



# Practice with Parts of speech

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# Rules

When you make an assertion about a linguistic fact, you must produce an example to illustrate it. When you make an assertion about a linguistic constraint you must give an example.

If you make a positive assertion about the language, you must give an example of the kind of form you claim occurs. /The English progressive is formed using the verb "to be" combined with an "-ing" form of the verb./

John was running to the store.

Also (and *very* important), if you make a negative claim, you must give a plausible example of the kind of form you claim does NOT occur.

# Examples

HAVE constraint: The helping verb *have* never occurs in the progressive (although the main verb *have* sometimes does).

Example of the HAVE constraint and a case of the main verb "have" in the progressive.

1. \* John was having run to the store.
2. John was having beef stroganoff for dinner.
3. John had run to the store. [correct form of run following have]
4. John was running to the store. [run in progressive]
5. John was being treated for measles. [be in progressive]

Non-occurring forms should be marked with a "\*". Plausible means that except for the part of the sentence that is relevant to your claim, the sentence should be completely correct. See (c) and (d) and (e). This requirement will be discussed in detail in class.



# Slip

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



# Flip

---

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



# Flip

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

---

- (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

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- (12) (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. 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

	slip	flip	clip
-er (cheaper)	*slipper	*flipper	*clipper
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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 remarkable dog  
a remarkable yellow dog  
a remarkably yellow dog  
\* a remarkably dog

Adjective

Adverb

Fido is remarkably yellow.  
Fido is very yellow.

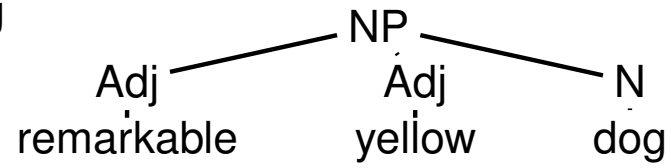
Verb

Adverb

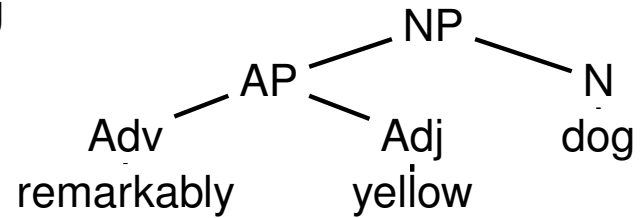
Sam changed remarkably.  
\* Sam changed very.

# Trees

1. remarkable yellow dog



2. remarkably yellow dog



# Noun modifiers

the *syntax* professor    Attributive position!

a *fly* catcher

*mayonnaise* factory

Two accounts:

1.

2.





# Noun modifiers

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the *syntax* professor



# Noun modifiers

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the *syntax* professor



# Noun modifiers

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the *syntax* professor

# Consequences of the adjective account

1. Every noun in English can modify other nouns

a *bagel* remover

a *sky* wagon

a *pumpkin peeler*

...

2. Therefore, on the adjective account: Every noun in English is also an adjective

3. None of these *denominal* adjectives can be modified by *very* or occur in predicative position, two of our hallmark tests for adjectivehood.

\* 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]

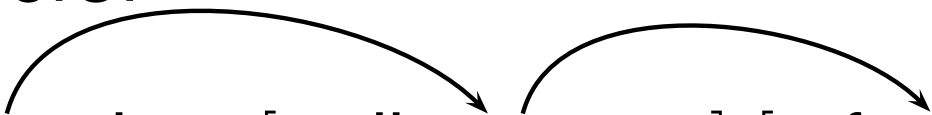


# Worse still!

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!

[Adv mayonnaise] [A dispenser] [N factory]



[Adv bagel] [A remover] strike



# Worse still!

Every noun in English is also an adverb!

Right reading! factory makes mayonnaise dispensers!

[Adv mayonnaise] [A dispenser] [N factory]



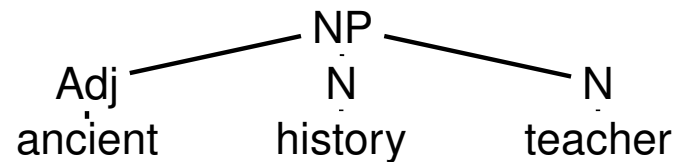
[Adv bagel] [A remover] strike settlement



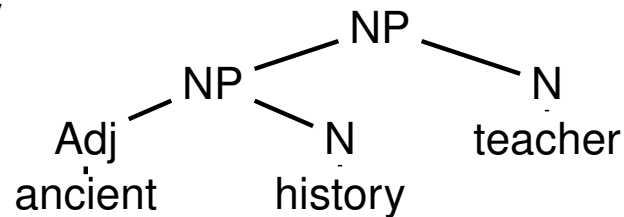
# Can be modified by adjectives!

1. ancient history teacher

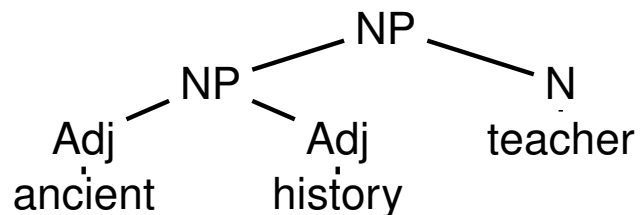
(a) history teacher who is ancient:



(b) teacher of ancient history



2. If we say that *history* is an Adjective in reading 2 of *ancient history teacher*, we have to draw this tree:



Now we have to say Adjectives can be modified by adjectives!

3. But normal adjectives can't be:

(a) remarkable yellow dog

(b) remarkably yellow dog

# 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 [<sub>A</sub> Canadian ] make better lovers.
    2. \* People who love fanatical [<sub>N</sub> 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*).