

LING 304 HW 1 (due Wednesday, September 14)

Answer the questions below. 15 points total (5 points each)

1. Using the constituency tests given to you in class and in the text, determine the constituency structure of the following sentences:

- a) The very orange pumpkin squashed the tiny ant with the broken leg.
- b) The handsome young hooligan will smash the car with a big hammer tomorrow.

2. Explain the ambiguity of the following sentences and show constituent movement disambiguates:

- a) Terry saw the elephant with a telescope.
- b) Robin broke the bottle on the table.
- c) Leslie stole the letter from the boss.
- d) Lee sold the presents for the boss.
- e) Sandy looked over the table.

3.. The two sentences below, although superficially similar in form, might be argued to have distinct constituent structures. More precisely, we might argue that in a), *black* is an entirely separate constituent from *my coffee*, whereas in b), *present* is part of the constituent *the people present*. What empirical evidence can you find in support of this claim?

- a) I don't like my coffee black
- b) I don't like the people present.