

How the Bumble-Bee Got His Stripes

On the day that the world began,
Each of the creatures was shown
All the colours of the universe;
And all were told to choose
Which of these they wanted for themselves.



Well, that day the elephant
Thought carefully and chose to be grey,
But the bumble-bee
Just bumbled around and buzzed around
And couldn't make up his mind
And the yellow sun shone so brightly
That the bumble-bee's bum became yellow

And that night the goldfish
Thought carefully and chose to be golden,
But the bumble-bee
Just bumbled around and buzzed around
And couldn't make up his mind
And the black night grew so dark
That the bumble-bee's hips became black

And the next day the cricket
Thought carefully and chose to be green,
But the bumble-bee
Just bumbled around and buzzed around
And couldn't make up his mind,
And the yellow sun shone so brightly
That the bumble-bee's waist became yellow

And that night the owl
Thought carefully and chose to be brown,
But the bumble-bee
Just bumbled around and buzzed around

And couldn't make up his mind,
And the black night grew so dark
That the bumble-bee's chest became black.

And next day the polar bear
Thought carefully and chose to be white,
But the bumble-bee
Just bumbled around and buzzed around
And couldn't make up his mind,
And the yellow sun shone so brightly
That the bumble-bee's shoulders became yellow.

And that night the jay
Though carefully and chose to be blue,
But the bumble-bee
Just bumbled around and buzzed around
And couldn't make up his mind,
And the black night grew so dark
That the bumble-bee's neck and head and legs became black.

And next day the bumble-bee
Began to be thoughtful,
He bumbled around and buzzed around
But thought carefully,
And chose the colours he wanted to be,
He said, I've made up my mind.
I want to be all the colours of the rainbow
But it was too late
Because the bumble-bee
Had already become
Black-striped
And yellow-striped,
From the top of his head
To the tip of this toes

Nick Toczec – The Works p60

Nouns

A **noun** names a **person, place, idea, thing** or **feeling**.



a **bumble-bee**
the **universe**
a **question**
an **answer**



In front of a **noun**, we often have
a an the

Adjectives

An **adjective** is a describing word.
It tells you more about a **noun**.



the sweet **nectar**
an intricate **tongue**
an elegant **creature**
a contented **buzz**



The **flower** was perfect.

Adjectives sometimes come next to 'their' **nouns**...
but sometimes they do not.

Noun Phrases

A **noun phrase** adds extra detail to the **noun**.



the sweet, sugar-filled nectar
the intricate, hollow tongue
the elegant bumble-bee
a contented buzz



It can be made by adding an adjective or two.

Spotting a Noun Phrase

A **noun phrase** can be replaced by a pronoun.

The **sweet sugar-filled nectar** attracted the bee.
The **intricate hollow tongue** reached the nectar.
The **elegant bumble-bee** flew through the air.
The bee made **the contented buzz**.

It attracted the bee.
It reached the nectar.
It flew through the air.
The bee made **it**.





Prepositions

Prepositions tell us how words are related.

above
on
over
outside
between
inside
under
below
from
by
with
without
of

Prepositions are useful for adding extra information about a **noun**.

Expanded Noun Phrases

You can develop an **expanded noun phrase** by using a **prepositional phrase**.

*He saw the wild, fierce **dragon**.*

*He saw the wild, fierce **dragon** from a land far-away.*

*He saw the wild, fierce **dragon** inside the school.*

*He saw the wild, fierce **dragon** next to the broken windows.*

The prepositional phrase modifies the **noun**.

Prepositions
with, of
by, from
on, under, below,
between, inside,
next to, over, by, in



Building Expanded Noun Phrases

Prepositions
with, of
by, from
on, under, below,
between, inside,
next to, over, by, in



*She ate the colourful, striped **gates***

*She ate the tall, brick **wall***

*She ate a parked **car***

*She ate the terrified **teacher***

Choose a noun phrase to expand using a preposition.

