

ORDER OF MODIFIERS IN THE

by Alice C. Pack and Lynn E. Henrichsen

The chart below illustrates the normal order of modifiers in the English noun phrase. (columns I through VIII) precede the noun nucleus in the order indicated. If the plural type is used, the order followed is that indicated by the arabic numerals.

SINGLE WORD MODIFIERS					
I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Pre-articles	1. Articles & Indefinite adjectives 2. Demonstratives 3. Possessives	Numerals 1. Ordinal 2. Cardinal	Superlative and Comparative Markers	1. General Size 2. Quality or Characteristic 3. General Weight	1. Specific Size 2. Shape 3. Age 4. Temperature 5. Specific Weight
Both	the			tired	old
Only	the The These Her John's The man's My brother's Many A Those	first two four first Six	least less more	difficult little surprising impressive big expensive rich	little new six-foot rectangular cold
All	the	twenty	most	beautiful	new

NOTE: Only one modifier from column II can be used at a time.

If the nucleus is singular, then a modifier from column II must be used.

If the nucleus is plural, the a modifier from column II may or may not be used.

For charts on noun phrase construction previously printed in the *TESL Reporter* see:

Fries, Peter H., "English Noun Phrase Construction," Vol. VI, No. 1, p. 8.

Pack, Alice C., "Normal Word Order in the English Noun Phrase," Vol. V, No. 1, p. 6

E ENGLISH NOUN PHRASE

English noun phrase. The various types of single word modifiers indicated. When more than one single word modifier of one general merals beneath each column head (e.g., "first two" in column III).

		NOUN	PHRASES AND CLAUSES	
VII	VIII		IX	X
1. Time 2. Color 3. Location 4. Origin or Nationality	Nouns used as Adjectives	NUCLEUS	Modifying Phrases	Modifying Clauses
Indian		men	sitting there	
	algebra	problem		that we did
		chapters	in the book	
brown		rocks		
		job		
	application	attitude		
		form		
blue	plastic	chair		that you saw
black	picture	frames	from New York	
Alaskan	winter	day		
American		tourists	carrying cameras	who talk loudly
weekly	news	magazines		which came today
red	water	beds	with leaks	that I fixed