

# Introduction to English Linguistics

## 4: Grammar and Syntax

# Grammar and Syntax

## Grammar

The rules of language, comprising syntax and inflection

## Syntax

The hierarchical structure of language

# Grammar: Traditional Parts of Speech of English

- ▶ Noun
- ▶ Adjective
- ▶ Pronoun
- ▶ Verb
- ▶ Adverb
- ▶ Preposition
- ▶ Conjunction
- ▶ Interjection
- ▶ Article
- ▶ (Numeral)
- ▶ (Determiner)

# Grammar: Traditional Parts of Speech of English

- ▶ Noun
- ▶ Adjective
- ▶ Pronoun
- ▶ Verb
- ▶ Adverb
- ▶ Preposition
- ▶ Conjunction
- ▶ Interjection
- ▶ Article
- ▶ (Numeral)
- ▶ (Determiner)

## Lexical Words, Open Class

- ▶ Noun
- ▶ Adjective
- ▶ Non-auxiliary verb
- ▶ Adverb

## Function Words, Closed Class

- ▶ Article
- ▶ Pronoun
- ▶ Preposition
- ▶ Auxiliary verb
- ▶ Conjunction

# Syntax: Hierarchy

Sentence



Clause



Phrase



Word

# Syntax: Hierarchy

Sentence



Clause

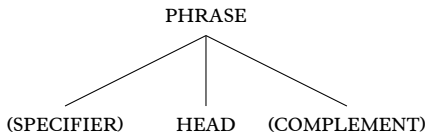


Phrase

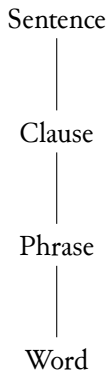


Word

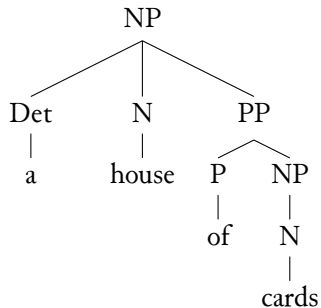
## Phrase Structure



# Syntax: Hierarchy



## Phrase Structure



# Syntax: Hierarchy

Sentence



Clause



Phrase



Word

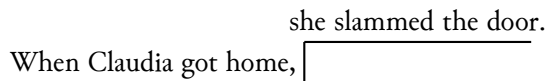
## Sentence Types

- ▶ Declarative
- ▶ Interrogative
- ▶ Imperative
- ▶ (Exclamative)



## Subordination

When Claudia got home, she slammed the door.

A diagram illustrating subordination. The text "When Claudia got home," is underlined. A horizontal line extends from the end of this underlined text to the right, then turns vertically upwards to connect to the start of the main clause "she slammed the door." This visualizes the subordinate clause being attached to the main clause.


# Subordination

I see

what you did there.

## Coordination

Tristan likes Aubrey, but Aubrey likes books.



# Traditional Elements of Syntax

Aishah often eats berries in the garden.

▶ Subject

▶ Predicate

▶ Predicator

▶ (Modifier)

▶ Adverbial phrase

▶ Prepositional phrase

▶ (Complement)

▶ Object

- Direct

- Indirect

## Word Order in Present-Day English

---

headclause: SVO

Jack eats carrots.

subclause: SVO

I know [that Jack eats carrots].

~~I know [that Jack carrots eats].~~

adv + headclause: SVO

Then Jack ate a carrot.

~~Then ate Jack a carrot.~~

adv + headclause: VS (only with  
certain intransitive verbs)

Then came the aftershock.

imperative: VO

Eat your greens!

interrogative with *be*: VS

Why was he here?

interrogative with aux.: vSV

What have I done?

---

## Word Order in Old English

---

headclause SVO

God lufode Iācob.

headclause VSO

Wæs hē Osrices sunu.

headclause SOV

Þū þæt cwæde.

subclause SOV

Ic wāt [þæt þū mē gehyrst].

adv + headclause VSO

Ðā slōg se wind þone lēg on þæt hūs.

adv + headclause SV

Þā sēo fāemne cwæð: ...

adv + headcl. + pre. VSiO

Þā cwæð s engel tō hyre: ...

adv + headcl. + prep. ViOS

Þā cw him hālend tō: ...

prep + headclause VSO

On þære tīde cwæð Petrus ...

prep + headclause SVO

On ðām dāge hē gemette āne ēa.

subclause sIoV

Ic wāt [þæt hē inc ābolgen wyrð].

subclause iOVS

Ic wāt [þæt ūs cymð se Mæssias].

imperative VSO

Ne et ðū of þām trēowe!

---

## Word Order in Middle English

---

headclause SVO

Adam clepide alle thingis.

headclause VS

And maad is euen and moru, the  
thrid day.

subclause SVO

And God saiȝ [that it were  
good].

adv + headclause SVO

Than Noe vndirstode that  
wateres hadden cesyd vpon erthe.

adv + headclause VS

Than came Hernyer the traoutour.

imperative: VO

Honour thi fader and thi moder.

interrogative: VS

Where art thou?

Why comaundide God to ȝow,  
that ȝe shulden not ete of ech  
tree of paradis?

---

# Word Order in Sum

- ▶ Old English
  - ▶ Highly variable
  - ▶ Headclauses default to SVO
  - ▶ Subclauses concentrate their verbs at the end (SOV)
  - ▶ Imperatives have VSO
- ▶ Middle English
  - ▶ Less variable than OE, more variable than PDE
  - ▶ Normally SVO
  - ▶ Interrogative clauses do not use a dummy auxiliary
  - ▶ Imperatives have VO
- ▶ Present-Day English
  - ▶ Rigidly SVO in declarative statements
  - ▶ Interrogatives and imperatives start with the (auxiliary) verb
  - ▶ Imperatives have VO



# Syntactic Schools

## Generative (or Transformational) Grammar

A linguistic model postulating an innate set of syntactic rules from which all linguistic utterances are generated, involving a **transformation** from an underlying **deep structure** to the apparent **surface structure**.

[Deep Structure] → [Subsystem] → [Surface Structure]

## Cognitive Grammar

Understands language as an abstract symbolic system directly rooted in the same cognitive processes used for other thought processes and thus not routed through a syntactic subsystem.

# Generative Grammar

## Phrase Structure Rules

Rules for parsing syntactic structures, defining the constitution of phrases with a view to finding structural correspondences across languages.

$S \rightarrow NP VP$ : *A sentence consists of a noun phrase followed by a verb phrase.*

$NP \rightarrow (Det) (A) N (PP)$ : *A noun phrase consists of a noun preceded by the optional elements determiner and adjective and followed by the optional element prepositional phrase.*

---

|      |                  |     |                    |
|------|------------------|-----|--------------------|
| NP   | Noun phrase      | AP  | Adjective phrase   |
| VP   | Verb phrase      | PP  | Preposition phrase |
| AdvP | Adverbial phrase | Det | Determiner         |
| Deg  | Degree word      | Aux | Auxiliary verb     |
| Con  | Conjunction      | S   | Sentence           |

---

# (Generative) Syntactic Constituents

(Cf. parts of speech.)

| Label | Description    |                        |
|-------|----------------|------------------------|
| N     | Noun           |                        |
| V     | Verb           |                        |
| A     | Adjective      | ▶ Lexical              |
| P     | Preposition    | ▶ Can head a phrase    |
| Adv   | Adverb         |                        |
| T     | Tense          |                        |
| C     | Complementizer |                        |
| Det   | Determiner     | ▶ Nonlexical           |
| Deg   | Degree word    | ▶ Cannot head a phrase |
| Aux   | Auxiliary verb |                        |
| Con   | Conjunction    |                        |

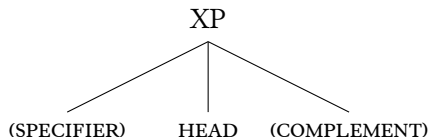
▶ Pronoun  $\equiv$  N without specifier or complement

▶ Possessive  $\equiv$  N

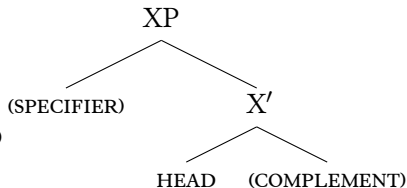
# X-Bar Theory

Models all phrases as specifier-head structures by positing a projected head, raising specifiers above the level of complements; see O'Grady.

## Multiple Branching Schema



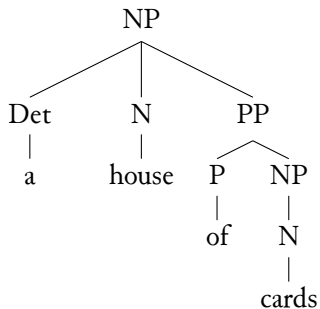
## X-Bar Schema



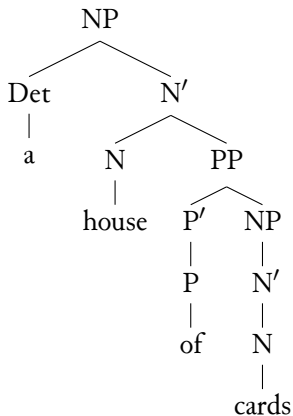
# X-Bar Theory

Models all phrases as specifier-head structures by positing a projected head, raising specifiers above the level of complements; see O'Grady.

## Multiple Branching Schema



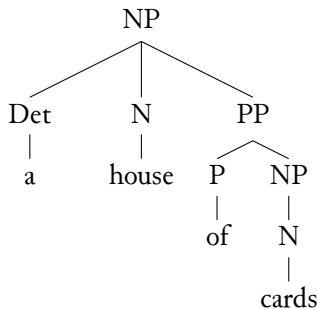
## X-Bar Schema



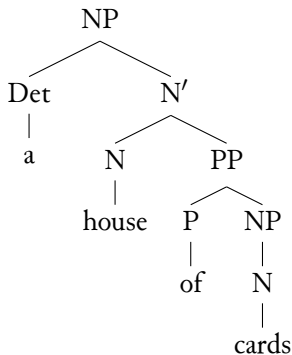
# X-Bar Theory

Models all phrases as specifier-head structures by positing a projected head, raising specifiers above the level of complements; see O'Grady.

## Multiple Branching Schema



## X-Bar Schema

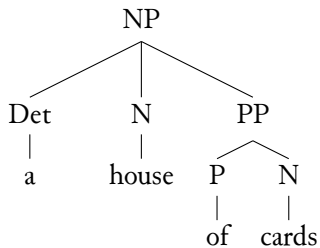


*X'* level only required in phrases with both specifier and complement.

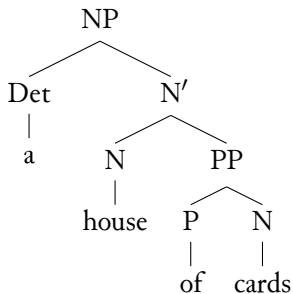
# X-Bar Theory

Models all phrases as specifier-head structures by positing a projected head, raising specifiers above the level of complements; see O'Grady.

## Multiple Branching Schema



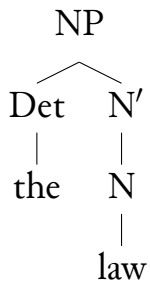
## X-Bar Schema



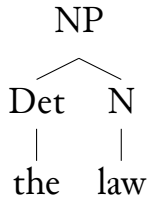
(You may also omit XP where it's just a head, but I won't here.)

# X-Bar Phrase Structure

Full Schema



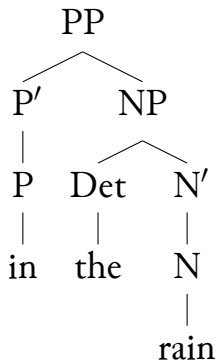
Compact Schema



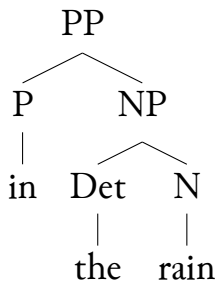


# X-Bar Phrase Structure

Full Schema

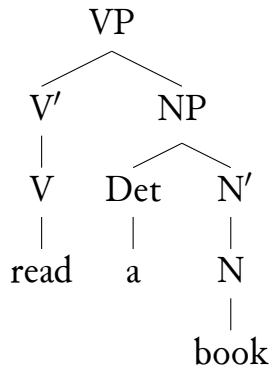


Compact Schema

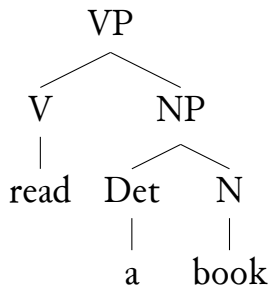


# X-Bar Phrase Structure

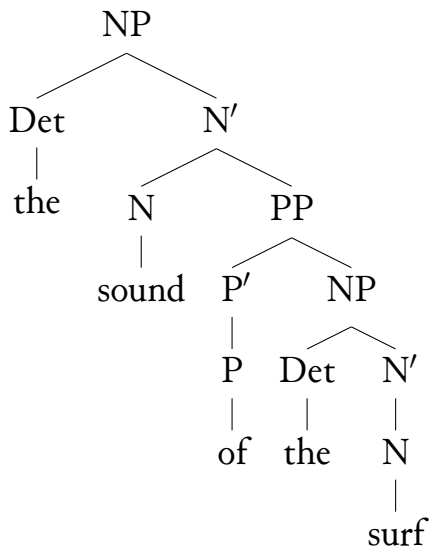
Full Schema



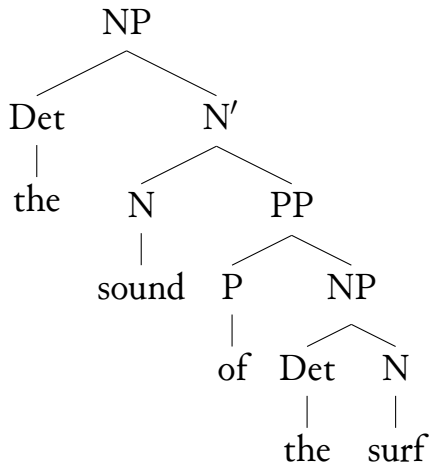
Compact Schema



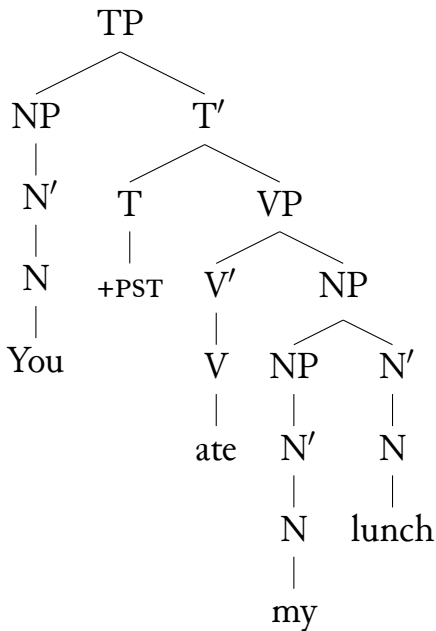
## X-Bar Phrase Structure (Full Schema)



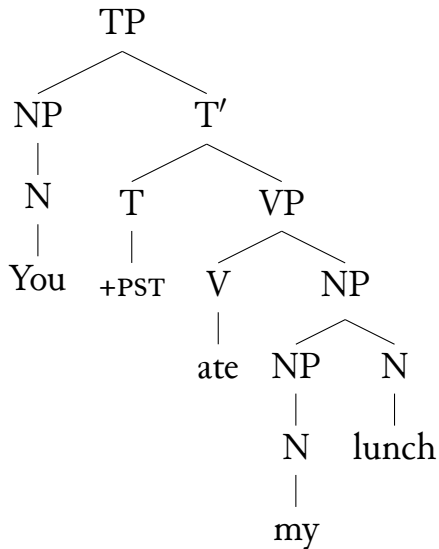
## X-Bar Phrase Structure (Compact Schema)



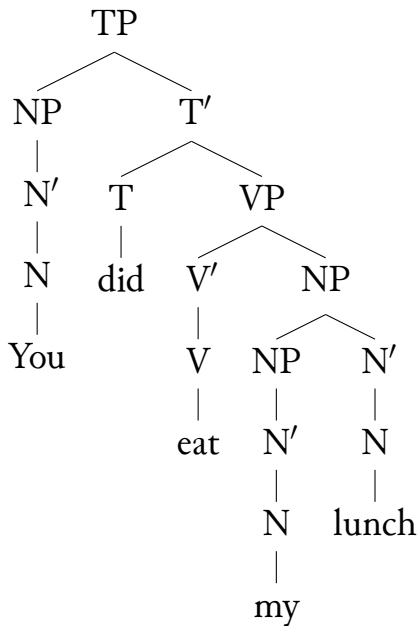
## X-Bar Sentence Structure (Full Schema)



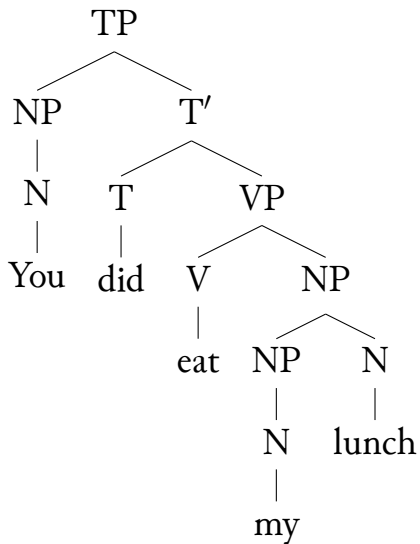
## X-Bar Sentence Structure (Compact Schema)



## X-Bar Auxiliary Structure (Full Schema)

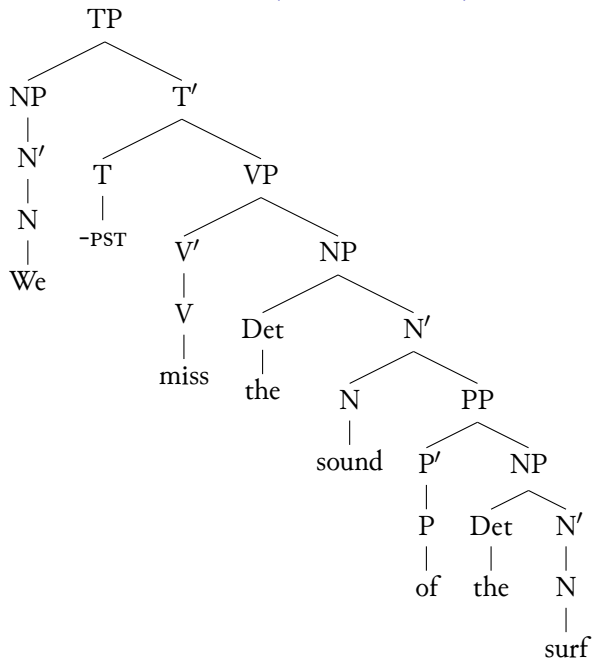


## X-Bar Auxiliary Structure (Compact Schema)

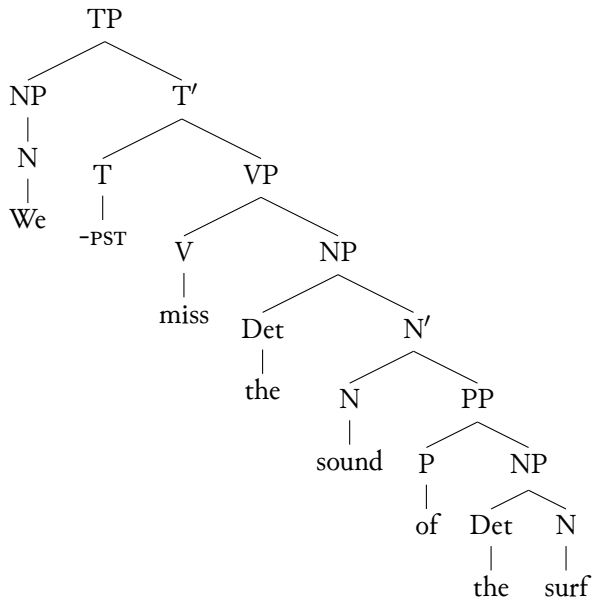




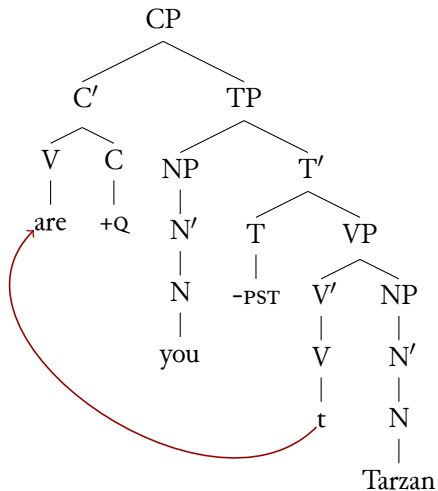
## X-Bar Sentence Structure (Full Schema)



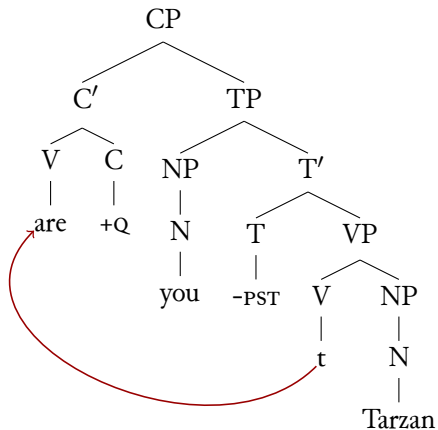
## X-Bar Sentence Structure (Compact Schema)



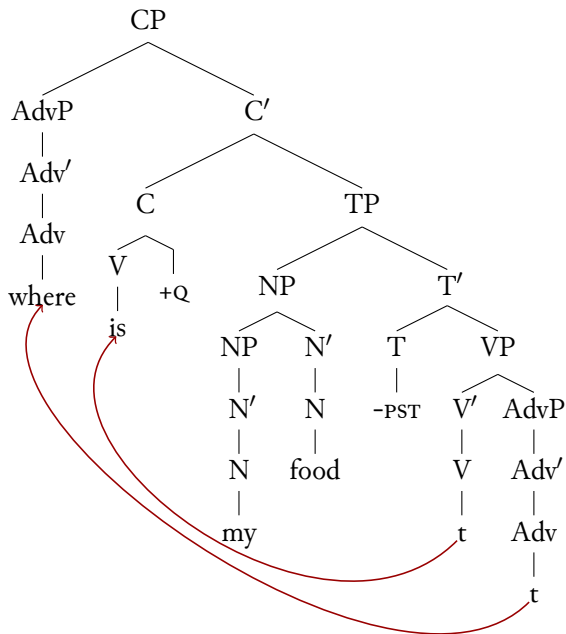
## X-Bar Yes/No-Movement (Full Schema)



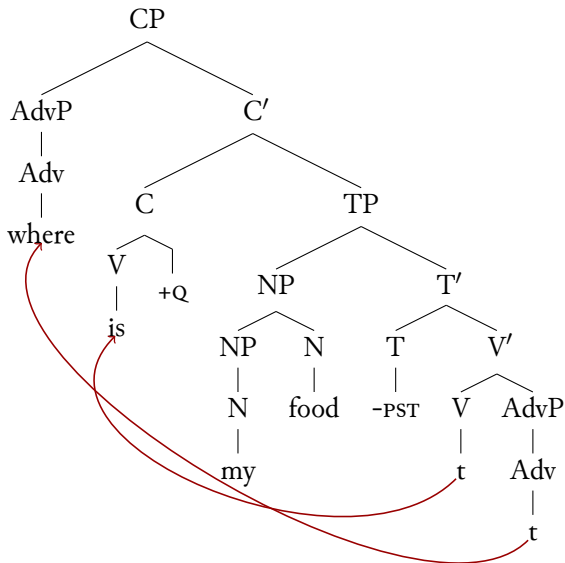
## X-Bar Yes/No-Movement (Compact Schema)



## X-Bar *Wh*-Movement (Full Schema)



## X-Bar *Wh*-Movement (Compact Schema)





P. S. Langeslag