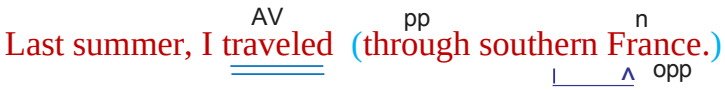
Addendum H

Prepositional Phrases and Noun Phrases

Page 34

In English sentences, one phrase will often fit neatly within the pattern of another phrase. On page 34, we saw several examples of how a **noun phrase** works within the pattern of a **connecting phrase:** the **prepositional phrases**. For example:



Following the action verb traveled, we come to the preposition (pp) through, which introduces the prepositional phrase through southern France. And we can see that the noun France acts as the object of the preposition (opp); France completes the sense of through.

But we also have an adjective here — southern — which tells us more about the noun France. So southern France is a noun phrase. We are looking at a **noun phrase** within a **connecting phrase**: one pattern operating **within** another pattern.

Sometimes, an article will accompany the object of the preposition.

Your umbrella is (in the closet.)

And sometimes the object will stand alone — no noun phrase.

The last train leaves (at midnight.)

We will take a closer look at the pattern of prepositional phrases — and three other **connecting phrases** that follow the same pattern — on pages 42-55 and 91-100.