

## LING2005 (Taniguchi)

### In-class syntactic categories practice answers (#6-10)

6. My compliments from me to you on your most **intriguing** hat!

- a. Adjective
- b. Tests:
  - i. Comes between Det and N
  - ii. Follows *seem* on its own
  - iii. Cannot take object
  - iv. Used in comparative/superlative
  - v. Modified with *very*
- c. Run the tests:
  - i. My compliments from me to you on your intriguing hat
  - ii. Your hat seems intriguing; my compliments from me to you!
  - iii. \*My compliments from me to you on your intriguing the hat
  - iv. My compliments from me to you on your most/more intriguing hat
  - v. My compliments from me to you on your very intriguing hat

Note on #6: Not a verb! Some adjectives contain -ing and -ed. *Intriguing* in this context fails all of the verb tests except for the “negated with *not*” test (adjectives happen to be negated with *not*, too).

7. Jack sees the Christmas tree; he turns the knob and gets sucked **in**.

- a. Preposition
- b. Tests:
  - i. Modified by *right*
  - ii. Can't follow become/seem on its own
  - iii. Can take object
- c. Run the tests:
  - i. Jack sees the Christmas tree; he turns the knob and gets sucked right in.
  - ii. \*Jack seems/became in.
  - iii. Jack sees the Christmas tree; he turns the knob and gets sucked in the door.

Note on #7: not an adverb! It can't come between the subject and aux, and it does take an object!

8. Everybody **trick-or-treat** till the neighbors die for fright!

a. Verb

b. Tests:

- i. Combines with auxiliary
- ii. -s in 3rd singular present
- iii. Negated with *not*
- iv. -ed in past, -ing in progressive
- v. **Takes object ← fails since an intransitive verb**

c. Run the tests:

- i. Everybody will trick-or-treat till the neighbors die for fright!
- ii. He trick-or-treats till the neighbors die for fright!
- iii. Everybody/they do not trick-or-treat till the neighbors die for fright!
- iv. Everybody trick-or-treated till the neighbors die for fright!
- v. **?? Everybody trick-or-treat it/the thing till the neighbors die for fright!**

9. Their **construction** should be exceedingly simple, I think.

a. Noun

b. Tests:

- i. Follows determiner
- ii. Negated with *no*
- iii. Modified by adjectives
- iv. Cannot take object
- v. **Pluralized ← fails since it's a non-countable noun**

c. Run the tests:

- i. Their construction should be exceedingly simple, I think.
- ii. No construction should be exceedingly simple, I think. (A bit more natural: *No construction is that simple, I think*)
- iii. Their speedy construction should be exceedingly simple, I think.
- iv. \*Their construction the sleigh/it should be exceedingly simple, I think.
- v. **\*Their constructions should be exceedingly simple, I think.**

Note on #9: Not a verb! Make sure you're testing the word *construction* (-tion included), not *construct*!

10. Or **sometimes** it's filled with small toys.

a. Adverb

b. Tests:

- i. Can't follow seem/be on its own
- ii. Appears between subject and auxiliary
- iii. Can't take object
- iv. Often contains -ly ← fails since it's not an -ly adverb

c. Run the tests:

- i. \*It seems/is sometimes.
- ii. Or it sometimes would be filled with small toys.
- iii. \*Or sometimes the thing/it it's filled with small toys.
- iv. Or sometimes it's filled with small toys.

Note on #10: Not a verb!

a. Verb tests:

- i. Combines with auxiliary ← fails
- ii. -s in 3rd singular present ← fails
- iii. Negated with *not* ← fails
- iv. -ed in past, -ing in progressive ← fails
- v. Takes object ← fails

b. Run the tests:

- i. It will sometimes be filled with small toys  
Note: This might be hard to tell, but *will* is not combining with *sometimes* in this sentence (\*It [will sometimes] be filled with small toys). It's combining with *sometimes be filled with small toys* (It [will [sometimes be filled with small toys]]).
- ii. It sometimes is filled with small toys  
The -s on *sometimes* is not a 3rd singular present tense morpheme! If this were the case, it should be "sometime" when the subject is *I*. But that's not true: \**I sometime...*
- iii. ?? Or not sometimes it's filled with small toys  
This sounds a bit odd, no?
- iv. \*Or it sometimed/is sometimeing filled with small toys
- v. \*Or sometimes the thing/it it is filled with small toys  
Did you say that *it* in the original sentence was the object of *sometimes* (i.e., Sometimes it is filled with small toys)? Think again: it's actually the subject of the verb *be filled*.