

# A STUDY ON LINGUISTIC COMPLEXITY

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# INSPIRATION

- The Hemingway App (<http://www.hemingwayapp.com>)

The screenshot displays the Hemingway Editor interface. At the top is a toolbar with icons for bold (B), italic (I), bulleted list, numbered list, decrease indent, increase indent, link, paragraph (P), and heading levels (H1, H2, H3). The main text area contains a sample paragraph: "Hemingway App makes your writing bold and clear. The app highlights long, complex sentences and common errors; if you see a yellow sentence, shorten or split it. If you see a red highlight, your sentence is so dense and complicated that your readers will get lost trying to follow its meandering, splitting logic — try editing this sentence to remove the red. You can utilize a shorter word in place of a purple one. Mouse over it for hints. Adverbs are helpfully shown in blue. Get rid of them and pick verbs with force instead. Phrases in green have been marked to show passive voice. You can format your text with the toolbar. Paste in something you're working on and edit away. Or, click the Write button to compose something new."

On the right side, the "Hemingway Editor" logo is at the top, followed by "Write", "Edit", and "Help" buttons. Below these are the "Readability" metrics: a bar chart showing 11 sentences, with the first sentence highlighted in green, indicating a "Grade 6 (Good)" readability level. The word count is "Words: 130" with a "More" dropdown button. At the bottom, a list of suggestions is shown in colored boxes: "1 of 11 sentences is hard to read." (yellow), "1 of 11 sentences is very hard to read." (red), "1 phrase has a simpler alternative." (purple), "1 adverb. Remove it." (blue), and "1 use of passive voice. Aim for 2 or fewer." (green).

# CURRENT STATE

← → ↻

jsbeautifier.org

☆

🔍

ABP

C

☰

Beautify, unpack or deobfuscate JavaScript and HTML, make JSON/JSONP readable, etc.

All of the source code is completely free and open, available on [GitHub](#) under MIT licence, and we have a command-line version, python library and a [node package](#) as well.

Indent with 4 spaces

Allow 5 newlines between tokens

Wrap lines near 120 characters

Braces with control statement

HTML <style>, <script> formatting:  
Add one indent level

☐ End script and style with newline?

☐ Support e4x/jsx syntax

☐ Use comma-first list style?

☒ Detect packers and obfuscators?

☐ Keep array indentation?

☐ Break lines on chained methods?

☒ Space before conditional: "if(x)" / "if (x)"

☐ Unescape printable chars encoded as \xNN or \uNNNN?

☐ Use JSLint-happy formatting tweaks?

☐ Indent <head> and <body> sections?

[Use a simple textarea for code input?](#)

Beautify JavaScript or HTML (ctrl-enter)

```
1 var _0xb107 = ["checkHover", "hovered", "height", "width", "right", "left", "bottom", "top", "replacement", "word",
2 "element", "still hovering", "hovering", "not hovering", "stats", "isOnFileProtocol", "desktop", "parser",
3 "formatting", "analytics", "tooltips", "UI", "setNotAdverbs", "lists", "notAdverbRegExp", "notAdverbList",
4 "setPassives", "passivesRegExp", "passives", "passiveList", "setBigWords", "bigWordsRegExp", "bigWords",
5 "simpleAlternativeList", "Many, some", "Enough, plenty", "Allow, agree to", "Speed up", "Stress",
6 "Go with, with", "Do", "Given", "Add, gain", "Agree", "Get", "More, extra", "Next to", "Change",
7 "Allowed, accepted", "Helpful", "Hurt", "Tell", "Remove", "Total, add", "Plane", "All", "Ease, reduce",
8 "Divide", "Like, as in", "Existing", "Or", "Improve, help", "Expect", "Clear, plain", "Many", "To", "Yet",
9 "On, about", "Find out, learn", "Help", "Now", "Meet", "Because", "Allow, let", "Late", "Enjoy", "Give, award",
10 "by, under", "stop", "near", "Begin or start", "follow", "about, on", "so", "join, merge",
11 "is, forms, makes up", "prove, show", "leave, go", "choose, name", "drop, stop", "because, since", "Each",
12 "cheap", "cut, drop, end", "explain", "use", "try", "count", "fair", "equal", "test, check", "showed", "only",
13 "hurry", "spend", "end", "ease, help", "facts, evidence", "workable", "complete, finish", "first", "to",
14 "lose, give up", "plan", "truth", "but, yet", "use either word; not both", "affected, harmed, changed",
15 "install, put in place; tool", "on time", "also, besides, too", "probably", "between", "more than", "instead",
16 "because", "often", "about, concerning, on", "sometimes", "omit; for, as, with", "soon", "omit", "start",
17 "must", "say, state, or show", "sign", "applies to", "may", "handles", "must, need to", "size",
18 "greatest, largest, most", "method", "cut", "least, smallest, small", "change", "check, watch, track", "many",
19 "cause, need", "still, besides, even so", "uncertain", "few", "rarely", "only if", "similar, alike",
20 "in spite of, still", "use either null or void", "aim, goal", "bind, compel", "get", "but, so", "omit; but, so",
21 "one", "best, greatest, most", "take part", "details", "die", "about, of, on", "time, point, moment, now",
22 "part", "have, own", "prevent", "before", "rank, focus on", "buy, get", "skill", "if", "buy, sale", "clear",
23 "refer", "move", "rest", "payment", "must, need", "need, rule", "live", "house", "keep", "meet, please",
24 "must, will", "if you want", "like", "ask for, request", "span, cross", "later, next, after, then",
25 "large, much", "complete, pass", "enough", "end, stop", "thus, so", "today", "time, period", "preyed on",
26 "send", "happen", "until", "confirm", "various, different", "whether", "on, about", "except for", "saw, seen",
27 "each", "(-)?\\b(", "length", "substring", ")\b", "gi", "awoken", "awoke", "beaten", "beat", "begun",
28 "began", "bent", "bitten", "bit", "bled", "blown", "blew", "broken", "broke", "brought", "built", "bought",
29 "caught", "chosen", "chose", "dealt", "done", "did", "drawn", "drew", "driven", "drove", "eaten", "ate", "fed",
30 "felt", "fought", "found", "forbidden", "forbade", "forgotten", "forgot", "forgiven", "forgave", "frozen",
31 "froze", "gotten", "got", "given", "gave", "ground", "ground, grinded", "hung", "heard", "hidden", "hid", "hit",
32 "held", "hurt", "kept", "known", "knew", "laid", "led", "let", "lost", "made", "meant", "met", "paid", "proven",
33 "proved", "put", "read", "ridden", "rode", "rung", "rang", "run", "ran", "said", "seen", "saw", "sold", "sent",
34 "shaken", "shook", "shaved", "shot", "shown", "shut", "sung", "sunk", "slain", "slew", "slid", "spoken",
35 "spoke", "spent", "spun", "split", "spread", "stolen", "stole", "struck", "swept", "swung", "taken", "took",
36 "taught", "torn", "tore", "told", "thought", "thrown", "threw", "undergone", "underwent", "understood", "upset",
37 "woken", "woke", "worn", "wore", "won", "withdrawn", "withdrew", "written", "wrote",
```



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```
396 orig: _0xb107[220],
397 replace: _0xb107[221]
398 }, {
399 orig: _0xb107[222],
400 replace: _0xb107[223]
401 }, {
402 orig: _0xb107[224],
403 replace: _0xb107[225]
404 }, {
405 orig: _0xb107[226],
406 replace: _0xb107[226]
407 }, {
408 orig: _0xb107[227],
409 replace: _0xb107[228]
410 }, {
411 orig: _0xb107[229],
412 replace: _0xb107[229]
413 }, {
414 orig: _0xb107[230],
415 replace: _0xb107[231]
416 }, {
417 orig: _0xb107[232],
418 replace: _0xb107[233]
419 }, {
420 orig: _0xb107[234],
421 replace: _0xb107[234]
422 }, {
423 orig: _0xb107[235],
424 replace: _0xb107[235]
425 }, {
426 orig: _0xb107[236],
427 replace: _0xb107[236]
428 }, {
429 orig: _0xb107[237],
430 replace: _0xb107[237]
431 }, {
432 orig: _0xb107[238],
433 replace: _0xb107[239]
```

Beautify JavaScript or HTML (ctrl-enter)

# THE NOTION OF READABILITY

- What makes text readable?
- Is there a metric to capture readability?

# APPROACHES

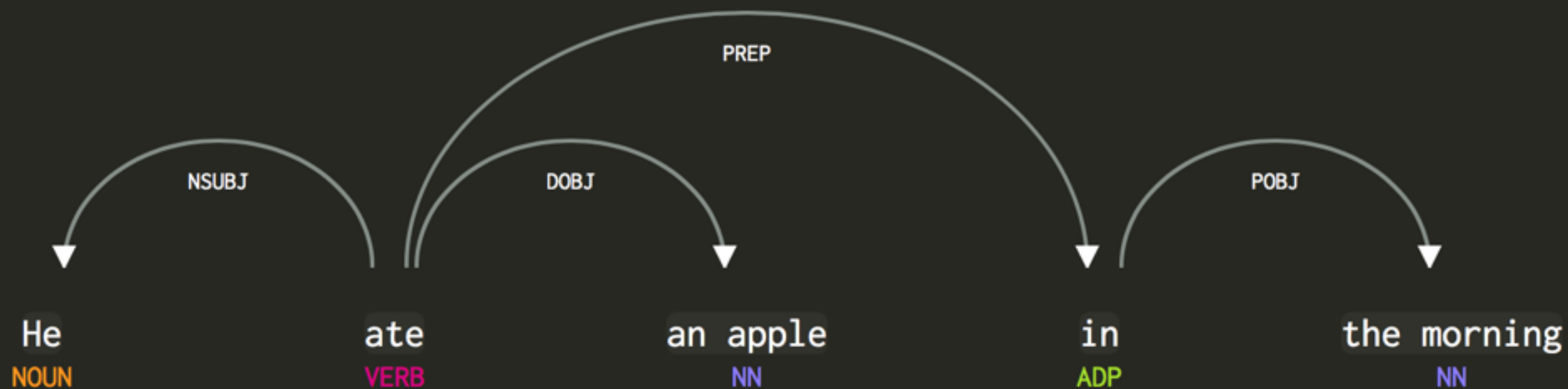
- Word Frequency: unigram probability for a word to appear.
- More frequent words  $\Rightarrow$  difficult to read

# APPROACHES

- Structural : Words with deeper, 'more complicated' trees tend to be harder to read.

Ex: "He, in the morning, ate an apple" ( $p=0.04$ ) is more complex than

"He ate an apple in the morning" ( $p=0.019$ )



SPLACY.IO



## - How does spaCy compare to NLTK?

### SPACY

- Over 400 times faster
- State-of-the-art accuracy
- Tokenizer maintains alignment
- Powerful, concise API
- Integrated word vectors
- English only (at present)

### NLTK

- Slow
- Low accuracy
- Tokens do not align to original string
- Models return lists of strings
- No word vector support
- Multiple languages

Figure 1

