

**Explanation of noun groups**

A **noun group** (or nominal group) is the way in which a **participant** is realised in language. A participant can be a person, place, event or thing but in a work of fiction most interest will be on **characters** in the story as participants.

The core of a noun group is, of course, the noun which names the participant; it is the Head Word. The Head Word is then built upon by the addition of pre-modifiers (determiners and adjectives) and post-modifying structures. The noun group is a way of packing a lot of information into a relatively short grammatical structure. It is a particularly useful strategy for adding depth to the description of a character in a story.

**Parts of a noun group**

Determiners (Pre-modifying structures)			Adjectives (Pre-modifying structures)				
Article	Demonstrative	Possessive pronoun	Numerative	Opinion	Factual	Comparing	Classifying
'a'	'This'	'Your'	'two' 'several'	'famous' 'beautiful'	'blue'	'older' 'fastest'	'school' 'Christian'

Head Word	Post-modifying structures	
Noun (or pronoun) e.g. 'building'; 'cathedral'	Phrase e.g. 'in Europe'	Clause e.g. 'who live in Queensland'