

# Varied Fluency

## Step 5: Concise Noun Phrases

### National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 5: Devices to build cohesion within a paragraph [for example, then, after that, this, firstly]

English Year 5: Link ideas across paragraphs using adverbials of time [for example, later], place [for example, nearby] and number [for example, secondly] or tense choices [for example, he had seen her before]

English Year 5: (5G3.2) [Using expanded noun phrases to convey complicated information concisely](#)

Terminology for pupils:

- (5G1.5) [cohesion](#)

### Differentiation:

**Developing** Questions to support recognising and writing concise noun phrases. Texts and questions use only one expanded noun phrase per sentence.

**Expected** Questions to support recognising and writing concise noun phrases. Texts and questions use multiple expanded noun phrases per sentence.

**Greater Depth** Questions to support recognising and writing concise noun phrases. Texts and questions use multiple expanded noun phrases per sentence, including expansions by metaphor.

[More resources](#) from our Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling scheme of work.

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## Concise Noun Phrases

Some pots and pans tumbled down towards Bryson, and a knife hit the door. He pressed on, crawling up the kitchen floor as the ship tilted even further. Bryson guessed that lots of it was already flooded. Soon, the whole thing would be dragged beneath the waves.

If only Captain Hobson had been sensible and slowed down as they hit the thick fog! Then they might have been able to get out of the way of whatever had appeared from the mist and struck them. Instead, their ship had been split open in a heavy crash. Then a rush for the lifeboats had begun.

A long groan echoed through the ship as its nose rose even higher. Bryson dashed through a doorway, climbed over the rail and jumped...

1a. The sentence below is from paragraph two. Circle the adjective which has been used to expand a noun phrase.

If only Captain Hobson had been sensible and slowed down as they hit the thick fog!



VF

2a. The first sentence of paragraph one has been rewritten below in two different ways. Which version conveys extra information concisely?

- A. Some pots and pans tumbled down towards Bryson, and a knife hit the door behind him.
- B. Some falling pots and pans tumbled down towards Bryson, and a knife hit the door.



VF

3a. Look at paragraph three. Which of the options below would be most suitable for concisely adding new information to the phrase 'a doorway'?

- A. clear, open
- B. nearby



VF

## Concise Noun Phrases

Azeb peeped out from her bed and waited for the light under her door to turn black. She knew that in the bedroom next to hers Ellie would be doing the same thing.

Some footsteps made Azeb hold her breath. Shadows broke the light beneath the door as her parents walked to bed. Suddenly, the glow at the bottom of the door disappeared and was replaced by darkness. The feast could now begin.

After a while, Azeb eased her door open, fearing every creak. She tiptoed around some toys and knocked quietly on the next door. She heard Ellie sneaking to join her, but then a bright light flashed behind her! Azeb spun around in terror and saw her father's face staring at her across the landing.

1b. The sentence below is from paragraph one. Underline the prepositional phrase which has been used to expand a noun phrase.

She knew that in the bedroom next to hers Ellie would be doing the same thing.



VF

2b. The first sentence of paragraph two has been rewritten below in two different ways. Which version conveys extra information concisely?

- A. Some footsteps on the landing made Azeb hold her breath.
- B. Some footsteps outside on the floor by her bedroom made Azeb hold her breath.



VF

3b. Look at paragraph two. Which of the options below would be most suitable for concisely adding new information to the phrase 'the feast'?

- A. midnight
- B. of food



VF

## Concise Noun Phrases

Several loose utensils clattered down towards Bryson, and a kitchen knife buried itself in the door behind him. He pressed on, crawling up the kitchen floor as the ship's nose rose higher into the air. Bryson guessed that about a quarter of the vessel was already flooded. Soon, the entire thing would be dragged beneath the waves.

If only Captain Hobson had been less stubborn and slowed down as they passed through the chilly fog! Then perhaps they would have had a better chance to turn out of the path of whatever large cargo ship had emerged from the freezing mist and struck them. Instead, the rear part of the ship had been gashed open in a brutal collision and a desperate scramble for lifeboats and exits had begun.

A terrible groaning echoed through the ship as its nose lurched higher into the air. Bryson dragged himself through a doorway and into the open air, clambered over the handrail outside the doorway, and leapt...

4a. The sentence below is from paragraph one. Circle any adjectives and underline any prepositional phrases which have been used to expand a noun phrase.

Several loose utensils clattered down towards Bryson, and a kitchen knife buried itself in the door behind him.



VF

5a. The third sentence of paragraph one has been rewritten below in two different ways. Which version conveys extra information concisely?

- A. Bryson guessed that about a quarter of the partly-filled vessel was already flooded.
- B. Bryson guessed that about a quarter of the injured vessel was already flooded.



VF

6a. Look at paragraph three. Which of the options below would be most suitable for concisely adding new information to the phrase 'the ship'?

- A. burning
- B. loudly creaking



VF

## Concise Noun Phrases

Azeb peeped out from her duvet and waited for the light under her door to turn black. She knew that in the bedroom down the corridor Ellie would be doing the same thing.

The sound of footsteps on the stairs made Azeb hold her breath for fear of being found awake. Faint shadows disturbed the golden light beneath the door as her parents walked past to their own bedroom. With the click of a switch, the glow vanished, replaced by inviting darkness. The midnight feast was finally able to begin.

Thirty seconds later, Azeb eased her door open, wincing at every creak. She tiptoed around the toys on the landing and knocked quietly on Ellie's door. She heard soft footsteps coming to join her, but then a dazzling light flashed behind her! Azeb spun around in terror and saw her father's angry face staring at her across the landing.

4b. The sentence below is from paragraph two. Circle any adjectives and underline any prepositional phrases which have been used to expand a noun phrase.

Faint shadows disturbed the light beneath the door as her parents walked past to their own bedroom.



VF

5b. The second sentence of paragraph three has been rewritten below in two different ways. Which version conveys extra information concisely?

- A. She tiptoed around the toys on the landing and knocked quietly on Ellie's locked door.
- B. She tiptoed quietly around the toys on the landing and knocked quietly on Ellie's dark, shadowy door.



VF

6b. Look at paragraph three. Which of the options below would be most suitable for concisely adding new information to the phrase 'every creak'?

- A. from the stiff hinges
- B. from the squeaky hinges



VF

## Concise Noun Phrases

The unsecured utensils clattered down towards Bryson, and a meat cleaver buried itself in the doorframe inches from his head. With no time to appreciate his luck, he pressed on, scrabbling up the slippery kitchen floor as the bow of the cruise ship rose higher into the air. Bryson reckoned that approximately a quarter of the vessel was already flooded. It would not be long before the carcass of the ship was dragged beneath the waves.

The flood of warnings they had received should have been enough to persuade them to slow down. If only Captain Hobson had been less stubborn and had scrubbed off some speed as they negotiated the veil of fog! Then perhaps they would have had a greater window of opportunity to turn aside from whatever massive freighter had emerged from the fog and struck them. Instead, the stern of the ship had been punctured in a devastating collision and a chaotic scramble towards the lifeboats and exits had begun. The passengers and crew had poured through the ship, trying desperately to escape.

An ominous groaning echoed through the body of the ship as its prow lurched higher into the air. Bryson dragged himself through a doorway and into the cold embrace of foggy air, clambered over the handrail, and leapt...

7a. The sentence below is from paragraph two. Underline any additional detail used to concisely describe the action.

The flood of warnings they had received should have been enough to persuade them to slow down.



VF

8a. The first sentence of paragraph one has been rewritten below in two different ways. Which version conveys extra information concisely?

- A. The hail of unsecured utensils clattered down towards Bryson, and a meat cleaver buried itself in the doorframe inches from his head.
- B. The numerous falling unsecured utensils clattered down towards Bryson, and a meat cleaver buried itself in the doorframe inches from his head.



VF

9a. Look at paragraph two. Which of the options below would be most suitable for concisely adding new information to the phrase 'the passengers'?

- A. desperate
- B. stampede of



VF

## Concise Noun Phrases

Azeb peeped out from her duvet and waited for the crack of light under her door to turn black. She knew that in the bedroom down the corridor, her cousin Ellie would be doing something very similar.

The sound of footsteps on the stairs made Azeb hold her breath, such was her fear of being discovered awake. Shadows tickled the light beneath the door as her parents snuck along the landing to their own bed. Azeb, tensed like a sprinter waiting for the starter's pistol, counted the paces they took towards the light switch outside their room. Three, two one... With the softest (but most exciting) of clicks, the light vanished, replaced by inviting darkness. The midnight feast was finally able to commence.

After waiting for what felt like an eternity, Azeb carefully eased open her door, wincing at every treacherous creak. She knew that her path to Ellie's room was littered with obstacles, any of which would alert her parents if accidentally kicked or trodden on. She tiptoed her way through the minefield of toys and knocked as quietly as she could on Ellie's door. Her cousin's footsteps drew close, but then a heart-stopping flash of light put an end to their plans. Azeb spun around in terror and was confronted by her father! She could not bear to look at the emotion on his face.

7b. The sentence below is from paragraph two. Underline any additional detail used to concisely describe the action.

Three, two one... With the softest (but most exciting) of clicks, the light vanished, replaced by inviting darkness.



VF

8b. The first sentence of paragraph one has been rewritten below in two different ways. Which version conveys extra information concisely?

- A. Azeb peeped out from her warm, toasty duvet and waited for the crack of light under her door to turn dark black.
- B. Azeb peeped out from her cocoon of duvet and waited for the crack of light under her door to turn black.



VF

9b. Look at paragraph three. Which of the options below would be most suitable for concisely adding new information to the phrase 'the emotion on his face'?

- A. thundercloud of
- B. ominous, angry cloud of



VF

Varied Fluency  
Concise Noun Phrases

Developing

1a. **thick**

2a. **A**

3a. **B**

Expected

4a. **Adjectives: loose, kitchen**

**Prepositional phrases: in the door, behind him**

5a. **B**

6a. **A**

Greater Depth

7a. **flood of**

8a. **A**

9a. **B**

Varied Fluency  
Concise Noun Phrases

Developing

1b. **next to hers**

2b. **A**

3b. **A**

Expected

4b. **Adjectives: faint, own**

**Prepositional phrases: beneath the door**

5b. **A**

6b. **A**

Greater Depth

7b. **softest (but most exciting), inviting**

8b. **B**

9b. **A**