His wife was working inside the house this week, we will be focusing on

The nominal group
A nominal group (ng) usually functions to express a participant in a clause, e.g.

Paul James White rewrote the record books

nominal group structure 1
The main word in the nominal group is the noun. As the main word, the noun is called the head word or simply the Thing, e.g.

Recognising nouns
Nouns can be described by:

- pointing to them Those pens....
- counting them Twelve pens....
- evaluating them old pens....
- classifying them fountain pens....
Some nominal groups are simple and contain only the Thing (noun).

- Example: Paul-James White began *studies*

The Thing (noun) may be a word complex, e.g.

- Example: Paul-James White began *studies*

Most nominal groups contain some words before the Thing (noun), e.g.

- Example: *the record books*

Words that come before the Thing (noun) have various functions; they may:

1. specify it;
2. count it;
3. describe it;
4. classify it

Words before the Thing (noun) function to specify it in some way, e.g.

- Points to the Thing as being a specific Thing:
  - *the books*
  - *her book*

- Points to the Thing as being nonspecific:
  - *some a book*
nominal group structure 1

The word that specifies (or fails to specify) the Thing is called……

Deictic

some
the
your
that
a
etc

Thing

books

nominal group structure 1

So the structure of this nominal group is represented as:

some

books

Deictic

Thing

Items functioning as Deictic

demonstratives

specific

the, this, that, these
those
whichever, whatever

my, your, our, his,
her, its, their

John's, my father's
etc

possession

Deictic

Thing

the
books

this
those
whatever
my
their
John's

non-specific

a(n), each, every
either, neither
one, both, all,
some, any, no,

Deictic

Thing

no
books

a
every
neither
both
some
no

nominal group structure 1

Additionally, words before the Thing may express "how many" Things

Numerative

Thing

the
books

two
twenty
many
etc

nominal group structure 1

Words before the Thing may express "how many" Things

Numerative

Thing
two
books

ten, six
a couple of...
few, several
many, much
next, last,
preceding,
subsequent
etc etc
Furthermore, words before the Thing may describe the Thing. This describing word is called... 

Epithet

**the two outstanding books**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deictic</th>
<th>Numerative</th>
<th>Epithet</th>
<th>Thing</th>
</tr>
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Epithets indicate some quality of the things and are usually expressed by the word class adjective.

Words before the Thing may also classify the Thing. The classifying word is called... 

Classifier

**the two outstanding text books**

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<th>Classifier</th>
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Classifiers are usually expressed by the word classes: adjective or noun.

Both Epithets and Classifiers can be expressed by words belonging to the word class verb.

**warning**

- a galloping horse
- a horse that is galloping
- a travelling salesman
- a salesman that travels
- a bleeding nose
- a nose that is bleeding
- a spoken language
- a language that is spoken
FAQ
How do we distinguish between an Epithet and a Classifier?

Epithets can be...
Intensified

- intensifier: very, really etc
- his very outstanding scholastic achievements
- really
- his outstanding very scholastic achievements

FAQ
Epithets can also be....
Comparative

- his more outstanding scholastic achievements
- most
- his outstanding more scholastic achievements

Epithet or Classifier?
The same word can sometimes be used as either an Epithet or as a Classifier

As rules of thumb:
1. if the word can accept degrees of comparison or intensity then it is probably an Epithet.
2. If the word means "of the kind that...", then it is probably a Classifier

Epithet or Classifier?

- government legislation
  1. a kind of legislation, e.g. contrasting with Council?
  2. able to be intensified, e.g. very government? …

- ferocious dog
  1) a kind of dog, e.g. contrasting with corgi, alsatian etc?
  2) able to be intensified, e.g. very ferocious? …

nominal group structure 1
The nominal group functions: Deictic Numerative, Epithet, Classifier, Thing always occur in that order

- the two text outstanding books
- the text outstanding two books
- the two outstanding text books
More than one of these functions may be present, e.g.:

1. **Nominal Group Structure 1**
   - The two outstanding English text books

2. **Classifiers**
   - D N E C1 C2 Th

When two Epithets occur, how do we order them? e.g.

- A lovely big guard dog

Epithets expressing attitude come first.

1. **Nominal Group Structure 1**
   - The back of the two outstanding old English text books

2. **Classifiers**
   - D N E1 E2 C1 C2 Th

Task: Identify the nominal groups in these clauses

1. **The moon** will fall into Earth’s deep shadow on Tuesday, taking on a lustrous red or orange hue during the second total eclipse of 2007.
2. Star gazers will be able to watch as our planet’s natural satellite is consumed by celestial dragons,
3. as the Chinese once thought.
4. We can put something before the Deictic which indicates an aspect of the Thing, e.g.

A former Year 9 Kiama High School student was accepted into UoW because his scholastic achievements are outstanding and his HSC trial examination results are remarkable.

What else can we put in front of the Thing?
nominal group structure 1

Orientation

Notice that the Orientation itself forms a nominal group

nominal group structure 1

The Orientation element may indicate a measure of the Thing, e.g.

nominal group structure 1

Everything that occurs before the Thing (the head noun) modifies it in some way. So we can call all these pre-Thing elements....

Locate the Thing then label the rest of the nominal group elements

"The former Year 9 Kiama High School student was accepted into early entry into UoW"

Locate the Thing then label the rest of the nominal group elements

"...based in the trial HSC examinations and his outstanding scholastic achievements."

Locate the nominal groups

"...based in the trial HSC examinations and his outstanding scholastic achievements."
Identify the elements of the nominal group

nominal group structure 2

nominal groups may contain information both before and after the Thing (noun), e.g.

The hard-working students at Sydney university

nominal group structure 2

information occurring after the Thing is called the Qualifier

The hard-working students at Sydney university

nominal group structure 2

Because the Qualifier occurs AFTER the Thing it is also called the post-modifier

The joint degree of mathematics and computing engineering

nominal group structure 2

The function of the Qualifier is to further define the Thing.

the joint degree of mathematics and computing engineering
Identify the elements of the nominal group

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<th>Qualifier</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>at Sydney university</td>
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nouns group structure

The function of the Qualifier is to further define the noun

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<td>hard-working</td>
<td>students</td>
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Q: Which (hardworking) students?
A: The students at Sydney university

nominal group structure 2

Qualifiers can be:

- a clause

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<td>hard-working</td>
<td>students</td>
<td>that I teach</td>
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How do I know this Qualifier is a clause?

Because it contains a verb

nominal group structure 2

Identify the elements of the nominal group

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Embedded clause

* [] indicates that a clause is embedded
Travelogue (continued)

After leaving Monkey Mia we headed south to Kalbarri. The entrance to this town is lined with wild flowers, banksia, wattles etc. It's an avenue of magnificent bouquets and as you look down the long stretch of road you see the most aqua blue water everywhere. We did a lot of whale-watching on our first day there and saw lots of whales heading south. A whale had calved that morning and all the others came by to say hi!
Embedded clauses as Qualifier

- Embedded clauses functioning as Qualifier are called defining relative clauses;
- These defining relative clauses begin with a relative pronoun: who, which, that;
- Therefore the most useful rule for determining whether a clause is embedded as a Qualifier in a nominal group is to see whether it begins with who, which or that, or whether one of these relative pronouns can be inserted.

Defining and non-defining relative clauses

(we) saw lots of whales [[heading south.]]
equivalent to
(we) saw lots of whales [[that were heading south.]]

They cancelled the concert, which upset everybody
They cancelled the concert, // which upset everybody

Non-defining relative clauses

These are easy to distinguish in written language because punctuation (a comma) separates them from the main clause, e.g.

They cancelled the concert, which upset everybody
One thing we weren’t disappointed with was the stairway to the Moon. This phenomenon is seen during each full moon at low tide when the moon casts a beautiful light over the mud flats and gives the illusion of steps leading up to the full moon. It was a spectacular sight, and it was witnessed by about 4,000 people who were there at the same time. There were more ooos and aaahhhs than at the fireworks over Sydney Harbour!
A beautiful light, the illusion of steps leading up to the full moon. It was a spectacular sight, about 4,000 people who were there at the same time.

They’re privatising things we own together. 

[[sharing things]] is now unsound. They can’t remove the simple common pleasure of loathing public bastards such as these.

"Why did you sting me?" the scorpion replied: "It (= to sting) ’s my nature...”

A total eclipse can occur only at full moon, and only if the moon passes through the zone called the umbra, in which the Earth blocks all of the sun’s rays. The colour cast by refracted light depends on the amount of volcanic gas and dust in the atmosphere blocking the sun’s light.
1. A total eclipse can occur only at full moon,
2. and only if the moon passes through the zone,
3. called the umbra,
4. in which the Earth blocks all of the sun's rays.
5. The colour [cast by refracted light] depends on the amount of volcanic gas and dust in the atmosphere [blocking the sun's light].

1) Total lunar eclipses normally occur roughly every couple of years. //
2) but this year there will have been two (total lunar eclipses), //
3) the other (total lunar eclipse) having taken place on March 3. //
4) The next chance [to see the moon slip entirely into terrestrial shadows] will be on February 21, 2008, //
5) but after that the wait is longer, December 2010. //

Never travel with a friend [who deserts you at the hour of danger.]

3 types of clauses: declarative, interrogative and imperative

Marked imperative: you go away
Unmarked: go away