

Methods in Computational Linguistics
Master of Science *Computational Linguistics*
Exercise: Language & Linguistics
Focus: Words, Phrases and Subcategorisation

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1. **Assign word classes to the words in the following sentences:**

Distinguish common nouns, proper names, full/auxiliary/modal verbs, attributive and predicative adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, determiners and pronouns.

- (a) Jan and Sara ate a thousand ice-creams in the summer.
- (b) The local organisers will look for very large rooms.
- (c) The kids are excited about Circus Calibastra.

2. **Identify constituents:**

Apply the *pronominalisation*, the *movement* and the *coordination* tests to the following sentence and check the candidate constituents [*next month*], [*the leaves*], [*change their*], [*will change their colours*]. Which of the candidate constituents represent syntactic phrases according to the coordination tests?

- Next month the leaves will change their colours.

3. **Identify phrasal heads:**

Identify and mark the heads in the following phrases. Distinguish **N**ouns, **V**erbs, **ADJ**ectives, **ADV**erbs and **P**repositions.

- (a) [their little bike]
- (b) [extremely crazy]
- (c) [about the last question]
- (d) [smiled at him]
- (e) [a fast bike with red tyres]

4. **Identify subject–verb agreement:**

Which of the following sentences use *correct* subject–verb agreement?

- (a) They will soon go to the station.
- (b) The children eats three ice-creams every day.
- (c) A long time ago it were completely correct.
- (d) He has been faced with many problems.
- (e) They were surprised by the speed.

5. **Passivise:**

Passivise the following sentences.

- (a) Timmy chased the brown rabbit.
- (b) Maja taught them mathematics.
- (c) Early this week the professor bought some books.

6. **Assign grammatical functions:**

Mark the surface subjects and objects in the following sentences. If there are two objects, distinguish between direct and indirect objects.

- (a) Bruno started the car.
- (b) Maja taught them mathematics.
- (c) The Wadden Sea is regularly flooded.
- (d) The researcher was provided the prize.

7. **Determine subcategorisation:**

- (a) Provide one example sentence each for
 - i. an intransitive verb of your choice,
 - ii. a transitive verb of your choice,
 - iii. a ditransitive verb of your choice.
- (b) Provide one example sentence including a noun subcategorising a prepositional phrase.
- (c) Provide one example sentence with correct syntactic subcategorisation but with a violation of semantic subcategorisation.
- (d) Assign thematic roles to the phrases in brackets in the following sentences:
 - i. [My mother] baked [an apple cake].
 - ii. [Jan] was given [the book] [at school].
 - iii. [He] opened [the door] [with a credit card].
- (e) Provide one example sentence that includes at least two phrases with different thematic roles. Underline the phrases and name the respective roles.