

Noun Groups

The noun group helps the writer create texts that are meaningful and comprehensive. A noun group is made up of a noun or pronoun, or a group of words that gives details about a noun or pronoun. The group of words might include nouns, articles, demonstrative pronouns, personal pronouns, possessive determiners, quantifiers and numbers. Extended noun groups also include adjectives and adverbs pointing to the noun or pronoun.

Determiners:

In written English, a **determiner** is a word that introduces a noun. It always comes before a noun and before any other adjectives used to describe the noun. Determiners are part of the noun group and take many forms.

- Articles: Definite article: the / Indefinite articles : a, an.
- Demonstrative pronouns: this, that, these, those.
- Possessive pronouns: mine, your, his, her, its, our, mum's, their, Mr Smith's
Independent form - mine, ours, yours, his, hers, its, and theirs
- Personal Pronouns: nominative (I, you, he, she, it, they), possessive (mentioned above) and objective (me, him, her, him, us, them)
- Possessive determiners : my, your, his, her, its, our, their.
- Quantifiers : a few, a little, much, many, a lot of, most, some, any, enough.
- Numbers : one, ten, thirty.

Articles: (a, an, the),

The articles 'a' and 'an' are called indefinite articles. 'A' is used before consonant sounds, and 'an' is used before vowel sounds or a silent **h** because we hear the vowel as the first sound in the word, for example **an hour NOT a hour**.

For example:

A second insect behaved in an unusual way. (Page 5)

In this sentence, the use of the article 'A' tells the reader it could be any type of insect the main characters saw.

The use of the article 'an' tells the reader the insect was behaving in any one of many possible unusual ways. Readers of this sentence could visualise many different unusual ways, not one particular unusual way.

A second insect behaved in an unusual way. (Page 5)

- The article 'the' is called a definite article. It introduces a particular noun. For example, in the sentence below, the definite article 'the' is introducing particular twins, Luka and Leandra. The article 'the' is used in front of both singular and plural nouns.

It was so rare the twins couldn't identify. (Page 1 plural)

Luka was the twin who loved to explore and watch insects through his bug catcher. (Page 1 singular)

The twins are not just any twins but the main characters in the book, Luka and Leandra.

Demonstrative pronouns:

In English there are only four demonstrative pronouns.

- The 'close by' demonstratives are '**this and these**'.
- The 'away from' demonstratives are '**that and those**'.
- This and that are singular; these and those are plural.

They are often referred to as pointers in the noun group. They point out a noun.

For example:

'You keep reading the manual, because I am definitely not touching that book,' he said. Page 30

'**That book**' refers to the fairy manual (*book*), which is away from him and not close-by because he was zapped by it.

Possessive Pronouns:

_(mine, your, his, her, its, our, mum's, their, Mr Smith's)

- **Possessive pronouns** show that something belongs to someone and help to answer the question 'which noun in particular'.

For example:

'I want to call it Luka's Flitter Flutter Flyer,' he announced. (Page 2)

'That's where he stored the miniature furniture he made for your doll's house.' (Page 30)

- There's also an "independent" form and used instead of the noun: mine, ours, yours, his, hers, its, and theirs. They are not immediately followed by a noun. They are **independent** because they don't need a noun after them.

- For example: The fairy manual is **hers**, and its enchanted.

No examples in *Forever Fairies*.

Demonstrative pronouns and possessive pronouns are used in the place of nouns.

Personal Pronouns:

nominative (I, you, he, she, it, they), possessive already mentioned above (my, your, his, her, their), and objective (me, him, her, him, us, them).

Pronouns are words used in sentences to take the place of nouns. They usually refer back to a noun used earlier and are used so that the same nouns are not used over and over again. They help the sentence flow smoothly.

- **Nominative case-** The pronoun is the subject of the sentence. The subject will be the pronoun doing the action.

For example: '**You** frightened **her**, Leandra.' **He** looked at **her** absently.
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You stands for Leandra who was doing the frightening. **He** stands for Luka who was doing the looking.

- **Objective case-** The pronoun is the object of the sentence. The object is the noun or pronoun receiving the action or thing.

For example: '**You** frightened **her**, Leandra.' **He** looked at **her** absently.
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The first **her** is receiving the fright and stands for Little Fairy, mentioned earlier. The second **her** is receiving the look from Luka, and stands for Leandra.

Quantifiers:

Quantifiers are words that precede nouns, just as articles do. They tell the reader how many or how much. Selecting the correct quantifier depends on the writer's understanding of *Count and Non-Count Nouns*. An example of a count noun is hours, rocks, frogs, trees and a non-count noun is rain, ice, wind:

- the following quantifiers are found with count nouns: many, a few, few, several, a couple of, none of.

For example: She spent **many** hours each day in the garden, and the twins knew just how much it meant to her. Page 60

It has **many** colours inside it. Page 91

- the following quantifiers are found with non-count nouns: much, a little, a bit of, a good deal of, a great deal of, no.

For example: 'I'm sorry children for having caused you and Grandma so **much** sorrow.' Page 142

'And I'm beginning to think finding our little *outsider*, was **no** accident.

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Non-count nouns are (a) **nouns** that are whole and made up of smaller parts: sand, rice, sugar

(b) Foods that can be purchased in various forms: meat, bread, fruit

(c) Things that have various forms or can change shape: rain, ice, wood, glass, wind, rain, fire, iron

The following quantifiers are used with both count and non-count nouns: all of the, some, most of the, enough, a lot of, lots of, plenty of, a lack of. In a sentence, the qualifiers are part of the noun groups.

Numbers:

If a number, (both cardinal and ordinal), comes before a noun, it is used as a determiner.

For example:

The older twin, by a whole **five** minutes, crawled after her brother across the lawn. Page 5 (cardinal)

A **second** insect behaved in an unusual way. Page 5 (ordinal)

Forever Fairies -some examples of noun groups.

A noun group is a group of words that give detail about the main idea.

Chapter one:

He was determined to add **this special butterfly** to **his collection**. Page 1

'He', 'this special butterfly', and 'his collection' are noun groups.

Chapter two:

Leandra sat down in **the only chair** in **the room**. Page 11

'Leandra', 'the only chair', 'the room' are noun groups.

Chapter three:

She half-turned, **her eyes** went from **Luka's face** to **the Fairy Manual**.'

'She', 'her eyes', 'Luka's face' and 'the Fairy Manual' are noun groups.

Chapter four:

Luka couldn't believe **a tiny life form** was making **such a big, infuriating noise**.

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'Luka', 'a tiny life form', and 'such a big, infuriating noise' are noun groups.

(Pre-determiners are normally placed before an indefinite article + adjective + noun to express an opinion about the noun they modify. Predeterminers; such, rather, quite and what are used in *Forever Fairies* by the author to express surprise or other emotions.)

Chapter five:

When **the lid** was on, **they** saw **her tiny face** at **the portholes** that perforated **the sides** of **the nesting box**. Page 57

'the lid', 'they', 'her tiny face', 'the portholes', 'the sides' and 'the nesting box' are noun groups.

Chapter six:

The picture of **five colourful fairies** dancing in **the moonlight**. Page 77

'The picture', 'five colourful fairies', 'the moonlight', are noun groups.

Chapter seven:

The rain clouds had gone, **the fog** that formed during **the night** was lifting and **the dew** covering **the lawn** glistened in **the sunlight**. Page 94

'The rain clouds', 'the fog', 'the night', 'the dew', 'the lawn', and 'the sunlight', are noun groups.

Chapter eight:

The tiny fairy followed **her tiny friends** in through **the door way**. Page 110

'The tiny fairy', 'her tiny friends', and 'the doorway' are noun groups.

Chapter nine:

Leandra and **the fairy** were hiding behind **gigantic tree roots – a wooden fortress**. Page 113

'Leandra', 'the fairy', 'gigantic tree roots', and 'a wooden fortress' are noun groups.

Chapter ten:

'Little Fairy's way up in **that tree**,' whispered **Luka**. Page 134

'Little Fairy's', 'that tree', 'Luka' are noun groups.

Chapter eleven:

He swung down with **a vine** in **one enormous plunge**. Page 140

'He', 'a vine' and 'one enormous plunge' are noun groups.