

Syntax Seminar (BBN-ANG-252): Key to HO1

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1 In-class exercises

- For each sentence, define the two interpretations. Mark constituents with square brackets to indicate the different structures and the interpretation they give rise to.

- (1) a. Peter saw [the boy [with the binoculars]].
the boy had the binoculars
b. Peter [saw [the boy] [with the binoculars]].
Peter had the binoculars

- (2) a. Mary saw tall [[tall boys] and girls].
only the boys were tall
b. Mary saw [tall [boys and girls]].
all children were tall

- (3) a. Mary saw [boys and [girls [who are tall]]].
only the girls were tall
b. Mary saw [[boys and girls] [who are tall]].
all children were tall

- (4) a. [John said [on Friday] [he would come over]].
said on Monday
b. John said [[on Friday] he would come over].
came over on Monday

- Label the phrases in the following examples (BESE: p. 61–62):

- (5) a. [_S [_{DP} The postwoman] [_{VP} pestered [_{DP} the doctor] [_{PP} on [_{DP} his birthday]]]]
b. [_S [_{DP} The postwoman] [_{VP} thinks [_{CP} [_{DP} the doctor] [_{VP} is [_{AP} cute]]]]]]]]]

- Provide examples for the rewrite rules in (6):

- (6) a. S → DP VP
Peter smiled.
Peter said the doctor is a charlatan.
b. VP → V DP PP
took the exam on Monday
c. PP → P DP
on my birthday
d. DP → D N
the ball
a bag

2 Homework

- Ambiguity in (7)

- (7) a. John drove Mary home drunk.
 John was drunk
 Mary was drunk
 b. I saw Mary in New York when she claimed she would arrive.
 I saw Mary when she made the claim
 I saw Mary at the time of her alleged arrival

- Determine the categories of the following words. Provide examples to illustrate.
father, chair, costs, rings

- (8) a. He is a father. [N]
 b. He fathered three children. [V]
- (9) a. The chair suggested to meet on Monday. [N]
 b. To chair meetings is boring. [V]
- (10) a. The costs are really high. [N]
 b. The bags costs 50 euro. [V]
- (11) a. She has three rings. [N]
 b. It rings a bell. [V]

- Identify the constituents in the following sentences by using square brackets and adding labels to each phrase (BESE Ch. 2, p. 85)

- (12) a. [S [DP the postman] [VP lost [DP his key] [DP yesterday]]]
 b. [S [DP the student [S [DP who] [VP has just passed [DP the exam]]]] [VP is [AP very happy]]]]