

English Construction Types

Rod	Construction Type	Examples
	a clause	<i>that chestnuts are roasting on an open fire, when troops fired at innocent people</i>
	a trunk	<i>chestnuts are roasting on an open fire, troops fired at innocent people</i>
	a clausid	<i>chestnuts roasting on an open fire, troops firing at innocent people</i>
	a predicate	<i>are roasting on an open fire, fired at innocent people</i>
	a verbal	<i>roasting on an open fire, fire at innocent people, Open your book, Fire!</i>
	a phrase	<i>on an open fire, at innocent people</i>
	a noun cluster	<i>an open fire, innocent people, your book</i>
	an adjective cluster	<i>wide open, very hot, deeply unjust</i>
	a content word	<i>chestnuts, roasting, open, fire, troops, fired, innocent, people, book</i>
	a function word	<i>that, are, on, an, when, at, your</i>

These are the nine construction types of written English. (there are ten rods because **word** is divided into content words and function words.) These structures derive their meaning from the *relation* of form and function that comes to be when they are placed in a particular position. For example, *fire* starting a verbal is a verb, while *fire* as the main word in a noun cluster is a noun.