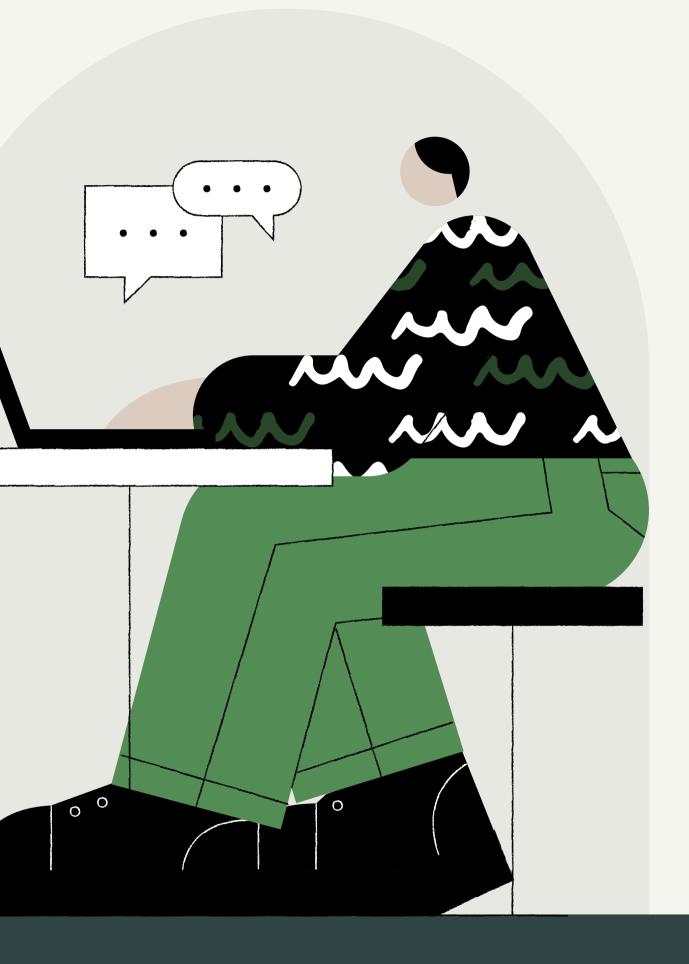
INTRODUCTION TO SYNTAX

UNIT 4 (PART I)

PATCHARAPHAN SUSAMAWATHANAKUN



Linguistics & Syntax

66 Syntax is the central component of human language.

Language has often been characterized as the systematic correlation between certain types of oral/graphic forms for spoken/written language; and, for signed language, they are manual.

Linguistics & Syntax (cont.)

"

It's not the case that every possible meaning that can be expressed is correlated with a unique, unanalyzable form.

"

Rather, each language has a stock of meaning-bearing elements and different ways of combining them to express different meanings, and these ways of combining them are themselves meaningful.

Chris gave the notebook to Dana.



These two sentences contain exactly the same meaning-bearing elements, i.e. words.



They have different meanings because the words are combined differently in them.

Dana gave the notebook to Chris.

These different combinations fall into the realm of syntax;

the two

sentences differ not in terms of the words in them but rather in terms of their syntax.



Syntax & Grammar - The difference -

Syntax is how a sentence is worded and structured.

Syntax is "the study of principles and processes by which sentences are constructed in particular languages."

It consists of the type of sentence and word

It refers to length of sentences.





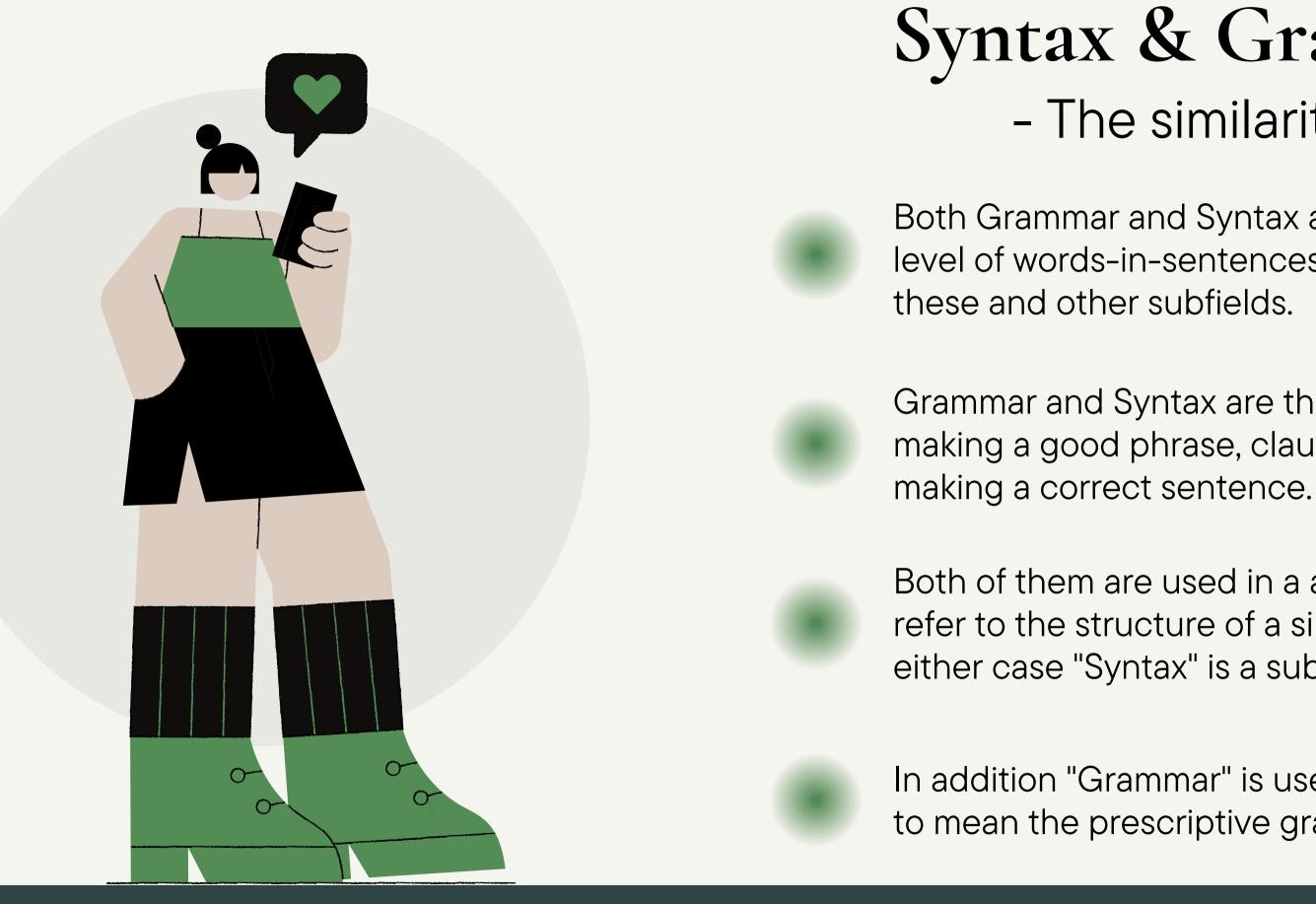
Grammar is the study of rules governing the use of language.

Grammar is "the set of structural rules that governs the composition of clauses, phrases, and words in any given natural language."

Syntax & Grammar - The difference -

syntax has literary meaning and use,

while Grammar just shows good form.



Syntax & Grammar - The similarity -

Both Grammar and Syntax are usually focus at the level of words-in-sentences but can spill over into

Grammar and Syntax are the knowledge of making a good phrase, clause, and absolutely in

Both of them are used in a abstract way, and also refer to the structure of a single language, and in either case "Syntax" is a subset of "Grammar".

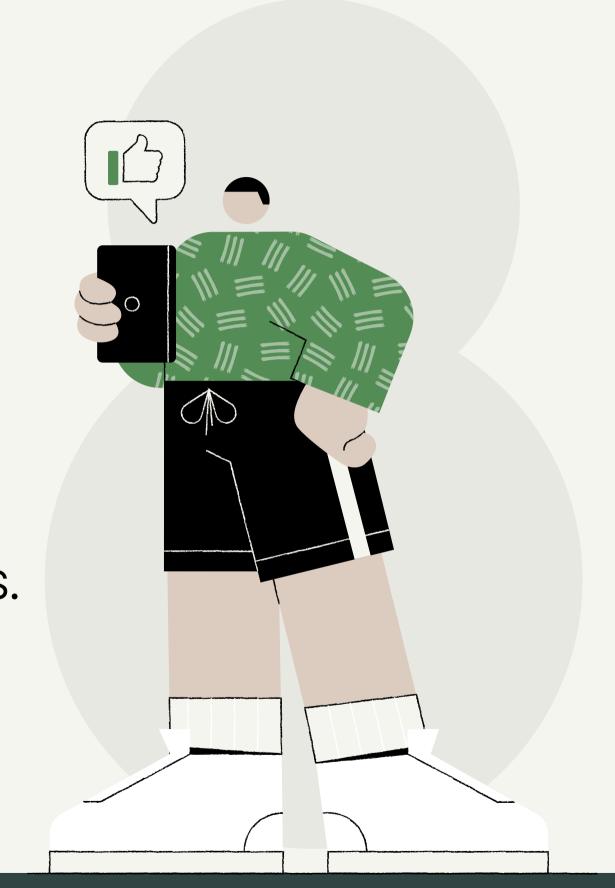
In addition "Grammar" is used in a different way, to mean the prescriptive grammar of a language.

"Colorless green ideas sleep furiously."

is a sentence composed by Noam Chomsky in 1957 as an example of a sentence whose grammar is correct but whose meaning is nonsensical.

Definitions to Syntax

- Syntax is the study of the structure of phrases, clauses and sentences.
- In other words, Syntax is the study of how words are combined to produce sentences.



Definitions to Syntax (cont.)

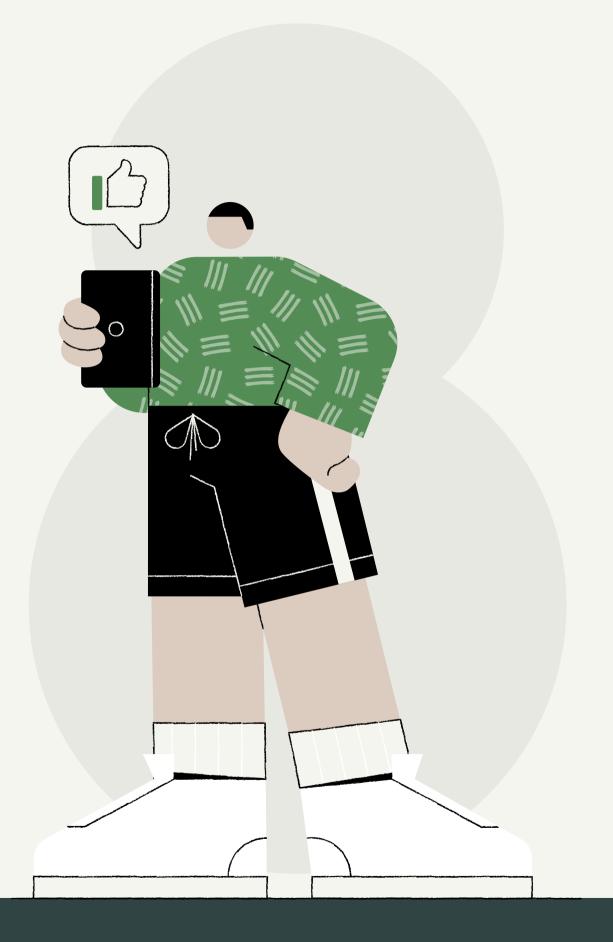
To make clear the meaning, of Syntax, let us clarify three aspects involved.



Catogories

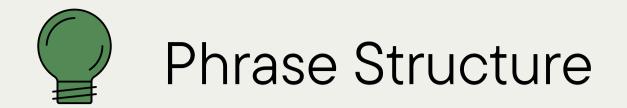




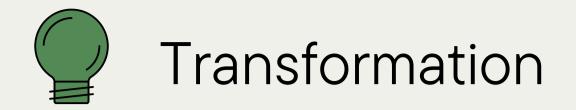




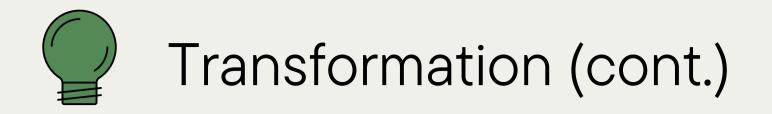
- Words in a language are organized into different categories, or in traditional terms, parts of speech.
- Categories may be lexical e.g. Nouns (N), Verbs (V), Adjectives (A), Prepositions (P), Adverbs (Adv) or non-lexical e.g. Determiners (Det), Auxiliaries (Aux), Conjunctions (Conj), Degree words (Deg) or phrasal e.g. Noun phrases, Verb phrases, Adjective phrases, Prepositional phrases, Adverb phrases.



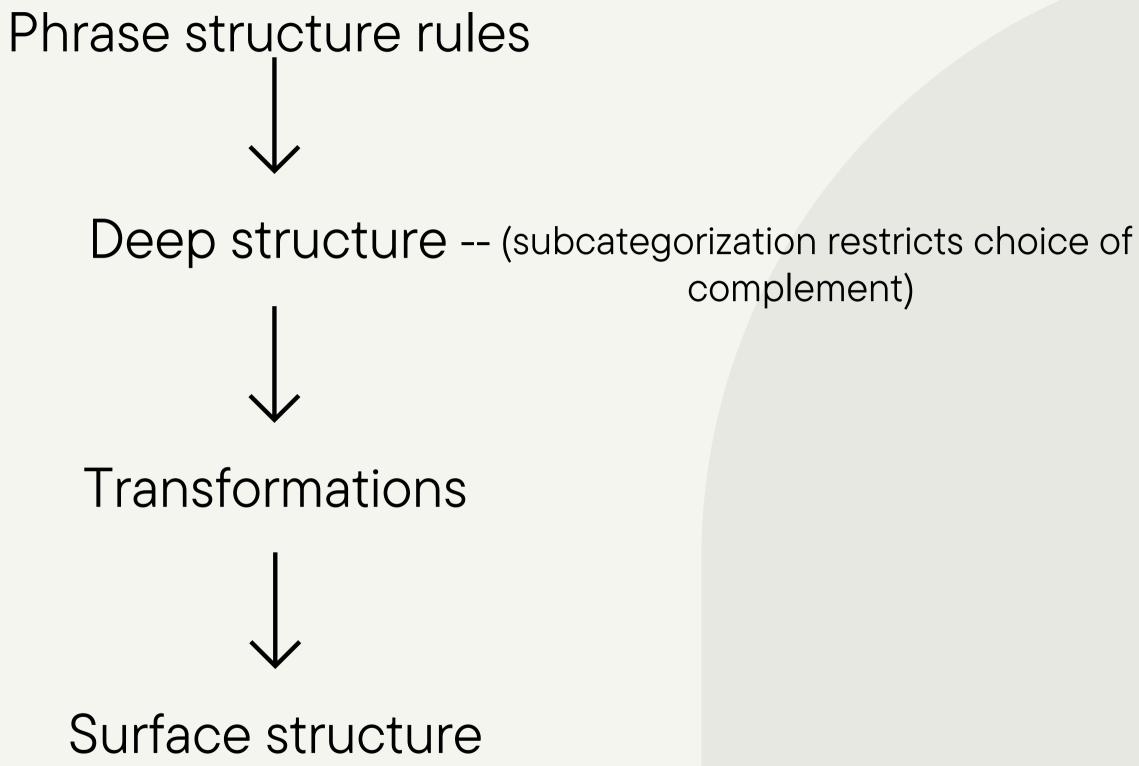
- Phrase Structure is the division of a sentence into part, or constituents, and the division of those constituents into subparts.
- There are four ways to determine phrase structures: 1. substitution test 2. the ability of constituents to "move"
 - 3. conjoined with a similar sequence
 - 4. anaphora



- A transformation is an operation that moves a phrasal category (e.g. NP, VP, PP) from one location to another within a structure.
- There are two levels of syntactic structure:
 - 1. Deep Structure
 - 2. Surface Structure



- 1. Deep Structure
 - Deep structure is formed by the PS rules in accordance with the head's subcategorization properties.
 - Deep structure plays a special role in the interpretation of sentences.
- 2. Surface Structure
 - Surface structure, results from applying whatever
 - transformation are appropriate for the sentence in questions.

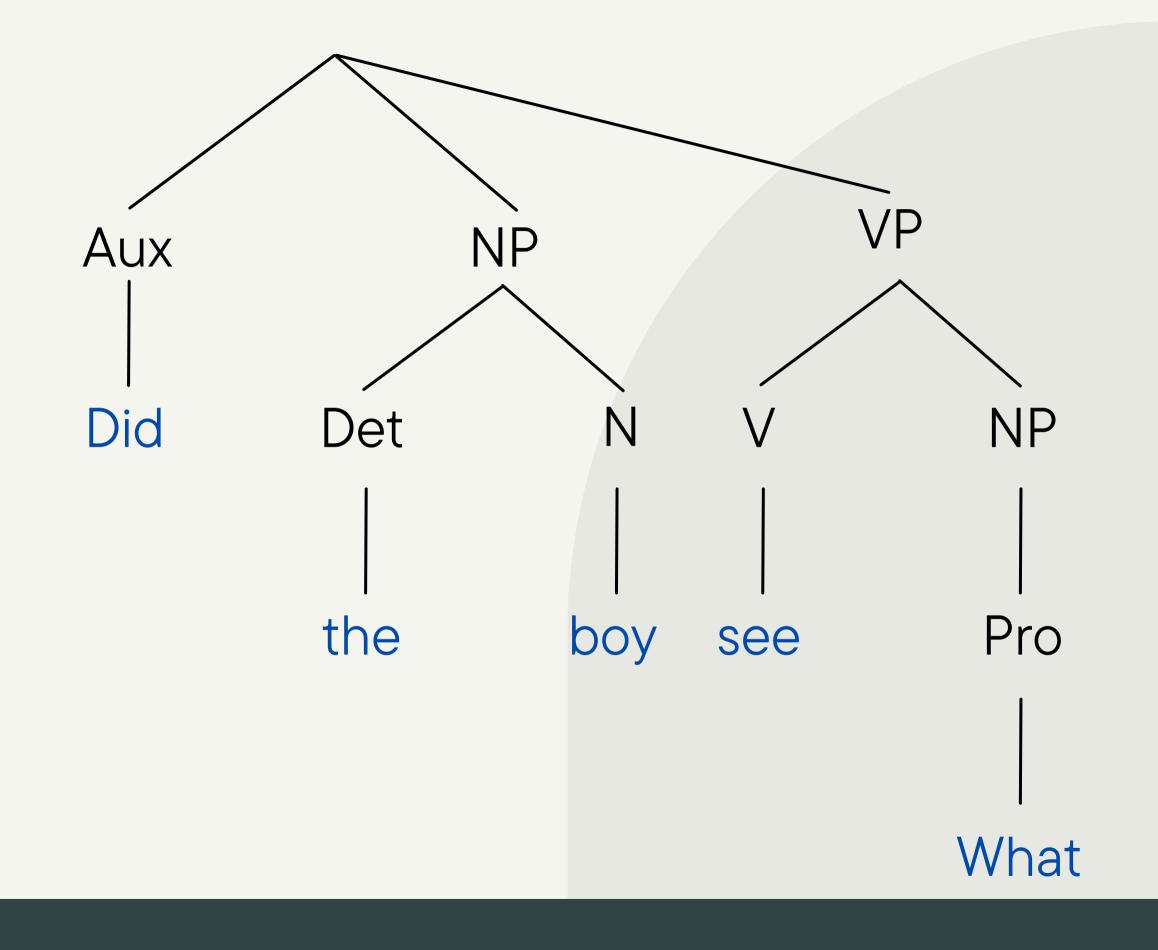


complement)

For example



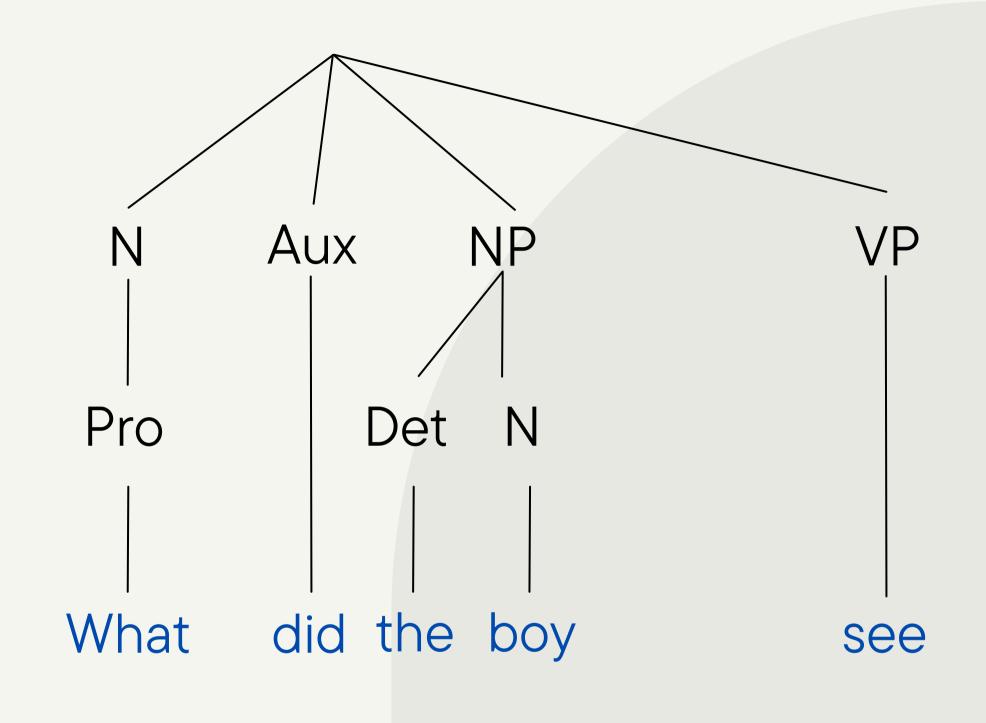
What did the boy see? (Deep structure)



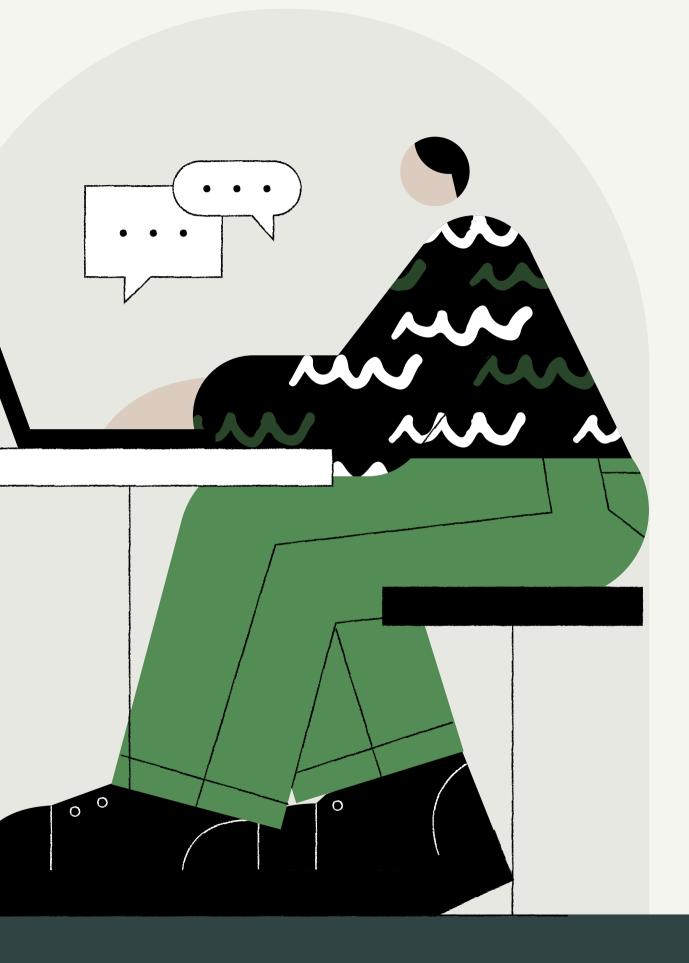
For example



What did the boy see? (Surface structure)



SYNTACTIC STRUCTURES







Grammar is conveniently divided into two portions morphology and syntax.

Syntax may be roughly defined as the principles of arrangement of the constructions formed by the process of derivation and inflection into larger constructions of various kinds (Gleason: 1961, 128).

Syntactic Structures



There are four principle groups on the basis of their structural meaning.



modification





Syntactic Structures



The structure of



The structure of predication

The structure of complementation



The structure of coordination

The structure of modification

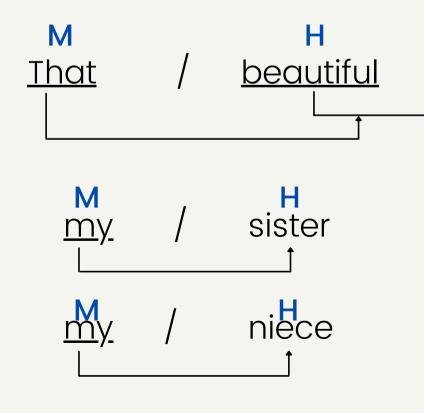
A structure of modification consists of a head (H) and a modifier (M).

- The head, the word which is modified, can be any of part of speech. (n./v./adj./adv.)
- It may be a single word, a phrase, or a sentence.
- Therefore, noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases, adverb phrases, prepositional phrases, and sentences, which have heads and modifiers as their two major components, can constituent structures of modification.



- The modifier, serves to qualify, select and limit the meaning of the head in order to make the more specific and vivid. Example(s):
 - That beautiful lady is neither my sister nor my niece.

Structures of modification are:



lady

The structure of predication

A structure of predication consists of two main components: a subject (S) and a predicate (P).

- The subject may be a word or a group of words that tell who and what about the subject whereas the predicate is a verb or a verb with its modifier, direct object, indirect object or complement.
- The predicate usually follows the subject:



The structure of predication (cont.)

Example:

- That beautiful lady is neither my sister nor my niece.

Structures of predication is:

SUBJECT

PREDICATE That beautiful lady is neither my sister nor my niece.

The structure of complementation

A structure of complementation consists of two immediate constituents: a verbal element (VB) and a complement (C).

- The verbal element can be s simple verb or a syntactic structure in which the verb must be the core.
- Therefore, a verbal element may be an infinitive, a verb or a verb phrase, or a structure of coordination.

The structure of complementation (cont.)

- The complements which appear in structures of complementation may be divided into four types:
 - Subjective Complement
 - Direct Object
 - Indirect Object
 - Objective Complement





Example:

- That beautiful lady is neither my sister nor my niece.

Structures of complementation is:

VERBAL ELEMENT is

COMPLEMENT neither my sister nor my niece.

The structure of coordination

A structure of coordination consists of two or more conjoins, either with or without a coordinator or correlative conjunctions.

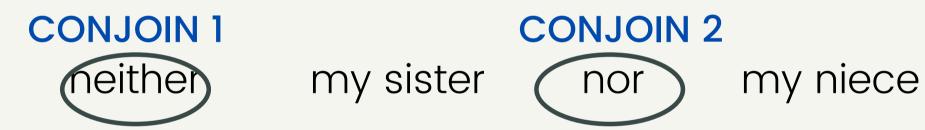
- The most common coordinators are: and, but, or, with, not, as well as, whereas, as much as, rather than, together with, except, and along with.
- The correlative conjunctions which are normally found are: either...or..., neither...nor..., not only...but (also)..., and both...and....
- The structure of coordination is the only structure in English that can have more than two immediate constituents or conjoins.



Example:

- That beautiful lady is neither my sister nor my niece.

Structures of coordination is:



The structure of subordination*

Apart form the four basic types of syntactic structure, some linguists have developed another type of structure known as the structure of subordination, which consists of a subordinator and a dependent unit.

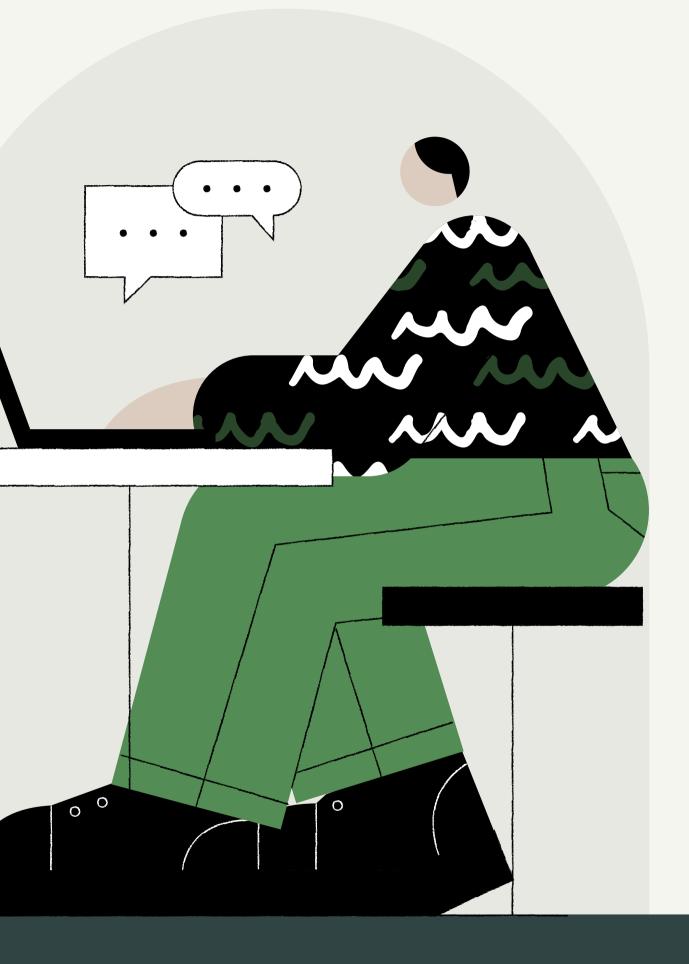
 Subordinators are prepositions (in/at/on/to), relative adverbs (when/where/why/how), and subordinating conjunctions (before/tell/after/since).

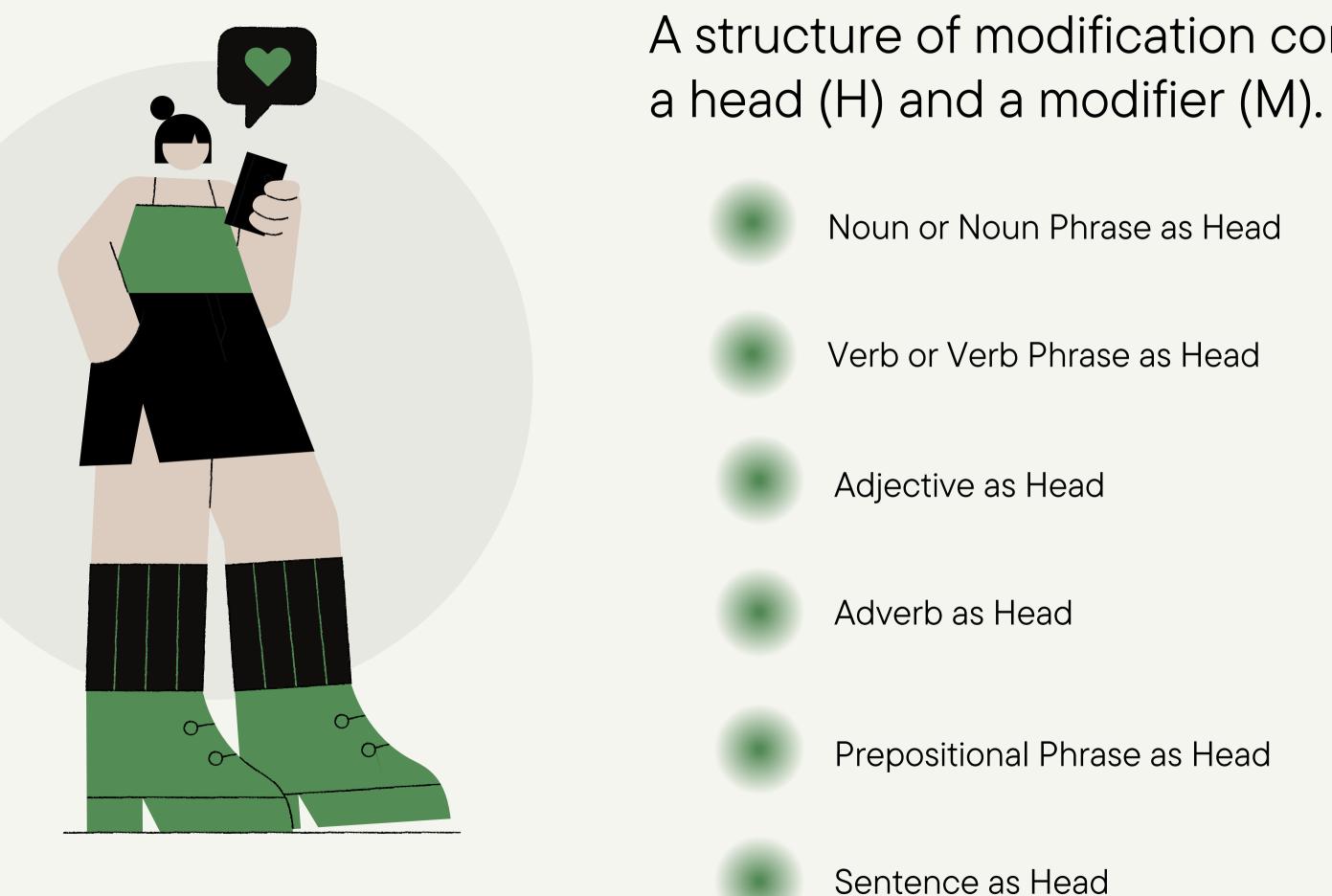
The structure of subordination* (cont.)

- Dependent unit may be words, phrases, or clauses.
- A structure of subordination can have various functions in all the four basic structure.
 - As a modifier in the structure of modification
 - As a subject in the structure of predication
 - As a subject complement in the structure of complementation/ As a direct object in the structure of complementation/ As objective complement in the structure of complementation
 - As the two conjoins in the structure of coordination



THE STRUCTURE OF MODIFICATION





A structure of modification consists of

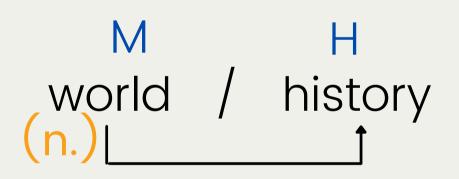
Noun or Noun Phrase as Head

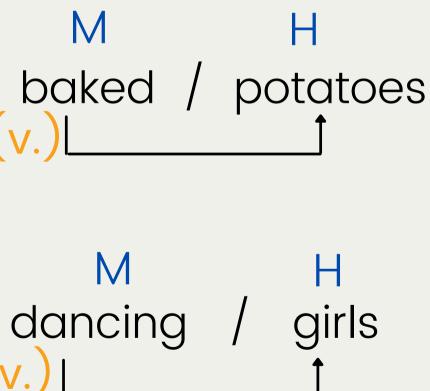
Prepositional Phrase as Head



1. Noun or Noun Phrase as Head

When noun appears as the head in the structure of modification, the modifier may be any of the four parts of speech: nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs.







1. Noun or Noun Phrase as Head (cont.)

M H red / carpets (adj.)

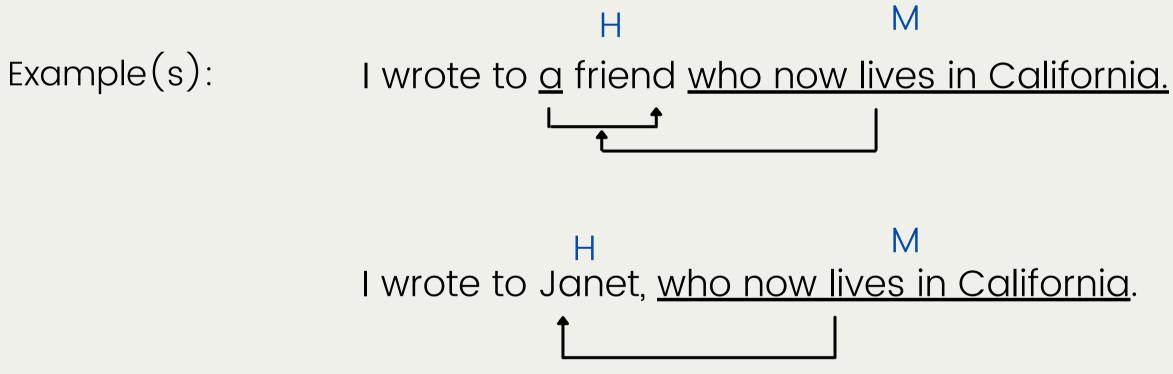
H M American / now (adv.)



1. Noun or Noun Phrase as Head (cont.)

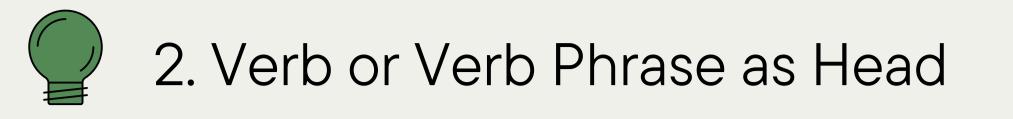
- Modifiers which precede the head are called pronominal modifiers.
- They include noun determiners, adjectives, noun adjuncts, present participles, and past participles
- Those that follow the head are called postnominal modifiers and include adverbs, infinitives, infinitival phrases, present participial phrases, past participial phrases, adjective phrases, prepositional phrases and relative clauses.

Relative Clauses There are two types of relative clauses: restrictive clauses and nonrestrictive relative clauses.



(restrictive relative clause)

(non-restrictive relative clause)



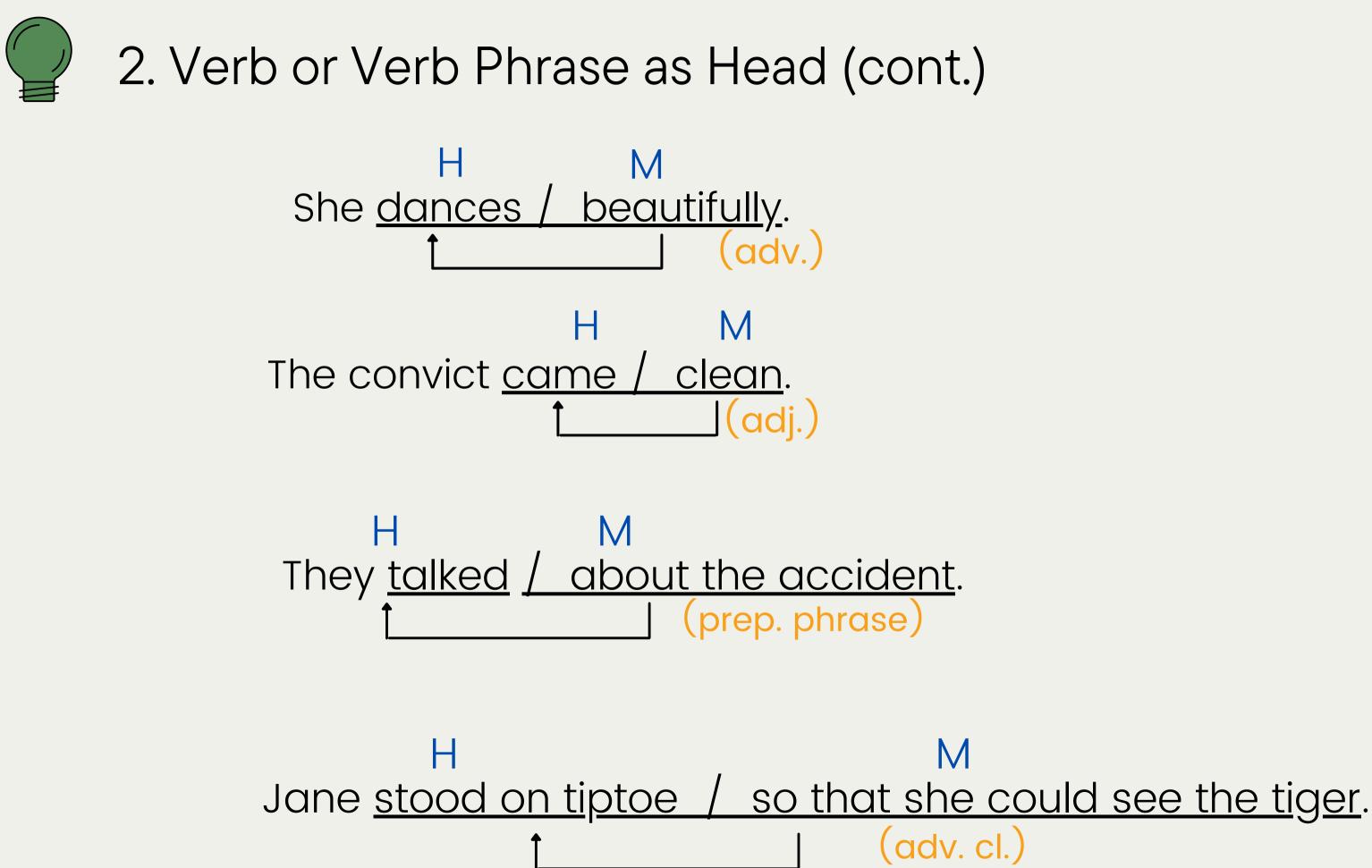
A verb or a verb phrase can function as a head in a structure of modification. Verb or verb phrase modifiers are not direct objects.

Example(s): John <u>ate out</u>.

*ate as a head/out as modifier

John <u>ate rice</u>.

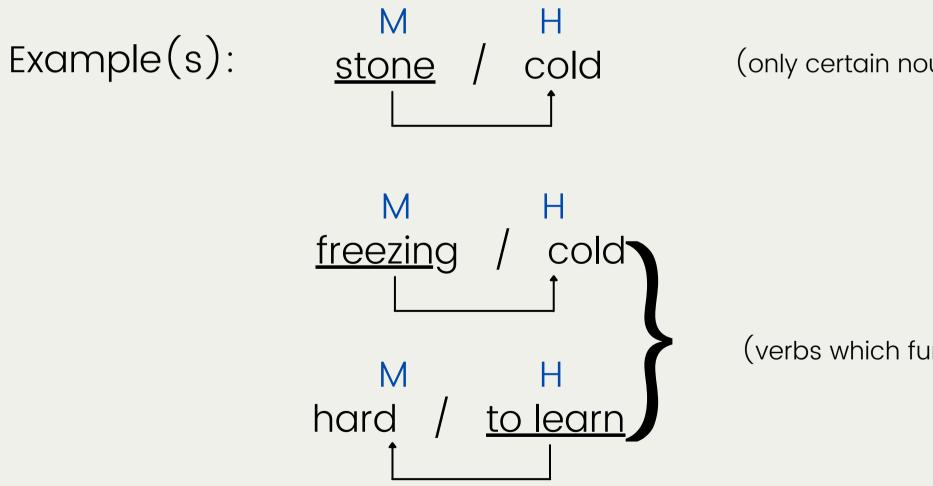
**ate -- verbal element/rice -- direct object a structure of complementation





3. Adjective as Head

Apart form being modifiers, adjectives may function as heads in structure of modification and their modifiers can be nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositional phrases.



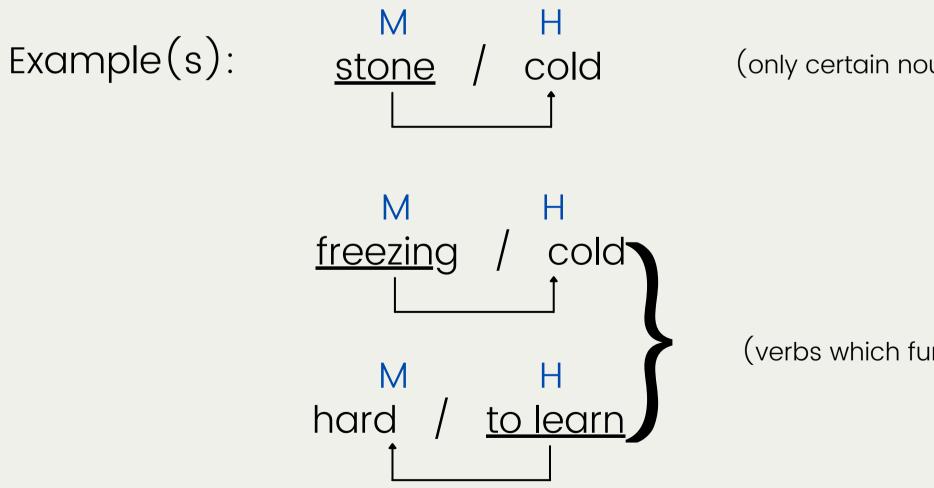
(only certain noun can function as adj. modifiers.)

(verbs which function as adj. modifiers.)



3. Adjective as Head (cont.)

Apart form being modifiers, adjectives may function as heads in structure of modification and their modifiers can be nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositional phrases.

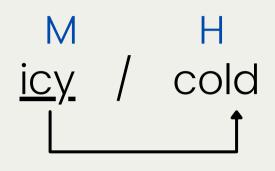


(only certain noun can function as adj. modifiers.)

(verbs which function as adj. modifiers.)



3. Adjective as Head (cont.)



Η

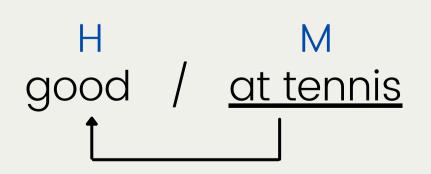
smart

Μ

<u>unusually</u>

(adjectives which can function as adjective modifiers)

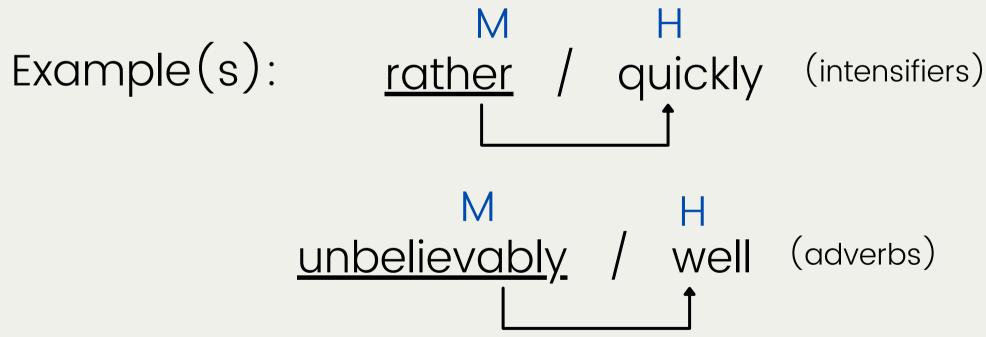
(the most common adj. modifiers are adverbs)

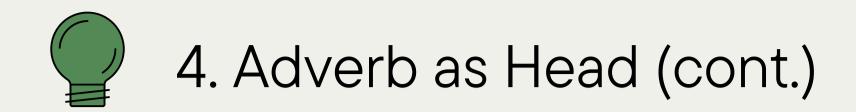


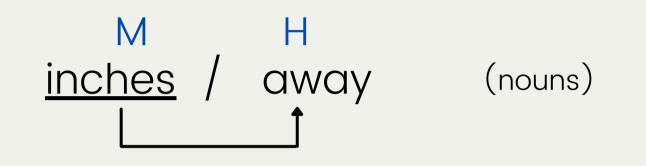
(prep. phrases are also among the most common modifiers of adjectives.)

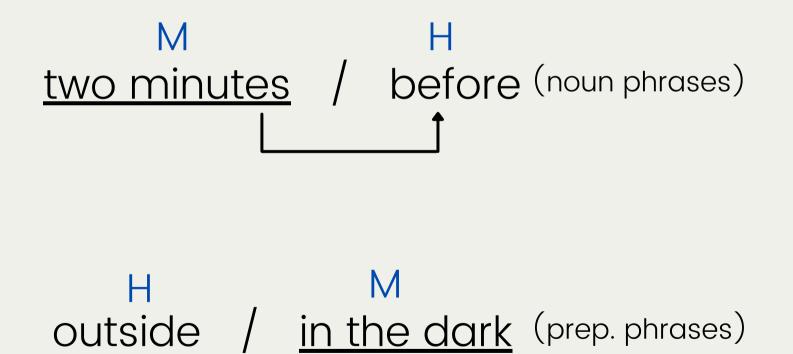


When adverbs function as heads in structure of modification, they may be modified by intensifiers, other adverbs, nouns or noun phrases, and prepositional phrases.









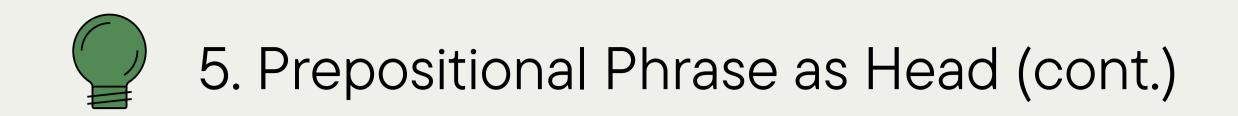
5. Prepositional Phrase as Head

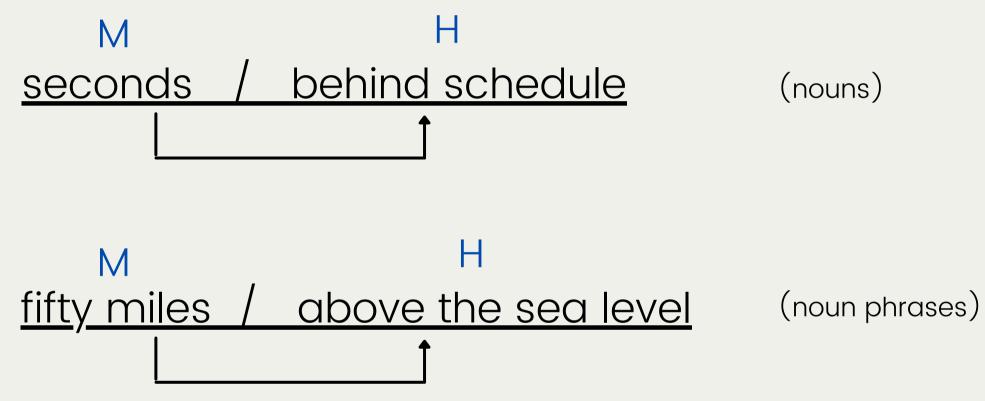
E

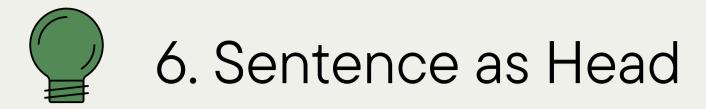
Prepositional phrase may function as heads whose modifiers can be intensifiers, adverbs, or noun phrases.

ntensifiers)

dverbs)





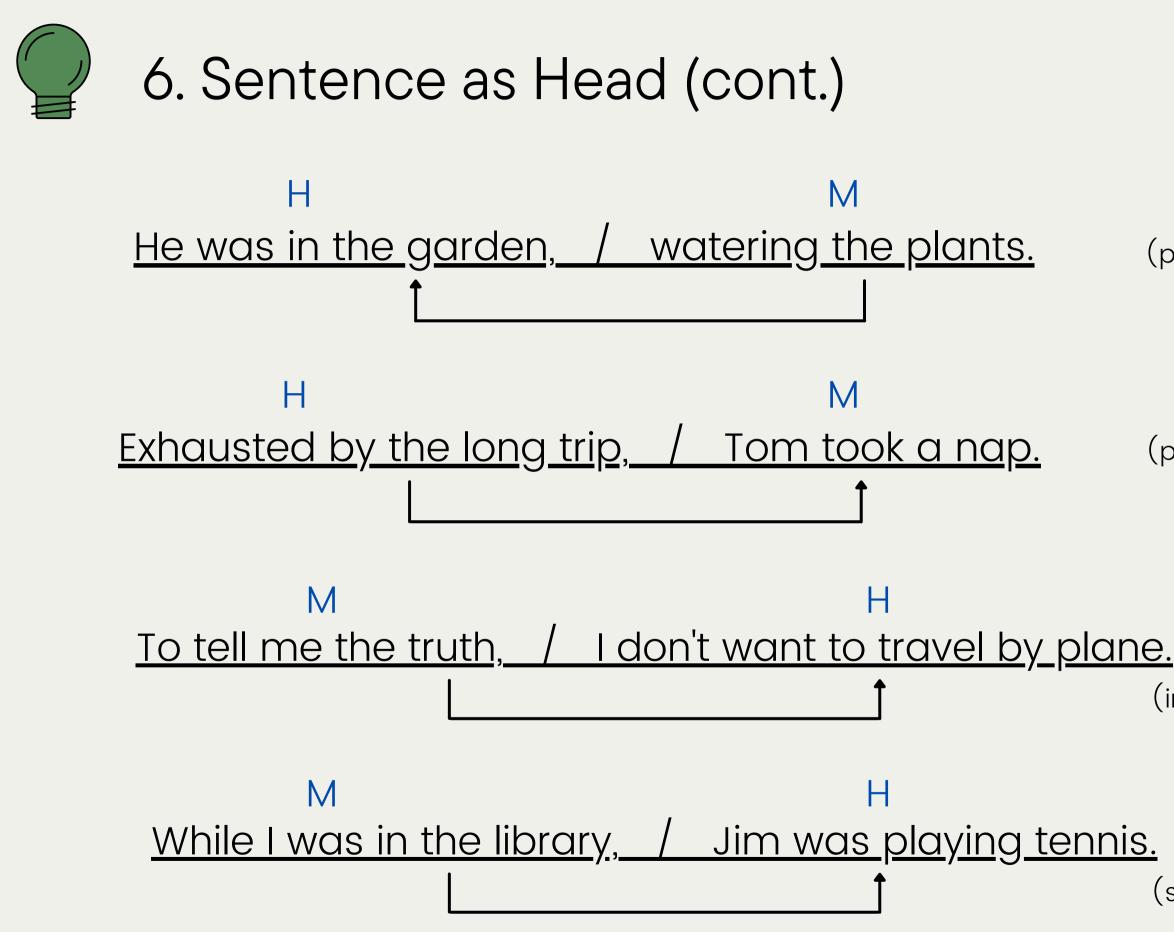


When sentences appear as heads of structures of modification, they may be modified by adverbs, phrases (prep. phrases, present participial phrases, past participial phrases, or infinitival phrases), and subordinate clauses.



Η <u>such occurrences are rather rare.</u> (adverbs)

Н the fellow has been in the prison five times. (prep. phrase)



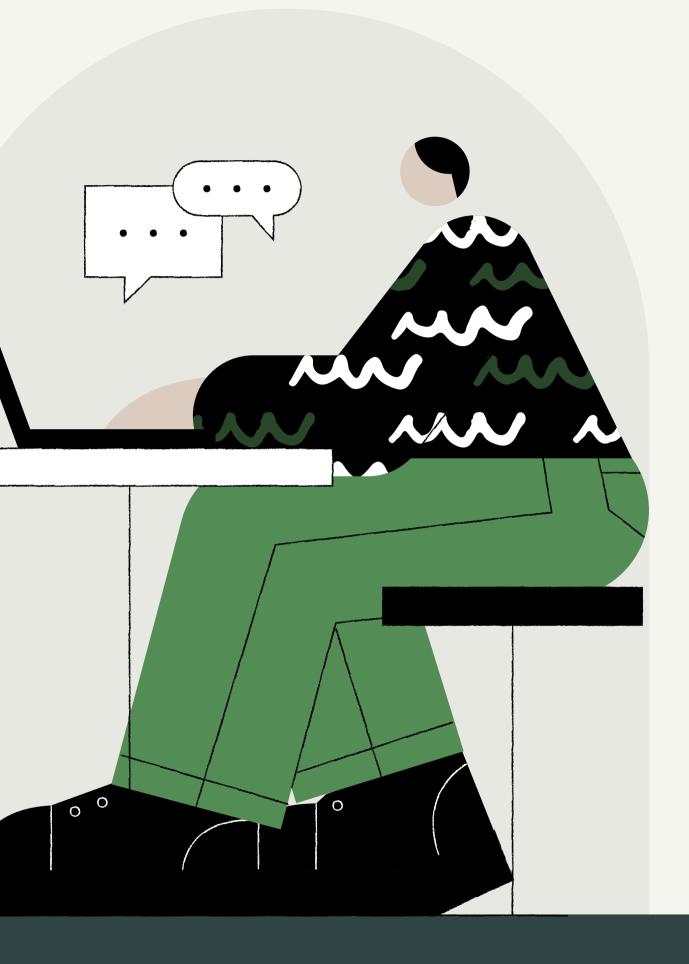
(present participial phrase)

(past participial phrase)

(infinitival phrase)

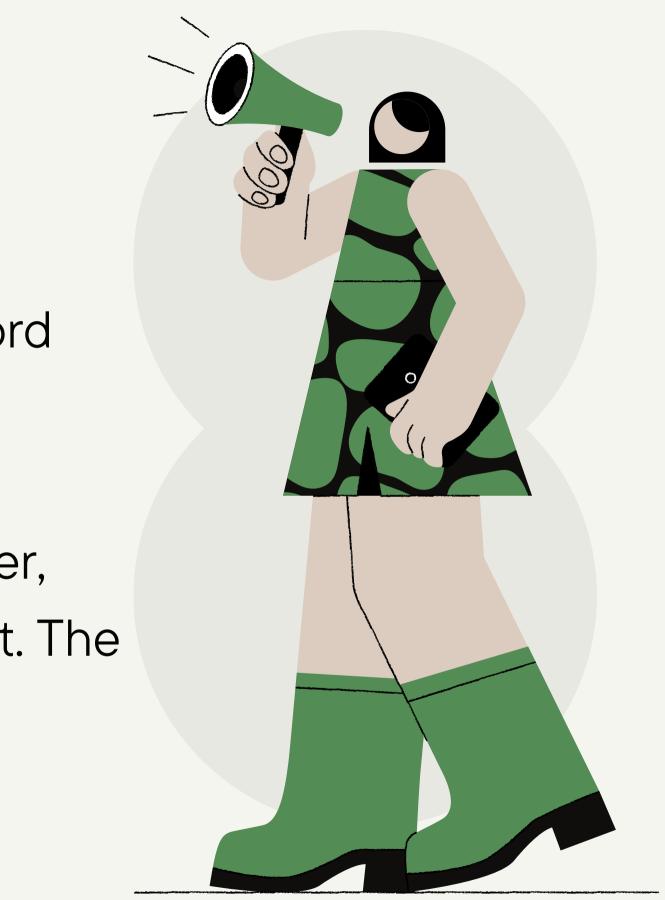
(subordinate clauses)

THE STRUCTURE OF PREDICATION



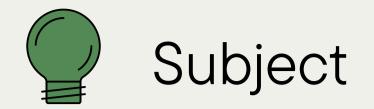
A structure of predication consists of two main components: a subject (S) and a predicate (P).

- The subject may be a word or a group of word that tells who and
- what about the subject whereas
- the predicate is a verb or a verb with modifier, direct object, indirect object or complement. The predicate usually follows the subject.



S P My sister / is in California. But the reverse is also possible: P S Just south of Tokyo sprawls / the port city of Yokohama.

Each of the main components can be a single word: S P They / danced. or a phrase: S Ρ His cousin / studies at that college.



- A subject can be a word or one of the three syntactic structures: a structure of modification, a structure of complementation or a structure of coordination.
- However, the most common subjects in the structure of prediction are nouns or noun-headed structures of modification.

W.

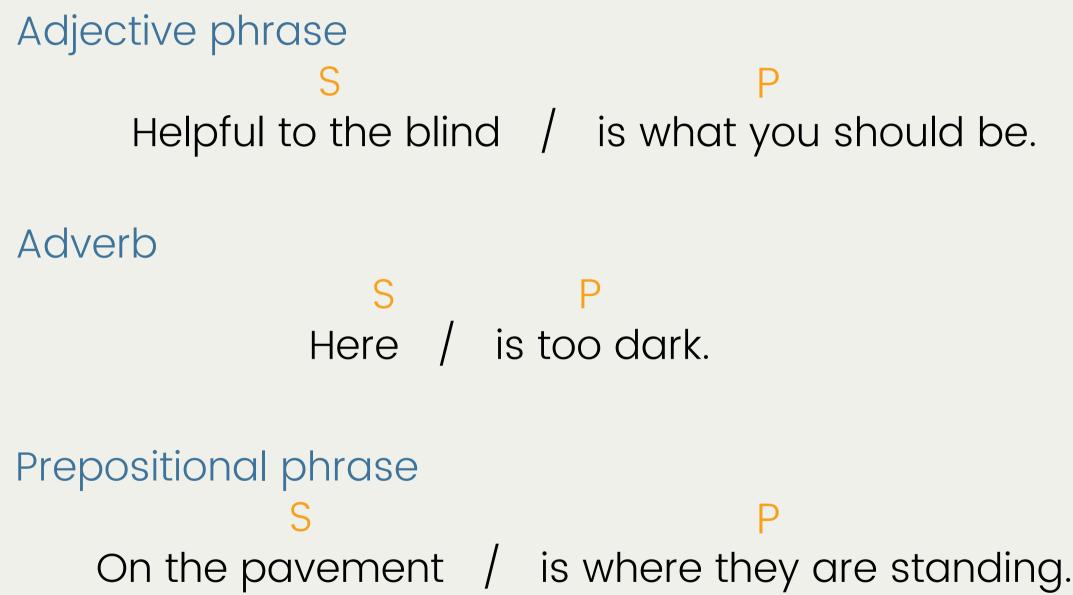


 Verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositional phrases may also function as subjects.

Verb (Infinitive) Ρ S To obey / is to follow a command or request. Present participle S Living with those people / is rather unpleasant.

Ρ



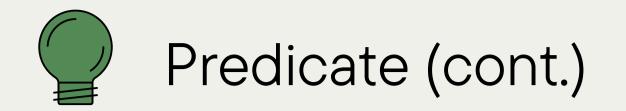




• A predicate can be a word alone or a verb with its modifier, or its complement; that is, a predicate can be one of the following syntactic structures: a structure of modification, a structure of complementation, or a structure of coordination.

Example(s):

S I. The baby / smiles. The verb smiles is one-word predicate.

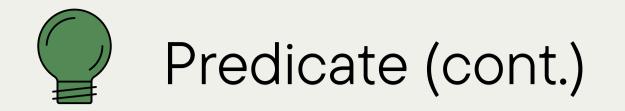


Example(s):

Ρ 2. They / <u>always</u> laugh. (structure of modification) The verb laugh is modified by the adverb always.

S Ρ 3. Mary / eats ice-cream. (structure of complementation)

The noun ice-cream is the direct object of the verb eats.

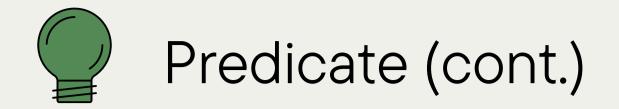


Example(s): Ρ 4. She / showed John the picture. (structure of complementation)

The noun John is the indirect object of the verbal element showed; whereas the picture is the direct object.

S 5. That boy / is my nephew. (structure of complementation)

The noun phrase my nephew is the subject complement of the verbal element is.



Example(s):

Ρ painted his house blue. (structure of complementation) 6. Mr. Smith

his house blue is the complement of the verbal element painted. The word blue is the objective complement, referring to the direct object his house.



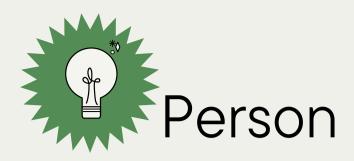
The first conjoin eat and the second conjoin sleep are combined either... or...

sleep. (structure of coordination)

English verbs can be classified according to seven features: person, tense, aspect, voice, status, phase, and mode (Francis 1958: 330).

In the following discussion, we shall concentrate on the first five as they are generally used in identifying verb forms. Person

- Tense
- Aspect
- Voice
- Status



- Every English verb except the modal auxiliaries has two persons: <u>common</u> and <u>third</u> <u>singular</u>.
- Verb forms comprising the base form and the. Inflectional ending {-s} are in the thirdsingular person, whereas all others are in the common person.

Linda <u>wants</u> to study French.	Tom and Je Japan next	
Third-Singular	Co	
Pers	son	

ommon

erry <u>plan</u> to visit week.



- English verbs have two tenses: the present tense, or the common tense and the past tense.
- These two tenses are distinguished by inflectional endings.
- The present tense form may be the base + zero allomorph of the present tense morpheme or the base + inflectional ending $\{-s\}$.
- The past tense form consists of the base + zero allomorph of the past tense morpheme or the base + the inflectional ending $\{-ed\}$.
- The past tense form of English irregular verbs does not have the inflectional ending {-ed}; instead, it has a vowel change and sometimes both a vowel change and a consonant change.



Ter	nse	
Present Tense	Past	
The children <u>have</u> breakfast at 7 o'clock.	Five years a <u>bought</u> an a the suburbs	

t Tense

ago, the Smiths apartment in

S.



- The two common aspects of English verbs are the progressive aspect and perfective <u>aspect.</u>
- The progressive aspect is formed by the auxiliary be + verb in present participle form.
- The perfective aspect, however, is formed by the auxiliary have + verb in past participle form.

Asp	Aspect	
Progressive Aspect	Perfe	
Mary is <u>typing</u> her term paper.	We <u>have</u> two week	

ective Aspect

worked hard for KS.

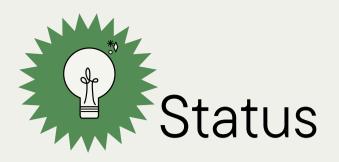


• The two voices of English verbs are the active voice and the passive voice. The passive voice is formed with the auxiliary be + verb in the past participle form.

	Voice	
 Active Voice	>	Pa
lly and Mike <u>applied</u> the al coat of car wax.		The fina <u>was app</u> Mike.

Passive Voice

al coat of car wax plied by Sally and

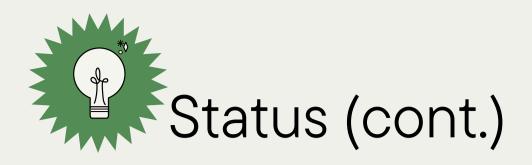


- English verbs have five statuses: the affirmative, the interrogative, the negative, the negative-interrogative, and the imperative.
- The interrogative status is indicated by a change in word order. In many cases, the auxiliary do helps form the interrogative status.
- The negative status is shown by the word not. The word not is added immediately after the verb to be, the auxiliaries and after some modal auxiliaries.

Verb to be + not	Auxiliary + not
Jim <u>is not</u> here.	They <u>do not</u> work in the afternoon.

Modal auxiliary + not

They <u>could not</u> swim.

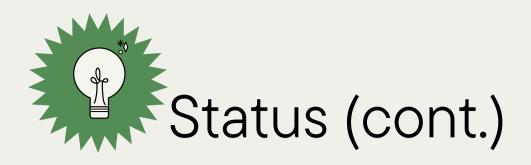


• The negative interrogative combines the negative not and interrogative with the use of auxiliary do in the pattern of the interrogative form. The subject may occur before not or after not.

Was he not talking to you?	Wasn
Subject before not (more formal)	Subjec

ect after not (less formal)

n't he talking to you?



• The imperative is used in giving a command and making a request. The subject of the verb is understood but not generally expressed. The second person imperative has the same form as the infinitive without to.

Let + noun/pronoun + infinitive without to

1st person imperative:

Let's go to the concert tonight.

3rd person imperative:

Let John enter the room.

References



green_ideas_sleep_furiously. edited-by-pdf.

- Colorless green ideas sleep furiously. wikidoc. (n.d.). Retrieved December 12, 2021, from
 - https://www.wikidoc.org/index.php/Colorless_
- Jotikasthira, P. (2014). Introduction to the English Language : System and Structure. Bangkok: Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University. Nguyen, T.L.H. (n.d.). Syntax syllabus compiled and edited by PDF. Scribd. Retrieved December 12, 2021, from https://www.scribd.com/document/ 470974817/SYNTAX-SYLLABUS-Compiled-and-