

Descriptive approach to grammar

Structural analysis

Constituent analysis

Structural analysis

- Test frames

- Noun phrases

still makes grammar correct

George saw the _____.

A _____ disappeared yesterday.

dog, car, kid, book ✓

Kate, the kid, a kid, she/he/they ✗

Structural analysis

- Test frames

- Noun phrases

can consists of articles

George saw _____ .

_____ disappeared yesterday.

*a dog, a big car, birds, the kid, the bags,
the expensive book, those boxes*

Kate, she/he/they

Constituent analysis

- Constituent
 - A set of words that go together to form a phrase
 - Words → phrases → constituents → sentences

The little girl bought a pen.

~~*The + little + girl + bought + a + pen*~~

the little girl NP

a pen NP

bought a pen VP (V+NP)

The little girl bought a pen. S (NP+VP)

Constituency tests

sentence fragment

- What did Kim write?
The book with the blue cover
- Who did Jenny see?
Her teacher
- Where is she going?
To New York
- When did the girl leave?
This morning

WH questions

Constituency tests

Echo questions

- Kim wrote that book with the blue cover.
Kim wrote what?
- Jenny saw her teacher.
Jenny saw who?
- She's going to New York.
She's going where?
- The girl left this morning.
The girl left when?

Constituency tests

Proform

- The little girl wrote a letter to her aunt.
She wrote a letter to her aunt. (pro-NP)
- Kim ate hotdogs, and Sue did so, too. (pro-VP)
- Mary went to London, and Mike went there, too. (pro-PP)

Replace constituent

Constituency tests

Coordination

- Sam found ^{NP}[a duck] and ^{NP}[rabbits].
- Pat ^{VP}[cooked] and ^{VP}[cleaned the house].

Exercise 4: Constituency tests

Use constituency tests to show whether the underlined parts are constituents.

NP

1. The students wondered how English textbooks could be obtained.

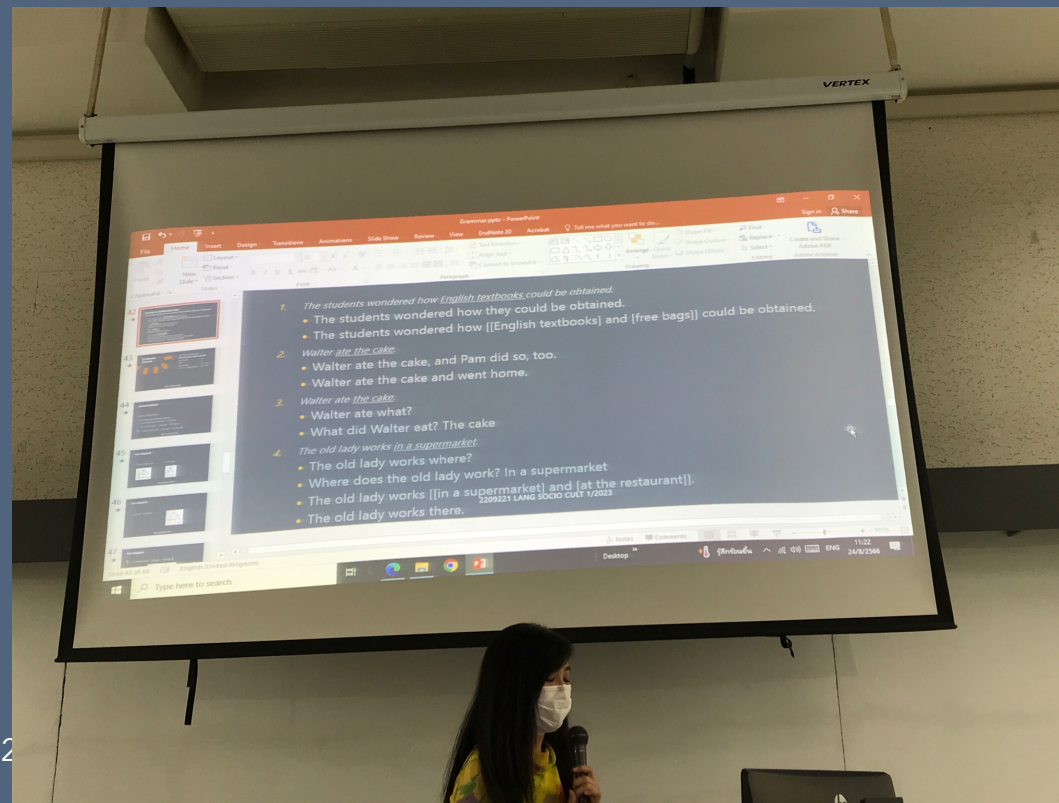
VP

2. Walter ate the cake.

NP

3. Walter ate the cake.

4. The old lady works in a supermarket.



Labeled brackets

The little girl bought a pen.

Art[The] Adj[little] N[girl] V[bought] Art[a] N[pen]

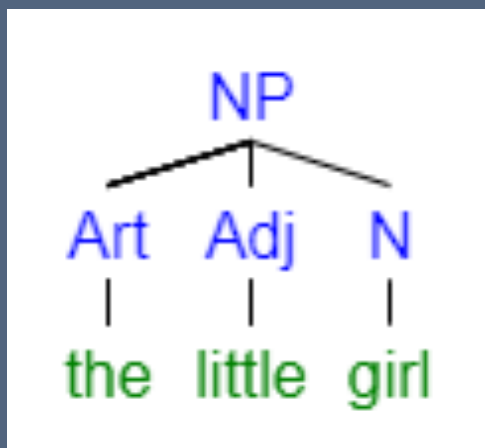
NP[Art[The] Adj[little] N[girl]] V[bought] NP[Art[a] N[pen]]

NP[Art[The] Adj[little] N[girl]] VP[V[bought] NP[Art[a] N[pen]]]

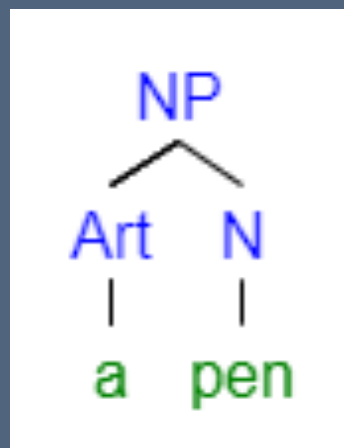
S[NP[Art[The] Adj[little] N[girl]] VP[V[bought] NP[Art[a] N[pen]]]]

Tree diagrams

$NP[Art[The] Adj[little] N[girl]]$

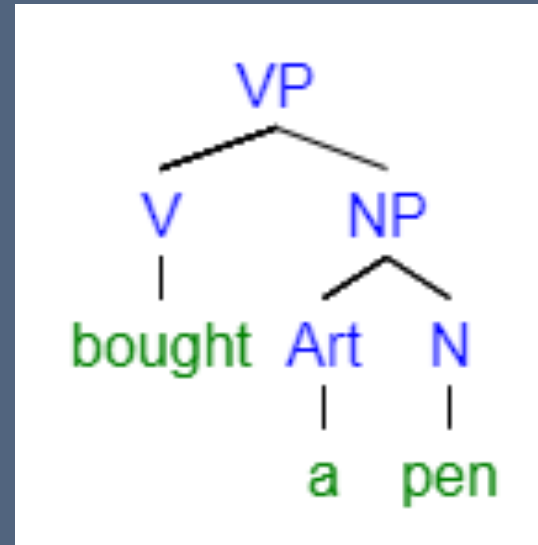


$NP[Art[a] N[pen]]$



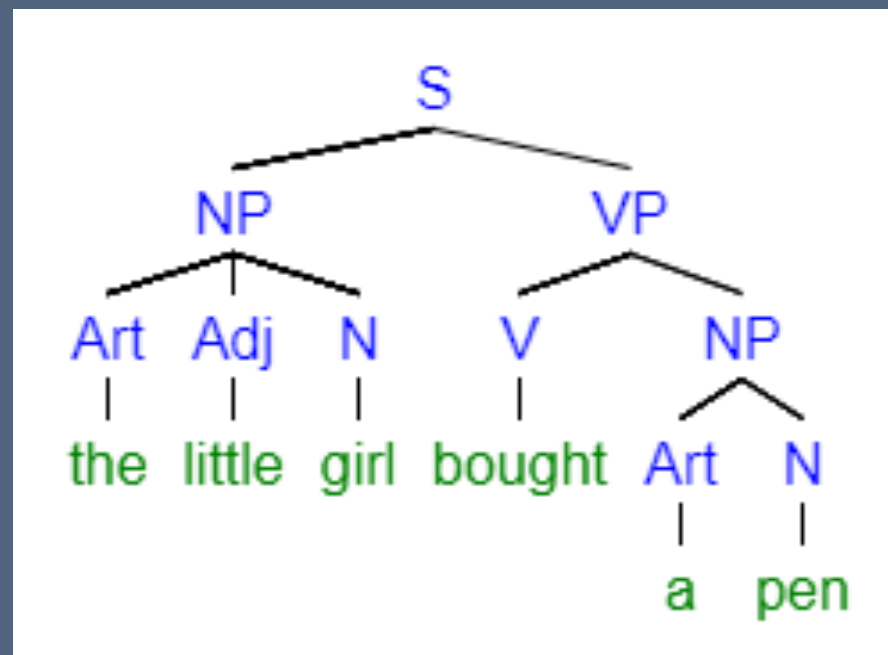
Tree diagrams

VP[V[bought] NP[Art[a] N[pen]]]



Tree diagrams

$S[NP[Art[The] Adj[little] N[girl]] VP[V[bought] NP[Art[a] N[pen]]]]$



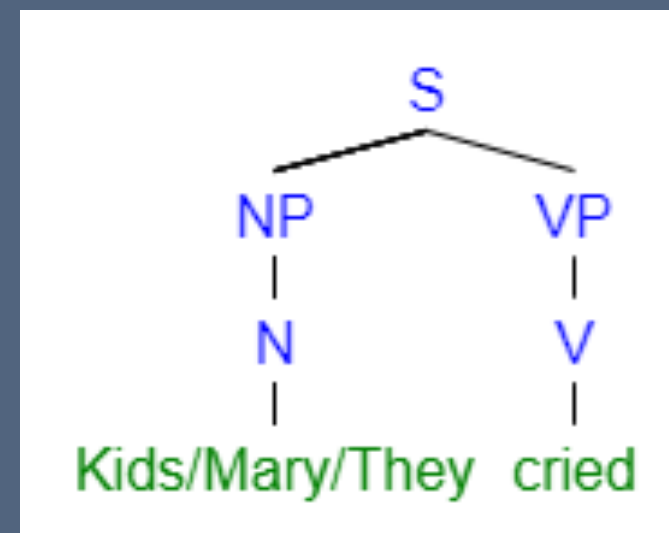
Tree diagrams

Kids cried.

Mary cried.

They cried.

$S[NP[N[Kids/Mary/They]]VP[V[cried]]]$



Exercise 5: Constituent structure (1)

Show the constituent structure of these sentences using labeled brackets.

1. ((Kim)^{NP} (wrote^{VP} (a^{NP} book.^{NP}))

2. The dog followed the boy.

3. The grey wolf bit the young hunter.

4. She laughed.

Exercise 6: Constituent structure (2)
Show the constituent structure of these sentences using tree diagrams.

1. Kim wrote a book.
• $S[NP[N[Kim]] VP[V[wrote] NP[Art[a] N[book]]]]$
2. The dog followed the boy.
• $S[NP[Art[The] N[dog]] VP[V[followed] NP[Art[the] N[boy]]]]$
3. The grey wolf bit the young hunter.
• $S[NP[Art[The] Adj[grey] N[wolf]] VP[V[bit] NP[Art[the] Adj[young] N[hunter]]]]$
4. She laughed.
• $S[NP[N[She]] VP[V[laughed]]]$

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Exercise 6: Constituent structure (2)

Show the constituent structure of these sentences using tree diagrams.

1. *Kim wrote a book.*
2. *The dog followed the boy.*
3. *The grey wolf bit the young hunter.*
4. *She laughed.*