Intro to Linguistics – HW 2 – Syntax

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

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

(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.

Notes:

(a) 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.
(b) 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.
(c) Recall that it does not make sense to classify possessives as simple pronouns (see handout).

2. (a) S → NP V (NP (NP)) (PP)
(b) NP → (Det) (Adj) N (PP)
(c) PP → P NP
(d) N → {girl, boy, book, ...}
(e) V → {sleeps, gives, sees, ...}
(f) Adj → \{small, nice, interesting, ...\}
(g) Det → \{a, the, ...\}
(h) P → \{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.