

# Vocabulary Nouns

## Putting Nouns before Nouns – Noun Modifiers 2

A noun before a noun, acting as an adjective, is called a **noun modifier**, e.g., 'ice lolly'. They are also known as **attributive nouns**, **noun adjuncts**, and **qualifying nouns**. It literally means 'a lolly made of ice', but it makes more sense to us and is easier to write 'ice lolly' than a prepositional phrase.

A. Complete the gaps with the words below to create phrases with **noun modifier + main noun**:

office    vibe    ticket    ketchup    electricity    plate    pet    bat    raspberry    traffic

1. baseball \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ bill
3. home \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ food
5. weekend \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_ jam
7. dinner \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_ lights
9. tomato \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_ office

There are a few rules to remember. The **noun modifier**:

- comes before the **main noun**: love song, not song of love
- comes after the adjectives in the **order of adjectives**: cool love song, not love cool song
- is usually **singular**, while the main noun can be **plural**: love songs, not loves song
- cannot form an **'s contraction**, while the main noun can: love song's nice, not love's song's...
- cannot use **possessive 's**, while the main noun can: love song's tune, not love's song...

B. Put a tick ✓ if the sentence is correct. If it is not, correct it:

1. This pie's chart shows the details.
2. Where was this steam engine built?
3. Have a glass of oranges juice.
4. Can I have the sorbet of raspberry?
5. We loved your last theatre show!
6. I fitted the baby car's seat.
7. That's a grammar interesting book.
8. He had a few health issues.

There is no limit to the number of nouns that you can add to make a phrase. It can sometimes look odd to see nouns stacking up before a main noun, for example: 'the **Brighton pub garden punk rock memorial** concert', yet the words in bold are used correctly as noun modifiers to describe the noun 'concert'. It is quicker than writing 'the concert in memoriam playing punk rock music in a garden belonging to a pub in Brighton'. Longer phrases are usually made up of short phrases, e.g., 'the unexpected college film club business meeting problem'.

ARTICLE	ADJECTIVE	ORIGIN	PHRASE 1	PHRASE 2	MAIN NOUN
the	unexpected	college	film club	business meeting	problem

In long phrases like this, the main noun is often an **abstract noun**, like: 'accident', 'committee', 'decision', 'dilemma', 'issue', and 'mystery'.

C. Write the words in order to create phrases with multiple noun modifiers + main noun:

1. decision Port Felixstowe Authority \_\_\_\_\_
2. school committee budget repair \_\_\_\_\_
3. appointment chef question head \_\_\_\_\_
4. fund rain damage compensation \_\_\_\_\_
5. art McAllister University student exhibition \_\_\_\_\_
6. Planning solution City meeting Department crisis Council Peterborough \_\_\_\_\_
7. offer soup LIDL cancellation tomato threat discount \_\_\_\_\_
8. controversy house rise price \_\_\_\_\_

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Answers:

A.

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. baseball bat     | 6. raspberry jam  |
| 2. electricity bill | 7. dinner plate   |
| 3. home office      | 8. traffic lights |
| 4. pet food         | 9. tomato ketchup |
| 5. weekend vibe     | 10. ticket office |

B.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. This <b>pie</b> chart shows the details. | 5. ✓  |
| 2. ✓  | 6. I fitted the baby car seat.                |
| 3. Have a glass of <b>orange</b> juice.     | 7. That's <b>an interesting grammar</b> book. |
| 4. Can I have the <b>raspberry sorbet</b> ? | 8. ✓  |

C.

1. Felixstowe Port Authority decision
2. school repair budget committee *or* school repair committee budget
3. head chef appointment question
4. rain damage compensation fund
5. McAllister University student art exhibition
6. Peterborough City Council Planning Department crisis meeting solution
7. LIDL tomato soup discount offer cancellation threat
8. house price rise controversy