

# Categories and features

*Based on Koenenman & Zeiljstra (2017)*

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Why have categories?

What distinguishes categories?

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- ▶ Form is totally, meaning is partially unreliable.

(1) Everybody was dancing well; John's dancing was the best.

# The linguistic sign

## Substitution test

If two elements  $X$  and  $Y$  share the same syntactic features then every grammatical sentence that contains  $X$  remains grammatical when  $X$  is replaced by  $Y$ .

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(2) John saw  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Mary} \\ \text{the car} \\ \text{every spy holding a martini glass} \end{array} \right\}.$

## Subfeatures

(3) John saw  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{the car} \\ \text{the cars} \end{array} \right\}$  .



## Beyond surface form

(4) John saw  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{the car} \\ \text{a car} \\ \text{*car} \\ \text{the cars} \\ \text{*a cars} \\ \text{cars} \\ \text{blood} \\ \text{Mary} \\ \text{her} \end{array} \right\} .$

## Verbal features

(5) John { dances  
danced  
wants to dance  
has danced  
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