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Lambda Calculus is made of expressions that are defined recursively:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \text{expression} \rangle &:= \langle \text{name} \rangle \mid \langle \text{function} \rangle \mid \langle \text{application} \rangle \\ \langle \text{function} \rangle &:= \lambda \langle \text{name} \rangle . \langle \text{expression} \rangle \\ \langle \text{application} \rangle &:= \langle \text{expression} \rangle \langle \text{expression} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

- The only two keywords are lambda and dot.
- Function application associates to the left.
- Identifiers that do not appear in the head are free variables.
 - $(\lambda x. xy)$ – y is a free variable
 - An identifier is free if it is unbound from an expression.
- All identifiers are local to their function.
 - $(\lambda x. x)(\lambda x. xy)$ – These are two distinct x 's.
- If substituting E brings an unbound into a bound expression, the variable is renamed.