

A series of ESL charts on English structure which I have developed for reference for teachers and students. *Noun Phrase. Beginning students might use the chart when building noun phrases, advanced should use it for reference.*

NORMAL WORD ORDER IN

by Alice C. Pack

Determiner

+ Choice of one

+ Prearticles

all
both
only
Ø

Articles

a (an)
the
any
every
each
some

Demonstratives

this
that
these
those

Possessives

's
my
our
your
his
her
its
their
theirs

Modifier

Adjectives

→ + Quality or Characteristic

modern
surprising
happy
overripe etc.

+ Size 1

large
small
tall
tiny etc.

+ Size 2

four foot
one yard
twelve inch
etc.

+ Shape

square
narrow
round
thin, etc.

+ Age

ancient
young
old
mature
1 year old
2 week old
3 month old, etc.

+ Time

daily
monthly
etc.

Note:

May be used to intensify adjectives (except specifics such as one year old etc.) and the determiner.

Adjectives may have their order changed for particular emphasis.

Examples

Although sentences like the following use all or most of these categories, usually a choice is made.

1. All my final few most modern, large, four foot, square, old, red, brick fireplaces in the city.
2. Just those last three least old-fashioned, small, three inch, round, ancient, white stone.
3. Only John's last four most underdeveloped, little, thin, immature, green apple bananas.

See

Fries, Peter. "On Repeatability and Reduplication" *TESL Reporter*, Vol. 3, No. 4, S 1969.
Pack, Alice C. "English Word Order" *TESL Reporter*, Vol. 3, No. 1, Fall 1969.

Advanced ESL students begins with this issue. Following is a linear diagram of the English sentence structure for reference when necessary.

THE ENGLISH NOUN PHRASE

+ Determiners + Adjectives + Noun Adjunct + Noun + Modifying Phrase + Modifying Clause

+ must use

+ may or may not use

ers

<u>+ Ordinals</u>	<u>+ Cardinals</u>	<u>+ Superlatives & Comparatives</u>	<u>+ Noun Quantity + of</u>
first	one	more	lot
second	two	most	great deal
third	three etc.	fewer	barrel
fourth etc.	several	fewest	quart
last	few	less	pint, etc.
next	many	least	
final	half		

ers

Modifiers

<u>+ Color</u>	<u>+ Modifying Noun</u>	<u>+ Noun</u>	<u>± Modifying Phrase</u>	<u>± Modifying Clause</u>
brown white etc.	brick redwood	fireplace house	on the table with brown eyes	who was there whom he saw

ers least, first, last, few, and many.

de from the sections with the order remaining the same.

new building were sold immediately.

figures from that shipment were left.

which were left in the basket, were thrown out.