

Intro to Linguistics – HW 2 – Syntax

1. Analyze these sentences (or phrases) using this following grammar:

- (a) The monkey ate a banana and a big melon.
- (b) The small monkey gave me a banana.
- (c) The monkey gave a banana to me.
- (d) George saw the big dog of my friend.
- (e) The shop is at the corner of the street.
- (f) The parents of the groom and the bride. – two analyses
- (g) His son sings and her daughter plays the piano.

- (a) $S \rightarrow NP V (NP (NP)) (PP)$
- (b) $NP \rightarrow (Det) (Adj) N (PP)$
- (c) $NP \rightarrow Pron$
- (d) $PP \rightarrow P NP$
- (e) $S \rightarrow S Conj S$
- (f) $NP \rightarrow NP Conj NP$
- (g) plus all the necessary lexical rules

Notes:

- (a) If the grammar allows multiple structures for a sentence, draw the one that makes more sense (draw both of them in f).
- (b) Draw trees. Do not use any alternative notation (brackets etc.). It is ok to draw it on a piece of paper and take a photo, this is not an exercise in Latex mastery.
- (c) Keep in mind that *determiner noun preposition determiner noun* can be sometimes an NP followed by a PP, and sometimes a single NP containing a PP inside.
- (d) Recall that it does not make sense to classify possessives as simple pronouns (see handout/slides).

2. (a) $S \rightarrow NP V (NP (NP)) (PP)$
(b) $NP \rightarrow (Det) (Adj) N (PP)$
(c) $PP \rightarrow P NP$

(d) $N \rightarrow \{\text{girl, boy, book, ...}\}$
(e) $V \rightarrow \{\text{sleeps, gives, sees, ...}\}$
(f) $Adj \rightarrow \{\text{small, nice, interesting, ...}\}$
(g) $Det \rightarrow \{\text{a, the, ...}\}$
(h) $P \rightarrow \{\text{to, with, ...}\}$

Find:

- a. Two sentences that are correct according to both this grammar and grammar of Standard English (GSE). Draw the corresponding syntactic trees.
- b. A sentence that is correct according to this grammar, but incorrect according to GSE. Where is the problem?
- c. A sentence that is incorrect according to this grammar, but is correct according to the GSE. Where is the problem?

Note: In answering this question, focus on syntax, i.e. sentence structure. Ignore semantics, any gaps in the lexicon, assume that *a* is changed to *an* as necessary, etc.