

# Constituents and Ambiguity Worksheet

Prerna Nadathur, Ling 121B Section

April 14, 2016

## 1 Phrase Structure Rules

Fill in any blanks in the PSRs (as of the end of class yesterday):

### Core rules:

S  $\rightarrow$  NP \_\_\_\_\_

$$\text{VP} \longrightarrow \text{V} \text{ ----- (PP*)}$$
$$\text{PP} \longrightarrow \text{P NP}$$

NP  $\longrightarrow$  \_\_\_\_\_ N (PP\*)

NP  $\rightarrow$  Pronoun

$$\text{NP} \longrightarrow \text{Name}$$
$$AP \longrightarrow (-----) A$$

Coordination rules:

VP  $\longrightarrow$  \_\_\_\_\_ Conj \_\_\_\_\_

PP  $\longrightarrow$  \_\_\_\_\_ Conj \_\_\_\_\_

NP → \_\_\_\_\_ Conj \_\_\_\_\_

### Modifier rules:

VP  $\longrightarrow$  \_\_\_\_\_

NP → \_\_\_\_\_

## 2 Examples

Give an example of each of the following. You can use any lexical items you know, but any structures have to be licensed by the grammar.

1. A phrase containing the word *hella*. (What category is this lexical item?)

2. A PP with more than four words
3. A VP with the verb *send* and a modifier PP
4. An NP with an argument PP

### 3 Practice with constituents

For the following sentences,

- (a) provide a tree for at least one of the structures that the grammar above predicts,
  - (b) give a (prose) paraphrase of the meaning of the structure, and note if there are other predicted structures,
  - (c) list the predicted constituents of the structure, and
  - (d) for each predicted constituent (at the phrase level), perform constituency tests, decide whether you think it is really a constituent
- (1) Chris ventured into the cave on Wednesday with Pat.

(2) Sandy based her opinions on the news for ten years.

(3) Eve depended on Taylor for three months.

(4) Cameron put the cat on the roof with bright green shingles with care.

(5) The beatnik drinks coffee from Nicaragua in the smokey cafe.