

TO THE TEACHER

Noun Boxes - Lessons 14 - 20

This lesson was previewed in **Lesson 7: Finding the subject** because getting this far in the book is a luxury for many students, given limited class time and resources.

Lesson 14 starts the lessons on noun boxes.

Noun boxes can be simple - one word - or they can be loaded with determiners, describers that come in front of the noun, "post-describers" that come after the noun, nouns that look like verbs (gerunds), possessive determiners that look like names (Juan's), and nouns that act like adjectives (English class).

It's important for students to be able to figure out what the main noun in the subject box is because this is the word that has to "agree" with the determiner (usually "a" or "the") that comes before it and the X-Word that comes after it—and of course it's what the sentence is about!

Lesson 14 is our introduction to subject boxes specifically and noun boxes in general. Lessons 14 through 20 will each introduce one aspect of the noun box:

Lesson 14	Where is the main word?,
Lesson 15	Determiners including articles.
Lesson 16	Describers (adjectives and nouns used as describers)
Lesson 17	Where can noun boxes go in the sentence?
Lesson 18	Prepositional phrases as post-describers and as one of the places where noun boxes can go.
Lesson 19	Gerunds and their uses
Lesson 20	Infinitives

This is a lot of material. For my level, I approach it as an introduction. For example, they will not perfect determiners in one lesson, but they might be able to learn that every singular noun needs a determiner.

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Confusing stuff (confusions in blue)

- Often students get confused between the main noun and a noun used as a describer (as in college classrooms)
- They've learned in elementary classes that adjectives come before nouns in English. Now they're seeing "Post-describers" (usually prepositional phrases or clauses) that come AFTER the main noun
- often students will think that the last word of the prepositional phrase is the main noun → skiing in the mountains are
- often students will think that a possessive determiner is the main subject → John's biggest worry (They will select John's, not worry)
- Sometimes they will think that the subject and verb of the clause are the main subject and verb of the sentence He says that the quizzes

Rules to discover

- The main subject is probably the last word in the box or the word right in front of the first preposition;
 - → The cat The cat in the hat
- Gerunds take singular verbs
 - → *studying feels;*
- Uncountable nouns take singular verbs.
 - → *Music feels;*
- If there's an "s" on the noun, there's no "s" on the verb
 - → *the students **s** feel / the student **s** feels*
- In the past, gerund, plural, singular, or uncountable doesn't make any difference.
 - → *the students felt / the student felt*
 - → *studying felt / music felt*