (phrase): upstairs 4 noun phrase: the information below; postmodifying adverb (phrase): below 5 noun phrase: our twice-monthly visits together; postmodifying adverb (phrase): together 6 noun phrase: travels abroad; postmodifying adverb (phrase): abroad 7 noun phrase: children everywhere; postmodifying adverb (phrase): everywhere 8 noun phrase: something down below; postmodifying adverb phrase: down below 9 noun phrase: the grass there; postmodifying adverb (phrase): there 10 noun phrase: the rocks above; postmodifying adverb (phrase): above

EX 27

1 premodifier: noun 'village'; postmodifier: relative clause 'that was lost upon arrival to the city and recreated from poverty and misery' 2 premodifier: compound adjective 'high-powered'; premodifier: noun 'career'; postmodifier: relative clause 'who contributes heavily to the household income' 3 postmodifier: prepositional phrase 'from 1788'; postmodifier: non-finite V-ed clause 'written by a mathematician who survived the carnage of the French Revolution' 4 premodifier: adjective 'military'; postmodifier: adjective phrase 'worthy of the CIA' 5 premodifier: adjective 'right'; postmodifier: non-finite to-infinitive clause 'to read aloud to an inquisitive six-year-old' 6 premodifier: adjective 'theoretical'; postmodifier: appositive clause 'that tomorrow I shall have some fabulous idea for my best play yet' 7 premodifier: adjective 'harsh'; postmodifier: prepositional phrase 'of the European plantations and mining operations' 8 premodifier: adjective 'streetwise'; premodifier: sentence 'mess-with-me-at-your-own-peril'; postmodifier: prepositional phrase 'about them' 9 premodifier: noun 'death'; postmodifier: prepositional

phrase 'in nations with the longest life-spans' 10 premodifier: adjective phrase 'stunningly beautiful'; postmodifier: relative clause 'that combine fine book design and fine art' 11 postmodifier: prepositional phrase 'from a science-fiction story about the molecular dematerialization of reality projected onto a wall, on the other side of which the glowing letters reappear in reverse as though the wall were dematerializing' 12 premodifier: adjective 'beautiful'; postmodifier: prepositional phrase 'about a little boy'; relative clause 'which she was sure I should like better than *The Scarlet Letter*' 13 postmodifier: reduced relative clause 'I find in it'; postmodifier: prepositional phrase 'of the redeeming potency of woman's self-sacrificing love'

EX 28

1 form: prepositional phrase; function: postmodifier 2 form: prepositional phrase; function: postmodifier 3 form: noun phrase; function: premodifier 4 form: noun phrase; function: direct object 5 form: noun phrase; function: subject 6 form: noun phrase; function: appositive postmodifier 7 form: V-ing clause; function: prepositional complement 8 form: adjective phrase; function: postmodifier 9 form: noun phrase; function: direct object 10 form: noun phrase; function: prepositional complement

EX 29

1 i) noun phrase ii) non-finite to-infinitive clause as postmodifier 2 i) adjective phrase ii) adjective as head 3 i) noun phrase ii) adjective phrase as postmodifier 4 i) noun phrase ii) prepositional phrase as postmodifier 5 i) noun phrase ii) noun as head 6 i) noun phrase ii) ordinal number as postdeterminer 7 i) noun phrase ii) noun phrase as appositive postmodifier 8 i) noun phrase ii) pronoun as head 9 i) adjective phrase ii) adjective as head 10 i) prepositional phrase ii) noun phrase as prepositional complement 11 i) noun phrase ii) adjective phrase as premodifier 12 i) noun phrase ii) noun as head 13 i) prepositional phrase ii) noun phrase as prepositional complement

EX 30

1 form: noun phrase; function: subject; constituents: the -- definite article as central determiner; man -- noun as head; behind me -- prepositional phrase as postmodifier 2 form: noun phrase; function: indirect

object; constituents: private education -- noun phrase as premodifier; providers -- noun as head 3 form: noun phrase; function: direct object; constituents: the -- definite article as central determiner; grounds -- noun as head; of his white, gabled home by the lake -- prepositional phrase as postmodifier 4 form: noun phrase; function: subject complement; constituents: a -- indefinite article as central determiner; practice -- noun as head; most highly successful people share -- reduced relative clause as postmodifier 5 form: noun phrase; function: adverbial; constituents: this -- demonstrative as central determiner; Michaelmas -- noun as premodifier; term -- noun as head 6 form: noun phrase; function: subject; constituents: a -- indefinite article as central determiner; leafy -- adjective as premodifier; tree -- noun as head; with brilliantly white trunk and branches -- prepositional phrase as postmodifier 7 form: noun phrase; function: subject; constituents: the -- definite article as central determiner; clouds -- noun as head; far above -- adverb phrase as postmodifier 8 form: noun phrase; function: direct object; constituents: nice -- adjective as premodifier; news -- noun as head; of a victory by the Archduke Karl or Ferdinand -- prepositional phrase as postmodifier 9 form: prepositional phrase; function: adverbial; constituents: by -- preposition as head; this means -- noun phrase as prepositional complement 10 form: prepositional phrase; function: adverbial; constituents: in -- preposition as head; their tendency to perpetuate and prolong the existence of the weak and those who are least well equipped and endowed by nature -- noun phrase as prepositional complement

EX 31

1 teacher talk, a variable obviously subject to teacher control 2 McCarthy's book, one of the shortlisted novels for this year's Man Booker Prize 3 this invisible star, which exerts such a great force 4 anybody so confident that peace is just round the corner 5 the sight of her upright and neatly dressed figure, her modest demeanour, the manner in which she attended and followed every phase of the service 6 discouragement and weariness; the thought that I should soon be at home and show my loved ones what I had accomplished 7 the fact that Miss Canby's story was read to me once 8 your father, a man of the last century 9 a scribe, who recognizes under a corruption the word certainly intended 10 the magnificence of its mosques and other public buildings, the number of its schools, and the extent of its warehouses; wealth and luxury

EX 32

1 a mechanical woman, a machine with flashing, glassy circles for eyes 2 the plastic belt; a supremely easy, elegant modern look 3 a fine glowing surface on which the three women sprang like monkeys with cries of relief 4 a deep impersonal sorrow for brilliant youth thrown remorselessly away 5 a life which was becoming increasingly difficult and costly in moral terms 6 the treasures of antiquity 7 a Russian winter at his warm, bright home, his fluffy fur coat, his quickly gliding sleigh, his healthy body, and all the affection and care of his family 8 the small glow of another fire 9 news that the army he commanded was in an almost hopeless position 10 any attempt to resist or undermine his authority

EX 33

1 the idea of jumping onto the edge of the box and singing the air the actress was singing 2 all sorts of rumours about what the famously brainy and reclusive American prodigy, only 35 in 1973, would produce next 3 news about a plan the postal service is considering to outsource to private contractors much of the parcel handling that is, as Mr. Mullahey said, the lifeblood of this facility 4 attempts to bring it into more general use 5 none 6 none 7 videos which bring to life something that would otherwise be merely an ill-formed image in our minds 8 three people, none of whom looked like they fit in the refined, elegant spaces of the parlor 9 the three largest quarters, all presently booked by the two Dawkins brothers and wives, one pair of whom was not sleeping with his mate 10 a method which allows the simultaneous determination of both a skier's drag area and the friction coefficient of his skis against the snow in a single measurement

MOCK TEST 1

1

- i) noun phrase acting as direct object
- ii) adjective phrase acting as object complement
- iii) that-clause acting as subject complement
- iv) to-infinitive clause acting as subject

2

- i) an eighteenth-century oak chair
- ii) the company's five-star customer service
- iii) a three-hour stress management lecture
- iv) two hundred miniature portrait painters

3

i) Looking down from above, you wouldn't know that the tiny numbers of Europeans were supposed to be the stars of the story.

nominal clause

ii) I had an overwhelming feeling that he was somewhere nearby and that something was seriously wrong.

appositive clause

4

- i) whom I have the greatest respect for
- ii) who I have the greatest respect for
- iii) that I have the greatest respect for
- iv) Ø I have the greatest respect for

5

Unlike many editors, who often appear to compete with their staff, William Shawn made a point of seeming almost ignorant.

many -- postdeterminer

their -- central determiner

6

- i) the enormous good the modern Church did in today's troubled world
- ii) the corporal mortification he had endured earlier today

7

i) When the two boys entered this humble but impressive building, they entered an area of almost frightening silence.

prepositional phrase: of almost frightening silence

prepositional complement: noun phrase 'almost frightening silence'

ii) Several buildings, built and extended over many years and linked by a high wall, enclose a huge, elongated, steep courtyard of irregular shape.

prepositional phrase: of irregular shape

prepositional complement: noun phrase 'irregular shape'

8

i) The hard-won international reputation of our University is threatened by both international and domestic competitors.

hard-won, compound adjective

international, adjective

both international and domestic, adjective phrase

ii) Imagine flying, impossibly, over the Earth in the 17th century – during the time described in American history books as the colonial period, when Europeans dominated an almost empty wilderness.

American history, noun phrase

colonial, adjective

almost empty, adjective phrase

9

i) premodifier: exaggeratedly enthusiastic, adjective phrase; postmodifier: between women who never knew each other's names, prepositional phrase

ii) premodifier: quite remarkable, adjective phrase; postmodifiers: in art, prepositional phrase; which seem to many people unnatural and shocking, relative clause

10

i) sniffing food for about 30 seconds before you eat it

ii) where Americans live and where they are moving

MOCK TEST 2

1

i) The days of sleep had left **him** **disoriented**, and yet his mind felt **oddly lucid**

him, direct object

disoriented, object complement

oddly lucid, subject complement

ii) Dorrington made **himself** **master of his assistant's information**, and proceeded to the head office.

himself, direct object

master of his assistant's information, object complement

iii) His first two clients were **the last two persons that were hanged in the County jail**

subject complement

iv) She unlocked **Catharina's jewellery box** and handed **me** **the necklace and earrings**

Catharina's jewellery box, direct object

me, indirect object

the necklace and earrings, direct object

2

- i) NFCL
- ii) FCL
- iii) FCL
- iv) PH

3

- i) *Hannah*, a cute six-year-old child with a disproportionately large hair-do, stood dangerously close to the flames.
- ii) Santorum is increasingly seen as a champion in *fight*s with Democrats over contraception and gay marriage.
- iii) It belonged to Madame Krassotkin, *the respectable, nice-looking widow* of a former provincial secretary who had been dead for fourteen years.
- iv) But *one matter* the Society resisted pronouncing on for some time had been the question of its own criteria for membership.

4

- i) these sparkling bathroom floor tiles
- ii) an advanced learner's English dictionary
- iii) this morning's eagerly awaited news
- iv) a dusty modelling clay toy

5

All the guests at a party my husband is having call, one after the other.

all -- predeterminer

the -- central determiner

a -- central determiner

my -- central determiner

6

i) prepositional phrase; noun phrase as prepositional complement

ii) noun phrase; prepositional phrase as postmodifier

iii) adjective phrase; adjective as head

7

i) A coral reef is a flower garden of stone, filled with the most colourful varieties of life.

postmodifier: V-ed clause 'filled with the most colourful varieties of life'

ii) But amid an aging population and an economy burdened by heavy debt, luxury-goods companies have been reeling in Japan for years.

postmodifier: V-ed clause 'burdened by heavy debt'

8

i) animals of the same gender who simply enjoy each other's company

ii) a small frame house that stood near the town of Winesburg, Ohio

9

- i) which/that was required to pay for it
- ii) which/that is set in the American South

10

- i) not hearing that noise
- ii) to be considered at our next meeting

MOCK TEST 3

1

i) When those who have decided to live within the truth have been denied any direct influence on the existing social structures, this independent life begins its structured growth

any direct influence on the existing social structures, direct object

its structured growth, direct object

ii) Again, this story evokes

blatant disregard for the other beings with whom we share this incredible planet

blatant disregard for the other beings with whom we share this incredible planet, direct object

this incredible planet, direct object

iii) But in these complaints one detected

a sense of pride at being more diligent and therefore morally superior to the rest of humanity

a sense of pride at being more diligent and therefore morally superior to the rest of humanity, direct object

more diligent and therefore morally superior to the rest of humanity, subject complement

2

i) those slowly-withering white and yellow rose petals

ii) a working-class writer's best-selling gardening and landscaping book

iii) water-resistant bacteria research evaluation validity

3

i) The syntax of the sentence indicates the directness of the experience with the chair by which I found the chair was comfortable.

nominal clause

ii) The Secretary General said that the new plan was, in most respects, more acceptable than the previous one.

nominal clause

4

Younus' story highlights the horrible mistreatment many women face in Pakistan's conservative, male-dominated culture and is a reminder that the country's rich and powerful often appear to operate with impunity.

a -- central determiner

the country's -- central determiner; the -- central determiner

5

i) the country palaces Russian tsars built in the 18th century

ii) all we had

6

noun phrase: great strides in making our world a better place for all

prepositional phrase: in making our world a better place for all

prepositional complement: V-ing clause 'making our world a better place for all'

noun phrase: a better place for all

prepositional phrase: for all

prepositional complement: noun phrase 'all'

7

As a living and breathing reminder of the duties of care, for example, the dog took on a new role in the moral education of middle-class children.

living and breathing, coordinated -ing participles

new, adjective

moral, adjective

middle-class, noun phrase

8

of the European Space Agency project, a space-based observatory designed to search for planets, prepositional phrase

a space-based observatory designed to search for planets, noun phrase

designed to search for planets, V-ed clause

9

i) The age-old technique of counting sheep stimulates thoughts about the imaginary sheep being counted.

postmodifier: V-ed clause 'being counted'

156

ii) What subjectivism specifically misses is that our understanding is given in terms of a conceptual system grounded in our successful functioning in our physical and cultural environments.

postmodifier: V-ed clause 'grounded in our successful functioning in our physical and cultural environments'

10

tracking potentially deadly vaccine side effects

11

who/that were playing around the pool

12

i) performance events close to the sensibilities of those nonconformist groups

postmodifier: adjective phrase 'close to the sensibilities of those nonconformist groups'

ii) a gas-giant exoplanet the size of Jupiter

postmodifier: noun phrase 'the size of Jupiter'

MOCK TEST 4

1

i) Other important features of the replicators are competition and scarcity of natural resources that leads to the creation of those cells that form all plants and animals.

subject complement

ii) We remain survival machines and robot vehicles blindly programmed to preserve the selfish molecules known as genes.

subject complement

iii) Most writing texts give you specific advice based on the assumption that writers are either all like the author or all like each other.

you, indirect object

specific advice based on the assumption that writers are either all like the author or all like each other, direct object

2

i) Bali's uniform-clad four-star hotel staff

ii) that Norwegian writer's award-winning world history novel

iii) too many secondhand faux fur coats

3

What objectivism misses is the knowledge that understanding, and therefore truth, is necessarily relative to our cultural conceptual systems

and that it cannot be framed in any absolute or neutral conceptual system.

appositive clause

4

that/which I had enticed to play between the ribs

5

Alyosha realised at the first glance that all the tragedy of her position in relation to the man she loved so dearly was no secret to her.

all -- predeterminer

the -- central determiner

her -- central determiner

no -- central determiner

6

i) every lecture I give

ii) a way Darwin did not choose

7

i) Later as she lay awake beside him, listening to the sound of his breathing, it occurred to her that they had fallen into the pattern of making up by making love.

prepositional phrase: of his breathing

prepositional complement: noun phrase 'his breathing'

prepositional phrase: of making up by making love

prepositional complement: V-ing clause 'making up by making love'

ii) The idea diffuses itself in writing thanks to art and music and it is characterized by the survival value resulting from its great psychological appeal, because it represents a response to deep and disturbing problems.

prepositional phrase: to deep and disturbing problems

prepositional complement: noun phrase 'deep and disturbing problems'

8

Some of the world's most significant economists reckon we are heading towards a future of slow but steady growth in a there-are-fundamental-problems-that-are-hard-to-fix kind of way.

most significant, adjective phrase

slow but steady, adjective phrase

there-are-fundamental-problems-that-are-hard-to-fix, sentence

9

i) premodifier: suggestive, adjective; postmodifier: to the effect that Rains and Kruger were hardly spotless, prepositional phrase

ii) premodifier: turquoise, adjective; postmodifier: set in a pendant and hanging from a fine gold chain at Debbie's throat, coordinated non-finite clauses

10

Literature and autobiography are liberally sprinkled with accounts of the indignation and outrage felt when such a promise fails to materialize.

postmodifier: V-ed clause 'felt when such a promise fails to materialize'

11

that/which is/has been involved in considerations of this kind in our part of Europe

which/that derives from the difference of opinion we have just described

12

committing suicide when they sting to protect the hive

risking their lives to warn the flock of an approaching hawk

13

At her girdle hung a gold chain and cross, and she carried a handkerchief and a little prayer book bound in gold.

a gold chain and cross, noun phrase

she, pronoun

MOCK TEST 5

1

i) With his great, balding head and cadaverous body, his shabby, shapeless clothes and that immensely long raincoat that hung down close to his feet, he looked an absurdity

subject complement

ii) She had not acquired these genetically but I was quite willing to show her how to think and act

these, direct object

quite willing to show her how to think and act, subject complement

her, indirect object

how to think and act, direct object

iii) One of the most common mistakes struggling thesis writers make is self-flagellation; it impedes their progress

self-flagellation, subject complement

their progress, direct object

2

i) my late grandma's enamel-coated cast-iron cookware

ii) a few corporate world culture stress management examples

iii) a couple of simply unacceptable copyright violation allegations

3

i) One important lesson from the June referendum concerns the widespread sense that the goals of institutions like ours no longer reflect society's aspirations.

appositive clause

ii) The argument from industry that there will be fewer and fewer well-paid jobs might in general be true.

appositive clause

4

Being Southerners, it was a source of shame to some members of the family that we had no recorded ancestors on either side of the Battle of Hastings.

no -- central determiner

either -- central determiner

the -- central determiner

5

i) the greatest gifts life can offer you

ii) the difference of opinion we have just described

6

i) But just when he was clumsily creeping toward the door, that dreadful something on the other side was already pressing against it and forcing its way in.

prepositional phrase: on the other side

prepositional complement: noun phrase 'the other side'

ii) The key to a humane, dignified, rich and happy life does not lie either in the constitution or in the criminal code.

prepositional phrase: to a humane, dignified, rich and happy life

prepositional complement: noun phrase 'a humane, dignified, rich and happy life'

7

i) Most critics regard Winder an enormously witty and entertaining writer who crams his book with amusing anecdotes and funny descriptive passages.

enormously witty and entertaining, adjective phrase

amusing, adjective

funny, adjective

descriptive, adjective

ii) In 1872 Darwin refuted the nineteenth-century code of human superiority over animals in his groundbreaking work, *The Expression of Emotions in Man and Animals*.

nineteenth-century, noun phrase

human, adjective

groundbreaking, adjective

8

i) you note in yourself, reduced relative clause; of a deep interest in a field, a research problem, or a theme, prepositional phrase

ii) to research funding, prepositional phrase; of student and staff mobility, prepositional phrase

9

i) ways to improve your writing process, to make it more efficient and more likely to result in something that's less likely to kill you in its making

postmodifier: to-infinitive clause 'to improve your writing process, to make it more efficient and more likely to result in something that's less likely to kill you in its making'

ii) the woman fettered by ignorance but also freed by it

postmodifier: V-ed clause 'fettered by ignorance but also freed by it'

10

i) shown finally to be linked to each other

ii) even remotely drawn to the Hebrew Bible and Old Testament

11

that/which is borne out over the four-hundred pages

that/which will emerge from the text

12

a magnificent columned facade reminiscent of the country palaces Russian tsars built in the 18th century

postmodifier: adjective phrase 'reminiscent of the country palaces Russian tsars built in the 18th century'

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