

## Adjective Phrases (AdjP)

An adjective phrase consists of an adjective which may be preceded or followed by other words. This means that it can also have premodifiers and postmodifiers.

The headword in an AdjP of course is represented by an adjective.

Adjective phrases can also be simple and complex.

Simple:      tired

AdjP

↓

H

↓

Adj

Complex:    very tired

AdjP

↓

M

↓

Adv

↓

very

↓

H

↓

Adj

↓

tired

## Adjective premodifiers are:

### 1. Adverbs of degree:

too beautiful

very cute

extremely shy

most beautiful

fairly cheap

quite expensive

rather sharp

really handsome

a lot better

much better

a little better

somewhat better

AdjP

\_\_\_\_\_

↓            ↓

M            H

↓            ↓

Adv            Adj

## 2. Qualitative adverbs:

beautifully warm

curiously silent

equally right

relatively unknown

unexpectedly quiet

strangely absent-minded

AdjP

↓

↓

M

H

↓

↓

Adv

Adj

3. **Adjectives** themselves can be used as premodifiers in Adj-s.

dark brown

icy cold

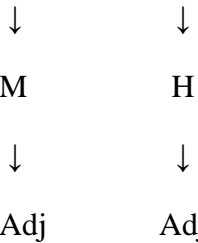
red hot

freezing cold

dazzling white

soaking wet

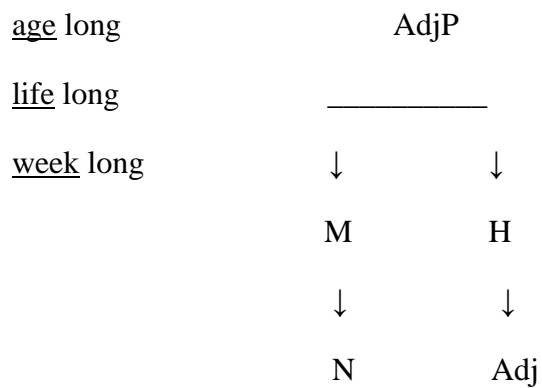
AdjP



4. **Nouns** premodifiers in AdjP-s are used adverbially. The number of nouns used in this way is very limited.

These nouns can express:

a. adverbial relations of time:



b. adverbial relations of comparison:

<u>blade</u> sharp	AdjP	
<u>snow</u> white	_____	
<u>paper</u> white	↓	↓
<u>sky</u> blue	M	H
<u>navy</u> blue	↓	↓
<u>dark</u> blue	N	Adj
<u>ice</u> cold		
<u>dog</u> tired		

c. Adjectives denoting distance, age and size:

<u>twenty metres</u> wide	AdjP		
<u>ten meters</u> deep	_____		
<u>three hours</u> long	↓	↓	
<u>six years</u> old	M	H	
	↓	↓	
	NP	Adj	
	_____	↓	
	↓	↓	wide
	M	H	
	↓	↓	
	Nu	N	
	↓	↓	
	twenty	metres	

**Adjective postmodifiers are:**

1. The adverb 'enough'

tall enough

warm enough

AdjP

\_\_\_\_\_

↓

↓

H

M

↓

↓

Adj

Adv

↓

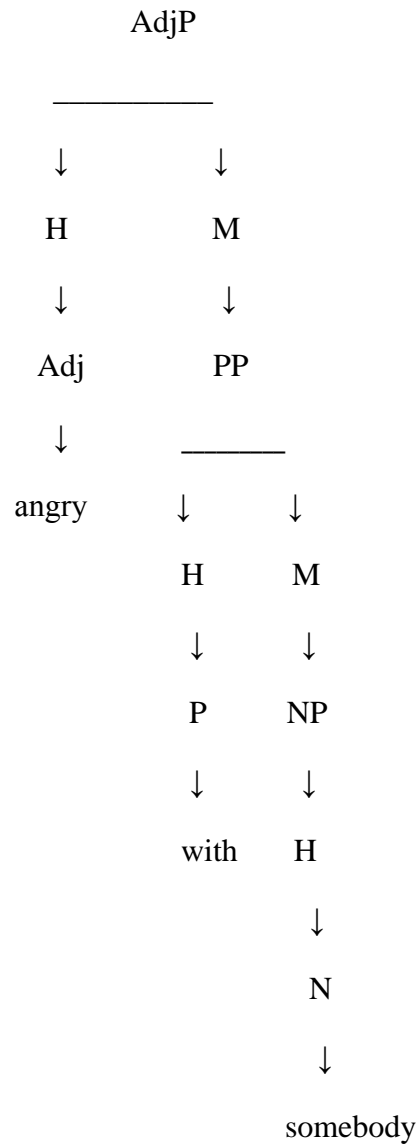
↓

tall

enough

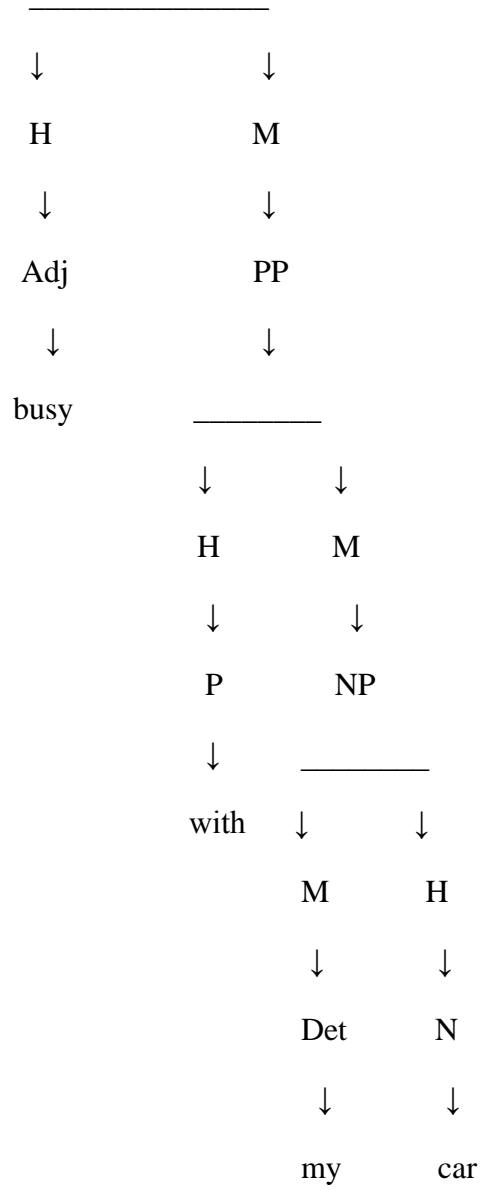
## 2. Prepositional phrases

angry with somebody



busy with my car

AdjP



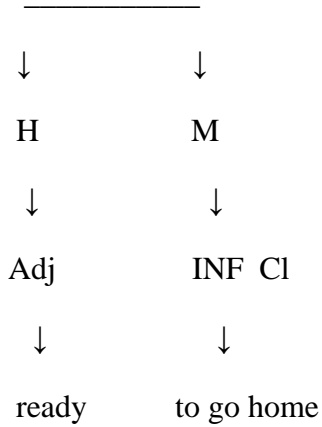


### 3. Infinitive clauses:

ready to go home

stupid to do such a thing

AdjP



### 4. Relative clauses or that clauses:

proud that our team won the championship

conscious that you have made a mistake

AdjP

