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Getting to grips with noun groups

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ELT Journal, Volume 68, Issue 2, 1 April 2014, Pages 145–154,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/elt/cct078>

Published: 18 January 2014 **Article history** ▼

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Abstract

Extended noun phrases are a feature of academic prose. An analysis of noun phrases in the writing of international students on an EAP course in New Zealand showed that their use of noun modifiers was atypical of academic writing in general. One example is that nouns as noun pre-modifiers were

used relatively infrequently. Our purpose in this article is to present an approach to task development that can usefully guide teachers in developing their own complex noun phrase tasks. Our exemplar task aims to increase learners' understanding and use of noun-noun phrases with repeated application to many different academic texts throughout a programme of study.

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Online ISSN 1477-4526

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