

## NOUN PHRASES

1. In the **noun + noun structure**, the first noun modifies or describes the second, a little like an adjective.

A horse race (a kind of a race)	milk chocolate (a kind of chocolate)
A race horse (a kind of a horse)	chocolate milk (a kind of milk)
A book shelf (a kind of a shelf)	mineral water (a kind of water)

2. Note that the first noun is usually in the singular form, even if it has a plural meaning.

A shoe shop (a shop that sells shoes)	a horse race (a race for horses)
A toothbrush (a brush for teeth)	a ticket office (an office that sells tickets)

3. Articles belonging to the first noun are dropped in noun + noun combinations. Compare:

Officers in the army are well paid.  
Army officers are well paid.

4. More than two nouns can be put together. A group of two nouns can modify a third noun, these can modify a fourth, etc.

Oil production costs          road accident research centre

5. If you want to make a noun which includes a number, there must be several changes. Compare:

A boy who is 10 years old – a ten-year old boy  
A flight that lasts 3 hours – a three-hour flight

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Exercise. Replace the following with noun phrases.

- an opener that opens bottles that are made from glass
- a number of your telephone at work
- a delay which is 30 minutes long
- an editor of a magazine that writes about celebrities
- a play in the theatre that consists of 3 parts
- a failure of the system in your computer
- a pass that allows you to enter a match of football
- costs of relocating the offices of your company