The Structure of NP, AdjP, AdvP, and PP

General Structure of Phrases

- Modifiers are sisters of X-bar
- Complements are sisters of the head X
- X can be V, Adj, Adv, P, or N

Remember the Structure of VP?

- The students seemed exhausted after three weeks of classes.
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Remember the Structure of VP?
- The students seemed exhausted after three weeks of classes.
- seemed exhausted after three weeks of classes is the VP.
- seemed is the head
- exhausted is the complement
- after three weeks of classes is the adverbial

Remember the Structure of VP?
- Head + Complement + Adverbial
- The complement may be …
  - Direct object
  - Indirect object
  - Subject predicate
  - Object predicate

The Structure of AdjP
- A flightless cormorant
- Flightless
- Surprisingly flightless
- Surprisingly flightless for a bird

What kind of bird is this?
Identify the AdjPs

1. The Galapagos cormorant is surprisingly flightless for a sea bird.
2. This lecture is too long for comfort.
3. Have you found anything suitable for your needs?
4. His wrists are rather thick and hairy.

Identify the AdjPs

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Draw Trees for These AdjPs

- The Galapagos cormorant is *surprisingly flightless for a sea bird*.
- This lecture is *too long for comfort*.
- Have you found anything *suitable for your needs*?
- His wrists are *rather thick and hairy*.

The Structure of AdjP

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modifier</th>
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<tbody>
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What about AdvP?

1. He talks incredibly slowly.
2. Her beautiful hat was very nearly ruined.
3. They let me speak now and then.
4. Strangely enough we received a reply the next day.
5. *Puck*: I go, I go; look how I go,
   Swifter than arrow from the Tartar’s bow.
   - Midsummer Night’s Dream, Act III, Scene II

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Swifter than arrow from the Tartar’s bow

What about PP?

1. We rested in the shade underneath the arches.
2. His grave is right beneath your feet.
3. According to our records you still owe $970.
4. He was determined to go straight across the desert.
5. What are you going to talk about?

What about PP?

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What about PP?

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The Structure of NP

• The functions of elements within an NP are …
  1. Pre-determiner
  2. Determiner
  3. Modifier
  4. Head
  5. Complement
  6. Modifier

The best thing in life is free.

The best thing in life
The
The best
The best thing
The best thing in life

DETERMINER the
MODIFIER best
HEAD thing
COMPLEMENT in life

the best thing in life
Money (That’s What I Want)

- The best thing in life is free. You can give it to the birds and bees. I need money I need money, oh yeah! That’s what I want.
- Money don’t get everything it’s true. What it don’t get I can’t use. I need money I need money, oh yeah! That’s what I want.
- Your love give me such a thrill But your love don’t pay my bill. I need money I need money I need money, oh yeah! That’s what I want.
- A whole lot of money, yeah! A whole lot of money, yeah! A whole lot of money, oh yeah! That’s what I want.

I need money, oh yeah! That’s what I want.

Structure of the NP

- Identify the heads, (pre)determiners, modifiers, and complements in these NPs.

1. The man from nowhere
2. Such a thrill
3. All the nice things you said to me
4. A tiny error on the exam
5. The student of grammar on the bus

Structure of the NP

- Heads are in red.

1. The man from nowhere
2. Such a thrill
3. All the nice things you said to me
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Structure of the NP

- Determiners and predeterminers are in yellow.

- The man from nowhere
- Such a thrill
- All the nice things you said to me
- A tiny error on the exam
- The student of grammar on the bus

Structure of the NP

- Modifiers are in brown.

- The man from nowhere
- Such a thrill
- All the nice things you said to me
- A tiny error on the exam
- The student of grammar on the bus
Structure of the NP

- Complements are in pink.
  - The man from nowhere
  - Such a thrill
  - All the nice things you said to me
  - A tiny error on the exam
  - The student of grammar on the bus

Distinguishing Complements from Modifiers

- When complements and modifiers follow the head, …
  1. The complement is closer to the head.
  2. The N’ phrase can be replaced by ‘one.’
  3. You can coordinate two complements or two modifiers, but you can’t coordinate a complement and a modifier.

Identify the Complement and the Modifier

- The student of grammar on the bus
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Distinguishing Complements from Modifiers

- When complements and modifiers precede the head, …
  1. The complement is closer to the head.
  2. Their order cannot be reversed.
  3. There can only be one complement but there can be many modifiers.

Identify the Complements and the Modifier

1. The complement is closer to the head.
2. Their order cannot be reversed.
3. There can only be one complement but there can be many modifiers.

General Structure of Phrases

The elements can be in a different order, but the hierarchical structure is the same.
Homework

- Exercises E, F, and G on page 158 of van Gelderen