



Complements and Adjuncts

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container of flour

1. Keep the meaning constant; head meaning determines what its complements are
2. Keep the preposition and the head constant

a	container	of	flour	yes
the	container	of	flour	yes
the	container	of	poison	yes
the	jar	of	poison	definitely not
the	container	with	poison	definitely not
the	container	of	hard plastic	maybe not

One replacement

1. Enough context to show WHAT is being replaced in the example
2. the candidate complement is present
3. Make sure the head you are interested in is being replaced

Examples good and bad

the one of flour	no	not enough context
the container of water is heavier than the one of flour	yes	
* a container of water is heavier than a one of flour	no	<i>a one</i> is always bad
* this container of water is heavier than that one	no	candidate complement missing

Reordering/Adjacency

1. Both complements and adjuncts CAN occur beside a head. (so adjacency alone shows nothing)
2. Only adjuncts can be separated from the head by an adjunct
3. intervener MUST be a modifier of *container*

Examples good and bad. I assume *with the zinc lid* is an adjunct. (a) and (b) together best (minimal pair!).

- | | | |
|-----|---|-------------------------|
| (a) | the container of flour with the zinc lid | shows nothing by itself |
| (b) | ?? the container with the zinc lid of flour | ok |

Reordering/Adjacency

II

1. the container of flour with the glass lid
Shows *with the glass lid* is an adjunct
Shows nothing about *of flour*
2. *the container with the glass lid of flour
Shows *of flour* is a complement
Shows nothing about *with the glass lid*

Conjunction

1.

* the container of flour and with the glass lid
Shows *with the glass lid* is an adjunct
assuming *of flour* is a complement

Iterability

1. * the container of flour of salt
Shows *of flour* is a complement
2.
the container with a wide mouth with a glass lid
Shows *with a glass lid* is an adjunct
3. NOTICE: the container of flour and of salt