

Introduction to English Linguistics

4: Grammar and Syntax I

Grammar and Syntax

Grammar

The rules of language, comprising syntax and inflectional morphology

Syntax

The hierarchical structure of language

Grammar: Traditional Parts of Speech of English

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

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Lexical Words (Open Class)

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

Function Words (Closed Class)

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

Syntax: Hierarchy

Sentence



Clause



Phrase



Word

Syntax: Hierarchy

Sentence



Clause

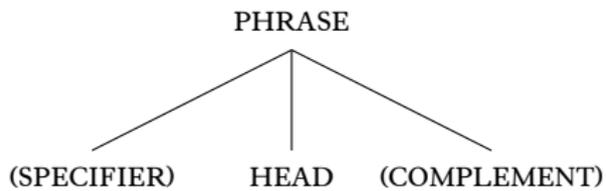


Phrase

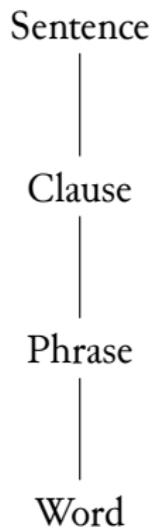


Word

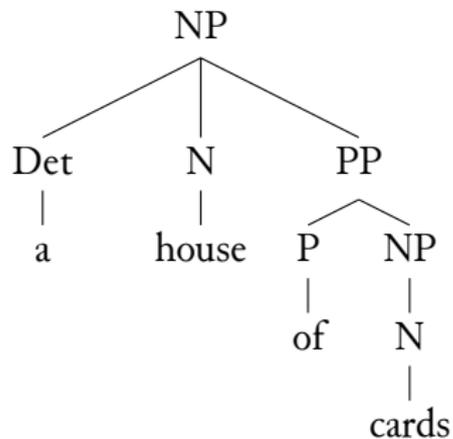
Phrase Structure



Syntax: Hierarchy



Phrase Structure



Syntax: Hierarchy

Sentence



Clause



Phrase



Word

Clause

Complete syntactic unit* that typically accommodates exactly one finite verb,** or else at least one participle.***

* i.e. structure governed by a verb

** Never more than one *finite* verb except in a contained clause

*** Clauses without verbs often have implied (finite) verbs

Syntax: Hierarchy

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Verbs

- ▶ Finite: inflected for person, number, tense, and/or mood (and/or voice)
- ▶ Non-finite:
 - ▶ Infinitive: dictionary form
 - ▶ Participle: behaves like an adjective
 - ▶ Gerund: behaves like a noun (“-ing form”)

Syntax: Hierarchy

Sentence



Clause



Phrase



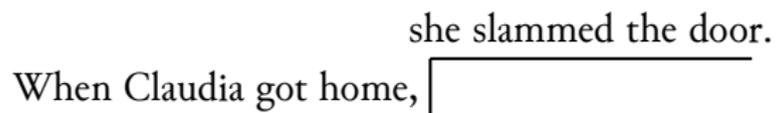
Word

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 down to the start of the main clause "she slammed the door." This L-shaped bracket visually links the subordinate clause to the main clause.

Subordination

I see

what you did there.

Coordination

Tristan likes Aubrey, but Aubrey likes books.



Conjunctions

Coordinating

- ▶ and
- ▶ but
- ▶ or
- ▶ nor
- ▶ for
- ▶ so
- ▶ yet

(FANBOYS)

Subordinating

- ▶ Logical: if, because, since, as, (al)though, unless, whereas, etc.
- ▶ Temporal: before, after, while, once, since, until, etc.
- ▶ Spatial: where, wherever

Coordination

1. I don't know (and) I don't care.
2. Either he's gone (or) he's well hidden.
3. ? Are you ready (or) what?

Subordination

1. I'm not worried, **because** I have my savings.
2. **If** you blink, it's gone.

Subordination Without Conjunctions

Object Clauses

1. I see what you did there.
2. Do you know who drew this picture?

Relative Clauses

1. I am the night whose embrace you dread.

Traditional Elements of Syntax

Aishah often eats berries in the garden.

▶ Subject

▶ Predicate

▶ Predicator

▶ (Modifier)

▶ Adverbial phrase

▶ Prepositional phrase

▶ (Complement)

▶ Object

- Direct

- Indirect

(Mair: *verb phrase*)

(Mair: *predicate*)

Clause Elements

Code	Full Label	Description
S	Subject	Governing noun phrase
V	Verb	The finite verb (Mair's predicate P)
O	Object	Noun phrase
A	Adverbial	Adverbs, PPs, conjunctions
C	Complement	Adds information to an S/O
V _{aux}	Auxiliary verb	<i>have done, should do</i>
V _{non-fin}	Non-finite verb	<i>have done, should do</i>
O _d	Direct Object	Object the action is done to (acc.)
O _i	Indirect Object	Indirectly affected object (dat.)
C _s	Subject Complement	Adds information to an S
C _o	Object Complement	Adds information to an O

Parsing for Clause Elements

S	V	O
Dog	bites	man

Parsing for Clause Elements

V	O
Bite	that man!

Parsing for Clause Elements

S	V	O	A
Our dog	bit	a man	yesterday.

Parsing for Clause Elements

A	V _{aux}	S	V _{non-fin}	O
Why	would	a dog	bite	a man?

Parsing for Clause Elements

V	O _i		O _d
Give	me	all your	strawberries!

Parsing for Clause Elements

S	V	C _s
The sun	is	bright.

Parsing for Clause Elements

S	V	O	C _o
The sun	makes	me	happy.

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. VSO_i

Þā cwæð se engel tō hyre: ...

adv + headcl. + prep. VO_iS

Þā cw him hālend tō: ...

prep + headclause VSO

On þære tīde cwæð Petrus ...

prep + headclause SVO

On ðām dāge hē gemette āne ēa.

subclause SO_iV

Ic wāt [þæt hē inc ābolgen wyrð].

subclause O_iVS

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
 - ▶ Comparatively variable
 - ▶ Headclauses arguably 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



P. S. Langeslag