**Grammar Concept 4: Noun Phrases**

Dr. Gingrich, 10/H and AP English modified from *Artful Sentences* by Virginia Tufte

1. **The subject** (an active verb)

*The night sky* is as beautiful as ever, to astronomers as well as to poets. Steven Weinberg, Facing *Up: Science and Its Cultural Adversaries*, p. 71.

*Two little girls* arrived at the big school on the same day, at the same hour, took each other’s measure, and became fast friends. Dorris Lessing, *The Grandmothers*, p. 10.

1. **Predicate nominative** in a be pattern renames the noun.

A rocket is a *jet-propelled missile* which carries the source of its propulsion energy along with it and whose functioning is independent of the presence of an atmosphere. *The Way Things Work,* 578.

1. **Direct object** is the noun to which an action is done

These farmers produce *valuable goods*, of course; but they also conserve *soil*, they conserve *water,* they conserve *wildlife*, they conserve open *space*, they conserve *scenery*. Wendell Berry, *Citizenship Papers*, 170.

1. **Indirect Object** is the noun that receives the action.

And she can get *me* a job on a ranch in August. *The Journals of Jack Kerouac*

1. **Object of the preposition** is the object of a prepositional phrase.

The heard the whistle of *tugboats* all day and all night long. James Baldwin

1. **Objective complement** modifies the direct object or renames the direct object.

The called my aeroplanes *darts*. The Great International Airplane Book.

**Put to practice**

A. The 1. *chill* Westerberg sensed between Alex and his parents stood in marked 2. *contrast* to the warmth McCandless exhibited in 3. *Carthage*. Outgoing and extremely personablewhen the 4. *spirit* moved him, he charmed a lot of 5. *folks*. There was 6. *mail* waiting for him when he arrived back in 7. *South Dakota*, 8. *correspondence* from people he’d met on the road, including what Westerberg remembers as “letters from a girl who had a big 9. *crush* on him, someone he’d gotten to know in some 10. *Timbuktu*—some 11. *campground*, I think.” But McCandless never mentioned any romantic 12. *entanglements* to either Westerberg or Borah. Krakauer, *Into the Wild*, 64-65.

Write down the noun listed and whether it is a subject, direct object, indirect object, predicate nominative, objective complement, or object of a preposition.

How does Krakauer use noun phrases in this passage to meet his purpose?

B. Write a paragraph describing a test you are going to take in a subject in which you know you will receive a high grade. Use noun phrases from all six categories: subject, predicate nominative, direct object, indirect object, objective of preposition, and objective. complement