



Practice with Parts of speech

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Slip

- (1)
 - (a) John made a very significant *slip* back there.
 - (b) * Helen/The organization/John's ignorance is very *slip*.
 - (c) Her mask may *slip*.



Slip

- (2)
- (a) John made a very significant *slip* back there. N
 - (b) * Helen/The organization/John's ignorance is very *slip*.
 - (c) Her mask may *slip*.



Slip

- (3)
- (a) John made a very significant *slip* back there. N
 - (b) * Helen/The organization/John's ignorance is very *slip*. *A
 - (c) Her mask may *slip*.



Slip

- (4)
- | | | |
|-----|---|----|
| (a) | John made a very significant <i>slip</i> back there. | N |
| (b) | * Helen/The organization/John's ignorance is very <i>slip</i> . | *A |
| (c) | Her mask may <i>slip</i> . | V |



Flip

- (5)
- (a) John did a *flip* back there.
 - (b) Helen can be very *flip*.
 - (c) His position may *flip*.



Flip

- (6)
- (a) John did a *flip* back there. N
 - (b) Helen can be very *flip*.
 - (c) His position may *flip*.



Flip

- (7)
- (a) John did a *flip* back there. N
 - (b) Helen can be very *flip*. A
 - (c) His position may *flip*.



Flip

- (8)
- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|---|
| (a) | John did a <i>flip</i> back there. | N |
| (b) | Helen can be very <i>flip</i> . | A |
| (c) | His position may <i>flip</i> . | V |



Clip

- (9)
- (a) Can you lend me a paper *clip*?
 - (b) * Helen/The organization/John's ignorance is very *clip*.
 - (c) We should *clip* the dog's hair.



Clip

- (10)
- (a) Can you lend me a paper *clip*? N
 - (b) * Helen/The organization/John's ignorance is very *clip*.
 - (c) We should *clip* the dog's hair.



Clip

- (11)
- (a) Can you lend me a paper *clip*? N
 - (b) * Helen/The organization/John's ignorance is very *clip*. *A
 - (c) We should *clip* the dog's hair.



Clip

- (12)
- | | | |
|-----|---|----|
| (a) | Can you lend me a paper <i>clip</i> ? | N |
| (b) | * Helen/The organization/John's ignorance is very <i>clip</i> . | *A |
| (c) | We should <i>clip</i> the dog's hair. | V |



Part of Speech Ambiguity

	N	A	V
slip	Yes	No	Yes
flip	Yes	Yes	Yes
clip	Yes	No	Yes

Morphological tests: Adj

	slip	flip	clip
-er (cheaper)	*slipper	*flipper	*clipper
more (more expensive)	* more slip	more flip	*more clip
un- (unhappy)	* unslip	? unflip	*unclip
-ly (happily)	*sliply	fliply	*cliply

- (13) a. One more slip and you're fired. [irrelevant?]
 b. * John is a good deal more slip than Sue.
 c. John is a good deal more flip than Sue.
 d. * John is a good deal more clip than Sue.
- (14) a. He answered me rather fliply.
 b. I'm going to unclip that belt. [irrelevant?]
 c. * Get me some unclip office supplies!
 d. * A fastener held the whole pile of papers together rather cliply.

Morphological tests: Adj

	slip	flip	clip
-er (cheaper)	*slipper	*flipper	*clipper
more (more expensive)	* more slip	more flip	*more clip
un- (unhappy)	* unslip	? unflip	*unclip
-ly (happily)	*sliply	fliply	*cliply

- (15) a. One more slip and you're fired. [irrelevant? Yes! Noun use.]
 b. * John is a good deal more slip than Sue.
 c. John is a good deal more flip than Sue.
 d. * John is a good deal more clip than Sue.
- (16) a. He answered me rather fliply.
 b. I'm going to unclip that belt. [irrelevant?]
 c. * Get me some unclip office supplies!
 d. * A fastener held the whole pile of papers together rather cliply.

Morphological tests: Adj

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- (17) a. One more slip and you're fired. [irrelevant? Yes! Noun use.]
b. * John is a good deal more slip than Sue.
c. John is a good deal more flip than Sue.
d. * John is a good deal more clip than Sue.
- (18) a. He answered me rather fliply.
b. I'm going to unclip that belt. [irrelevant? Yes! Verb use.]
c. * Get me some unclip office supplies!
d. * A fastener held the whole pile of papers together rather cliply.

Adj: Syntactic tests

Noun modifying	Attributive	[the ____ man]
Following <i>be</i>	Predicative	[is ____]
Following <i>very</i>	Modified	[very ____]

Attributive

a *big* box

the *cranky* syntax professor

my *unwieldy* fly catcher

Predicative

The box is *big*.

The syntax professor is *cranky*.

My fly catcher grew *unwieldy*.



Answering syntactic questions



Heads and Modifiers

Head	Modifier	Examples
Noun	Adjective	a yellow dog / a big dog a big yellow dog a remarkably yellow dog * a remarkably dog
Adjective	Adverb	Fido is remarkably yellow. Fido is very yellow.
Verb	Adverb	Sam changed remarkably. * Sam changed very.



Noun modifiers

the *syntax* professor Attributive position!

a *fly* catcher

mayonnaise factory

Two accounts:

1.

2.



Noun modifiers

the *syntax* professor

a *fly* catcher

mayonnaise dispenser factory

Two accounts:

1.

2.



Noun modifiers

the *syntax* professor

a *fly* catcher

mayonnaise dispenser factory

Two accounts:

1. **Adjective account:** *syntax*, *fly*, *dispenser*, *mayonnaise* are all adjectives.
- 2.



Noun modifiers

the *syntax* professor

a *fly* catcher

mayonnaise dispenser factory

Two accounts:

1. **Adjective account:** *syntax*, *fly*, *dispenser*, *mayonnaise* are all adjectives.
2. **Noun noun account:** *syntax*, *fly*, *dispenser*, *mayonnaise* are NOT adjectives. They are all nouns. English also allows nouns to modify nouns.



Consequences of the adjective account


1. Every noun in English can modify other nouns
a *bagel* remover
2. Every noun in English is also an adjective
3. Non of these *denominal* adjectives can be modified by *very* or occur in predicative position:
 - * a very bagel remover
 - * That one is bagel, that one bialy!



Worse still!

Every noun in English is also an adverb!

mayonnaise [_A dispenser] [_N factory]



Worse still!

Every noun in English is also an adverb!

Wrong reading! mayonnaise and dispenser
factory

mayonnaise [A dispenser] [N factory]

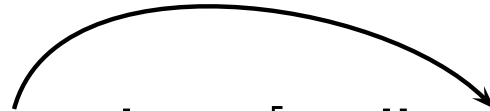





Worse still!

Every noun in English is also an adverb!

Right reading! factory makes mayonnaise
dispensers!


mayonnaise   [A dispenser] [N factory]

Worse still!

Every noun in English is also an adverb!

Right reading! factory makes mayonnaise
dispensers!

[_{Adv} mayonnaise] [_A dispenser] [_N factory]




Worse still!

Every noun in English is also an adverb!

Right reading! factory makes mayonnaise dispensers!

[_{Adv} mayonnaise] [_A dispenser] [_N factory]

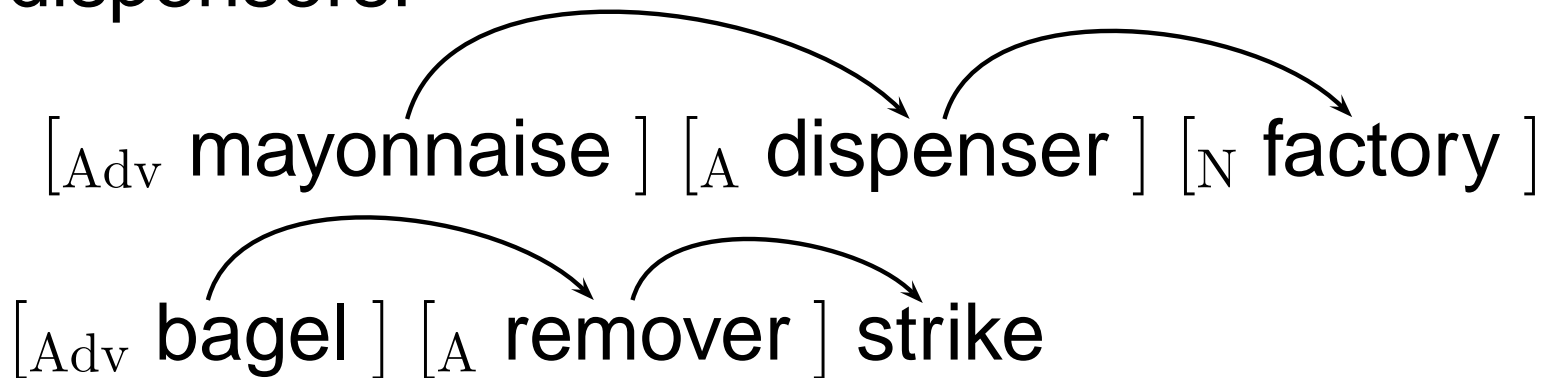


[_A bagel] remover

Worse still!

Every noun in English is also an adverb!

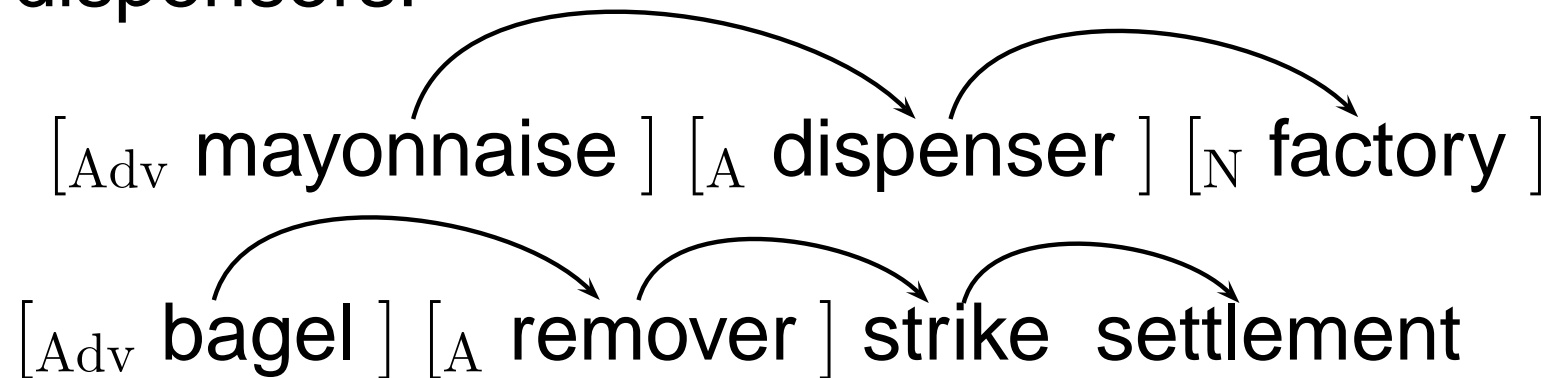
Right reading! factory makes mayonnaise dispensers!



Worse still!

Every noun in English is also an adverb!

Right reading! factory makes mayonnaise dispensers!





Genuine Noun/Adj Ambiguities

- (19) a. Canadian lovers make better lovers.
b. Homeless advocates often feel depressed.
c. The remote switch is in the garage.



Genuine Noun/Adj Ambiguities

- (20)
- a. Canadian lovers make better lovers.
 - 1. Lovers who are Canadian ...
 - 2. People who love Canadians ...
 - b. Homeless advocates often feel depressed.
 - c. The remote switch is in the garage.



Genuine Noun/Adj Ambiguities

- (21) a. Canadian lovers make better lovers.
1. Lovers who are Canadian ...
 2. People who love Canadians ...
- b. Homeless advocates often feel depressed.
1. Advocates for the homeless ...
 2. Advocates who are homeless ...
- c. The remote switch is in the garage.



Genuine Noun/Adj Ambiguities

- (22)
- a. Canadian lovers make better lovers.
 - 1. Lovers who are Canadian ...
 - 2. People who love Canadians ...
 - b. Homeless advocates often feel depressed.
 - 1. Advocates for the homeless ...
 - 2. Advocates who are homeless ...
 - c. The remote switch is in the garage.
 - 1. The switch for the remote control device ...
 - 2. The switch that is remotely located ...



First class adjectives

1. homeless

(a) a very homeless dog

(b) That dog is homeless

2. Canadian

(a) a *very* Canadian fellow

(b) John is Canadian.

3. remote

(a) a very remote village

(b) That village is remote.



Confirming evidence

- (23) a. Fanatically Canadian lovers make better lovers.
1. Lovers who are fanatically [_A Canadian] make better lovers.
 2. * People who love fanatical [_N Canadians] make better lovers.
- b. Utterly homeless advocates often feel depressed. [advocates who are utterly homeless ...]
- c. The very remote switch is in the garage. [The switch that is very remote ...]



Summarizing our conclusions: I

Difficulties for the adjective account

1. Every noun in English is also an adjective.
2. These “denominal adjectives” pass none of our tests for adjectives.
3. Every noun in English must also be an adverb.
4. These “denominal adverbs” are only needed in this construction.
5. There is a class of noun/adjective ambiguities that is well-behaved (with adjectives that behave like adjectives) That is utterly anomalous on this analysis.



Summarizing our conclusions: II

Virtues of the noun-noun account:

1. Nouns are nouns in the noun-noun construction;
2. so it is natural for them to pass none of our tests for adjectives.
3. No noun in English needs to be an adverb in the noun-construction, because it is just modifying a noun, which is expected.
4. It is natural that there is a class of well-behaved noun/adjective ambiguities (with the adjectives behaving like adjectives), because many words in English are ambiguous as to part of speech (*slip, flip, clip*).