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## Linguistics Seminar 1

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1. Determine the word class of the words which are underlined.

a) Recently, she 's been having a good time.

*Recently* = adverb. Ends -ly. Modifies entire sentence.  
*She* = pronoun. Stands in place of Noun Phrase, e.g. Jane, Sarah  
 's = auxiliary verb  
*having* = main verb  
*a* = determiner

b) Since the accident, Mary has been really careful.

*Since* = preposition. It comes before the Noun Phrase *the accident*.  
*Really* = adverb. Modifies adjective *careful*. Ends -ly

c) Before jumping out of the plane, do n't forget to put on your parachute.

*Before* = preposition. *Jumping* doesn't look like a Noun Phrase, but we can replace it with one, e.g. *the jump*. *Jumping* is a weird type of word called a **gerund**, which is a verb which behaves like a noun, or a noun which looks like a verb!  
*the* = determiner  
*do* = auxiliary verb (*forget* is the main verb)  
*your* = Determiner. This is tricky. It looks like a pronoun and has certain characteristics of pronouns, e.g. it refers to a particular person (second person), but unlike a pronoun it does not come in place of a Noun Phrase. Its position, before a Noun, is the same position as a determiner.

d) The children are being very naughty

*The* = determiner  
*are* = auxiliary verb  
*being* = main verb  
*very* = adverb (type which modifies adjective)

e) Don't let anyone see the presents

*Do* = auxiliary verb

*let* = main verb

*anyone* = pronoun (stands in place of a Noun Phrase, e.g. *people*)

*see* = verb

f) Several months went past before Angela put up the picture

*Several* = determiner

*before* = conjunction. Okay, this is tricky. Above, *before* is used as a preposition, coming in front of a Noun Phrase. However, here it is used in a different way, to link two mini sentences (otherwise known as **clauses**). There it is a conjunction.

*put* = verb

*up* = adverb / particle. A difficult one. Though this comes before a Noun Phrase (*the picture*), when we try to substitute words, we can see that *up* is part of the verb, e.g.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{put up} \\ \textit{mount} \\ \textit{hang} \end{array} \right\} \text{ the picture}$$

*Up* could be described as an adverb, modifying the movement (it is movement in an upwards direction). It could also be described as a *particle* which is a word used to describe the second element in verbs such as *put up*, *sign up*, *drop out*, *make up*, *get down* etc.

g) In spite of his considerable skill, the waiter still managed to drop the plates.

*In spite of* is best analysed as a single word (though it looks like three words on the page). It can be substituted by *despite*, e.g.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{In spite of} \\ \textit{Despite} \end{array} \right\} \text{ his considerable skill.}$$

It comes before the Noun Phrase *his considerable skill* and is a preposition expressing the concept of contradiction.

*his* = determiner (but looks very much like a pronoun!)

*considerable* = adjective

*skill* = noun

2. Describe the relationships between words

a) *see*, *sea*

Homophone

b) *refuse* = verb (e.g. *she refused the money*), *refuse* = noun (more widely used in United States e.g. *She put the refuse in the trash can*)

Homograph

c) *street, alley*

Possibly co-hyponyms (of superordinate category *thoroughfare*)

d) *orange, apple*

Co-hyponyms of superordinate category *fruit*

e) *fruit, orange*

*orange* is a hyponym/subordinate of *fruit*, while *fruit* is a hyperonym/superordinate of *orange*

f) *fruit, plant*

*Plant* is a hyperonym/superordinate of *fruit*. *Fruit* is a hyponym/subordinate of *plant*

g) *pen* = writing implement, *pen* = enclosure for animals

Meanings: *pen* = writing implement, *pen* = animal enclosure. There is little obvious meaning relationship between these two words. Formal relationship seems to be the result of a historical accident. It is a homonym.

h) *take* as in *the thief took the money*, *take* as in *could you take this food to table seven?*

The verb *take* could be regarded as polysemous. In both examples, there is a core meaning, that an individual transfers an object from one position to another (away from the speaker). They differ in terms of whether the taker keeps the object, or hands possession of it to another person.

i) *big, small*

antonyms = opposites. They are 'gradable', e.g. *very big, really small*.