

# Lesson 17: Where can Noun Boxes go?

We've studied the subject box and the types of words that can go into a noun box. Now we will study the different places that noun boxes can go in the sentence.

FS \* X Vb Dt Ds \* CW Ds \* X Vb pr Dt \*  
 Now we will study the different places [that noun boxes can go < in the sentence. ]

Let's look at that last sentence.

**Now** (front shifter)

we (noun box as a subject)

will study (xword + verb)

the different places (object - what?)

[that noun boxes can go.] (describer clause)

< in the sentence > (prepositional phrase-where?)

Noun boxes have the same rules wherever they appear. Let's review.

## NOUN BOX BASICS

- Typical order: Dt Ds Ds \*  
this fascinating grammar class

- DS have to be in the right order Dt Ds Ds Ds Ds \*  
The beautiful little pink plastic doll
- The main noun usually comes last in the box, unless there is a prepositional phrase (<pr; a describer that comes AFTER the main noun)

Dt \* <pr Dt Ds \* VxD <pr \*  
The class on the fifth floor started <at 9 o'clock.

- The verb agrees with the main subject
- Every singular noun must have a determiner. Plural and uncountable nouns may have determiners



Some places where NOUN BOXES can go

- 1) Subject
- 2) Object (what)
- 3) After a preposition
- 4) Subject of a clause (a clause has a subject and a verb)
- 5) After an infinitive.

### Lesson 17 Exercise 1

I've put a box around one noun box in each of the sentences below. Write the noun box's place in the blank at the left.

- Hint 1: Mark the x-words and verbs first so that you know where you are!
- Hint 2: look at the word in front of the noun box. Is it a verb? a preposition? a clause word? If you can, mark the prepositions with < and the clause words with CW.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Can you drive a car?
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Did you have to take a test before you got a drivers license?
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Chicago and New York City were the first places in the United States to require a license.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Those cities started testing drivers in 1899.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Sometimes driver training is offered in high schools.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ In many places, however, driver education courses are given by private companies and are very expensive.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ It can be very scary to learn to drive.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ In big cities, other drivers will honk at you because you are too slow.
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ In small towns, the other drivers all know you!
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ If you make a stupid mistake, everyone in town will know!

**Lesson 17 Exercise 2, part a.**

There are 11 noun boxes in these sentences. I have found one for you. Find 10 more.

Sometimes people ask what the driving age is in the United States.

That question doesn't have an answer. Each of the 50 states has its own laws. In many states the age is 18.

**Lesson 17 Exercise 2, part b.**

Now write the words of the 11 noun boxes in the slots below. Three noun boxes don't have determiners. Why don't they need one?

	Determiner	# -- Describer	main noun
1			people
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			



**Lesson 17 Exercise 3**

Fill in the blanks with these noun boxes.

you	Alaska	a subway or a bus
a beginner's license	driving	your friends
the closest movie theater or restaurant	your freedom	the biggest state

The <sup>1)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, Alaska, is 430 times bigger than the smallest state, Rhode Island.

Manhattan would fit into <sup>2)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 19,640 times.

The age for <sup>3)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in Alaska is 14 years old.

If you live in a city, you can walk most places or take <sup>4)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

If you don't live in a city, <sup>5)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ means everything.

It might be 50 miles (80 km) to <sup>6)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

You can't go out with <sup>7)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ unless your mother or father drives you.

When you get your license, you get <sup>8)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

When <sup>9)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ get your license, you are an adult.