

I will introduce a new rule in this problem set. The rule is called “ellipsis.” It allows phrases of certain sorts to go unspoken if they match something said elsewhere in the conversation. An example is (1).

- (1) Mary: Jerry can eat beans for breakfast.
Jerry: That’s right. I can.

In Jerry’s second sentence there is a missing VP that has the same meaning as the one in Mary’s sentence. What Jerry says is identical in meaning to:

- (2) That’s right: I can eat beans for breakfast.

A way of accounting for that is to imagine that what Jerry says in (1) is actually the very sentence that is in (2), but that the VP *eat beans for breakfast* has gone unspoken. We say in such cases that the VP has “elided.” To indicate where an ellipsis has taken place, I will sometimes mark the spot with “△,” like this:

- (3) That’s right. I can △.

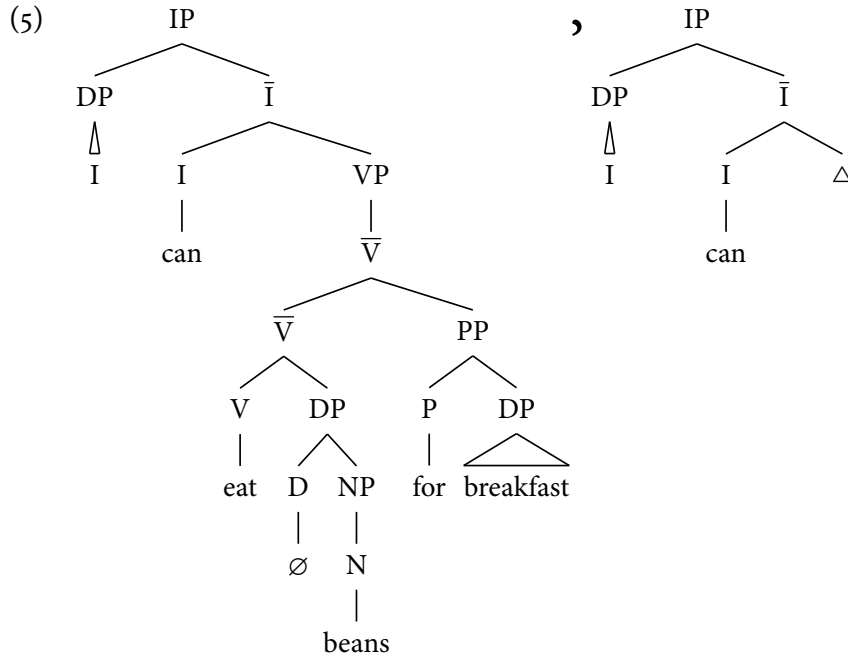
So we have a new transformational rule:

- (4) VP Ellipsis

Elide a VP when it matches a VP spoken elsewhere.

VP Ellipsis is a bit of a misnomer because it can delete other kinds of phrases in rare circumstances. We can safely assume for the cases that we’ll look at, that VP Ellipsis only elides VPs. Eventually I’ll have to fix the formulation of VP Ellipsis so that it elides other kinds of phrases, but I’ll save that for when we encounter them. I should also be more specific about what “match” means. For the purposes of this exercise, we can assume that “match” means “be identical to.” The VP that has elided in Jerry’s sentence in (1), for instance, is identical to the one in Mary’s sentence.

With this new rule, we can represent Jerry’s sentence in (1) with the derivation in (5). (Note that *breakfast* is a proper noun, i.e., a name.)



Use this background, along with our system of fusion, I Movement, V Movement, and the conditions that control these operations in the following tasks.

1

Give derivations for the following two sentences.

- (6) a. Jerry should be paid because Mary should be Δ.
 b. Jerry should be paid because Mary should Δ.

(Note: *because* is a preposition that combines with an IP to form a PP.)

2

Give the derivation for the following sentence.

- (7) Jerry was happy because Mary was Δ.

3

Explain why the following sentence is ungrammatical.

- (8) * Jerry was happy because Mary Δ.