Idiom Quiz

1. on the road
2. see someone off
3. have your hands full
4. beat around the bush
5. in jeopardy
6. duck out (of somewhere)
7. on the loose
8. to be in (out of) the loop
9. clam up

A. to become silent suddenly, usually because you are embarrassed or nervous, or do not want to talk about a particular subject
B. to avoid talking about what is important
C. free to move around a place and harm people
D. to have (or not have) the special knowledge or power that belongs to a particular group of people
E. to be very busy
F. to go to the place that someone is leaving from in order to say goodbye to them
G. travelling, wandering
H. leave a place quickly and without being noticed
I. in danger

Recap: Circle the head of the following phrases and label them (NP, VP, PP, AdjP, AdvP)

Japanese evening classes ______
Sweden's round-the-clock child care ______
would captivate ______
after two years ______
to their padded snow suits ______
working parents around the world ______
incredibly stressful for children ______
far too complicated for me to get involved with ______
about 300 meals per day ______
the highlights of every day ______
During those two years ______
should have been going ______
ready to go to Japan ______
with a glowing reputation for its generous childcare facilities ______
Recap: Embedded phrases

[The yellow apples on the table] [are] [healthy]
[The yellow apples] [are] [on the table]

[The yellow apples [on the table]]

Recap: form vs. function!

[The yellow apples on the table] [are] [healthy]
[The yellow apples] [are] [on the table]

Phrase analysis
NP VP AdjP
NP VP PP

Syntactic analysis*
S V C
S V A

S: Subject
V: Verb
O: Object (direct/indirect)
C: Complement (following copular/linking verb)
A: Adjunct (e.g. adverbial element)
Focus on Noun phrase (NP)

the large apples that you ate with your nice friend
the large apples that you ate
the large apples on the table
the large apples
the apples
apples

😊 = noun

Focus on Noun Phrases:
STRUCTURE

Determiner + Pre-mod. + NOUN + post-modification
NP Premodification

**Identifier**
- the analysis
- our research
- this bias

**Numeral**
- two groups

**Quantifier**
- many variables
- some variables

---

NP Premodification

**Adjectives (simple & compound!)**
- pregnant mums
- broad knowledge
- a special project
- finely-grained material

**Participial premodifiers**
- written reasons
- hidden variables
- detecting devices

**Noun modifier (> result: Noun+Noun sequence)**
- distance education
- research group
- skin care
- communication science
- bus strike
NP Premodification

!!! COMBINATION

Quite pale skin
The greatest British theoretical physicist
These very traditional work clothes

NP Premod: Noun + Noun Sequences

• No function words
  ◦ No explicit logical relation
  - Dense packaging of referential info
  - Extreme reliance on implicit meaning

“bewildering array of logical relations”
(Biber et al. 1999: 590)

Cf. headlines
ITALY DEBT CRISIS
NP Premod: Noun + Noun Sequences

Logical Relations: Some Major Categories

| Composition (HEAD is made of MOD) | Glass windows → windows made from glass |
| Purpose (HEAD is for the purpose of/used for MOD) | Pencil case → case used for pencils |
| Identity (HEAD classifies MOD) | Men workers → workers who are men |
| Content (HEAD is about/deals with MOD) | Algebra text → a text about algebra |
| Source (HEAD is from MOD) | Irrigation water → water that comes from irrigation |
| Time (HEAD is found at the time given by MOD) | Monday class → class held on Monday |
| Institution (HEAD identifies an institution for MOD) | Insurance companies → companies for selling insurance (cf. egg industry, ski club) |
| Partitive (HEAD identifies part of MOD) | Family member → a member of the family (cf. cat legs) |
| Specialization (MOD identifies an area of specialization for the person or occupation given in HEAD; if MOD is inanimate) | Finance director → director who specializes in finance |

Ambiguity!

Cf. wine glass

> Glass of/containing wine [CONTENT]
> Glass used for wine [PURPOSE]
NP Postmodification

FINITE POSTMODIFYING CLAUSES

1) finite relative clauses:

women whose partners do not smoke
the social changes that have taken place
many variables which affect ...
that job I was doing last night

RELATIVIZERS
5 relative pronouns: which, who, whom, whose, that
3 relative adverbs: where, when, why

NON-FINITE POSTMODIFYING CLAUSES

2) non-finite clauses:

failure to quit => to-clauses I.
books to read => "

variables affecting motivation => ing-clauses II.
the man standing under the lamp post => "

structure based on the idea of... => ed-clauses III.
NP Postmodification

3) prepositional phrases:

the findings of a report
a message for parents-to-be
a third of parents
joint planning of pregnancy

NP Postmodification

4) Noun phrase in apposition:

The Prime Minister, Tony Blair
Andrew, the handsome boy who lives with Tom
Focus on Noun Phrases

Noun-headed phrases
Pronoun-headed phrases

NOMINALS

Major components of the noun-head phrase (Biber et al. 1999: 574)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>determiner</th>
<th>premodifiers</th>
<th>head noun</th>
<th>postmodifier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the</td>
<td>industrially advanced</td>
<td>countries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>small wooden</td>
<td>box</td>
<td>that he owned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>market</td>
<td>system</td>
<td>that has no imperfections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the</td>
<td>new training</td>
<td>college</td>
<td>for teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the</td>
<td>patterns</td>
<td></td>
<td>of industrial development in the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the</td>
<td></td>
<td>fact</td>
<td>that I haven’t succeeded</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Major components of the pronoun-head phrase
Biber et al. 1999: 574)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>determiner</th>
<th>premodifiers</th>
<th>head noun</th>
<th>postmodifier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I, she, you</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a/the</td>
<td>big</td>
<td>one</td>
<td>in town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anyone</td>
<td>who is willing to listen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>those</td>
<td>who take the trouble to register</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complex noun phrases: When and how?

• more likely to occur in written academic English
• different levels of complexity in terms of modifiers
• “pack” a lot of info
• space-saving device
• NP density ↔ info density in discourse
• info is more effective
• “distilling function”
Complex noun phrases: When and how?

ads & advertisement
newspaper headlines
book and film titles (cf. week 3 slides)
formal names for services
technical names for pathologies

- eating disorders
- low blood pressure
- slow heart rate
- fluid retention
- gastrointestinal motility disturbances
- large bowel abnormalities secondary to laxative abuse

• condense already given info

e.g.

There are forces of friction whenever solid surfaces slide over each other. The friction forces always act in the opposite direction in which an object or surface is moving.
Task

Consider the following slide. What is the role of the word “wine” in each noun phrase?
Readings:


> Chapter 9, Complex Noun Phrases


> Grammar: par. 4.5 The noun phrase

---

Readings:

Ballard, 2007 *ch. 5*


Extra reading:
Complete reference: The noun phrase
http://www.criticalreading.com/noun_phrase.htm
A. Matching

Match the idioms with their definitions.

a. bare your soul  
b. blow off steam, also let off steam  
c. burst into tears  
d. drop your guard, also lower your guard  
e. get a grip (on yourself)  
f. get something off your chest  
g. keep a straight face  
h. light up  
i. throw a tantrum  
j. wear your heart on your sleeve

1. to avoid showing any emotion, especially amusement  
2. to become very angry and unreasonable  
3. to control your emotions  
4. to do or say something that helps you get rid of strong feelings or emotions  
5. to express your secret thoughts and feelings  
6. to look happy  
7. to show your feelings, especially your love for someone  
8. to stop being careful about expressing your emotions  
9. to cry suddenly  
10. to tell someone about something that has been worrying you