

Weekly Lab #6 - Option 4

Copy and paste into a new Google Doc, then complete your work on the new Google Doc.

Questions 1-10 are the Study Questions for Chapter 8 so the answers should be found in the chapter.

1. What was the original literal meaning of syntax in Greek?
The word “syntax” comes originally from Greek and literally means “a putting together” or “arrangement”

2. What is wrong with the following rule of English syntactic structure?
a. “A prepositional phrase rewrites as a preposition followed by a noun.”

We clearly need to be more careful in forming the rule that underlies the structure of prepositional phrases. We have more success with a rule stating that we put a preposition before a noun phrase (not just a noun).

3. Which of the following expressions are structurally ambiguous and in what way?
a. *These are designed for small boys and girls.*

- b. *The parents of the bride and groom were waiting outside.*
- c. *How come a bed has four legs, but only one foot?*
- d. *We met an English history teacher.*
- e. ***Flying planes can be dangerous.*** Flying is ambiguous
- f. *The students complained to everyone that they couldn't understand.*

4. What part of speech is *lovely* in the following sentence?
a. *We saw a lovely rainbow yesterday.*

5. How many noun phrases are there in the following sentence?
a. *George saw a small dog in the park near the fountain and it followed him when he left the park.*

Have two noun phrases.

6. Which part of the following sentence is the VP?
a. *None of the people in the building supported the supposed rent increase.*

It is supposed rent increase.

7. Which of the following expressions would be generated by this phrase structure rule:
 a. $NP \rightarrow \{\text{Art (Adj) N, Pro, PN}\}$
- i. *A lady. NP*
 - ii. *HerN*
 - iii. *The windowAdj*
 - iv. *The little girl. N*
 - v. *AnniePN*
 - vi. *She's an old woman.... NP*

8. What kind of generative rule is this: $N \rightarrow \{\textit{girl, dog, boy}\}$?
 Is a lexical rule.

9. Do phrase structure rules represent deep structure or surface structure?
 That represents a **surface structure**.

10. Complete the following tree diagrams:

- a. Check our book for the two trees.
- | | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| Girl = Noun | Mary = noun |
| Saw = verb | Helped = VP |
| You = noun | the = art |
| | small = Adj |
| | Boy = noun |
| | The small boy = NP |

11. What is the distinction made between “competence” and “performance” in the study of syntax?

competence involves “knowing” / structures the language and performance involve “doing” something with the language.