

Syntax

Pavel Caha

4 Oct 2021

Recap

Sentence structure

The predicate

Conclusions

Ambiguity

(1) black cab drivers

Ambiguity

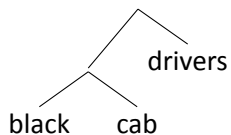
- (1) black cab drivers
 - a. drivers of black cabs

Ambiguity

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 - a. drivers of black cabs
 - b. cab drivers who are black

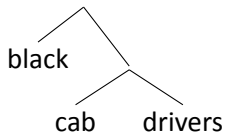
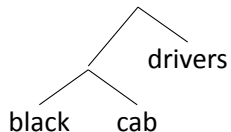
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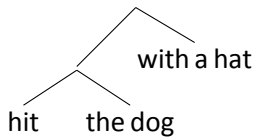


(2) hit the dog with a hat

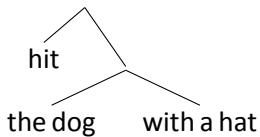
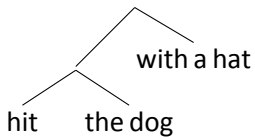
- (2) hit the dog with a hat
- a. the dog has a hat on

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- a. the dog has a hat on
 - b. the hat is used to hit the dog

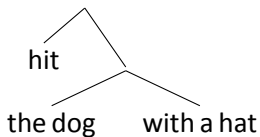
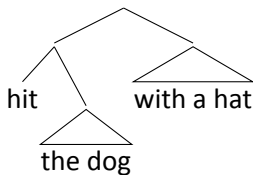
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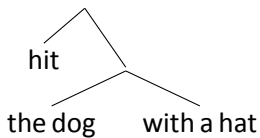
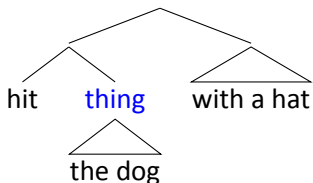
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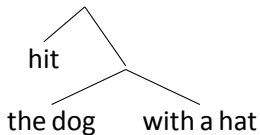
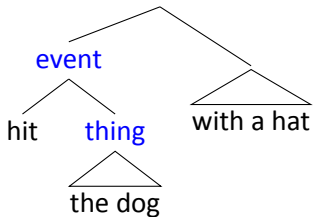
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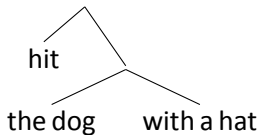
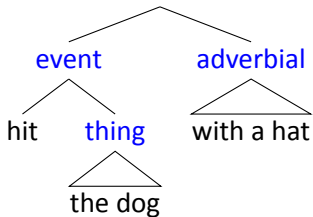
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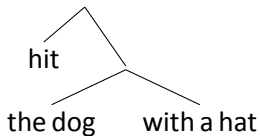
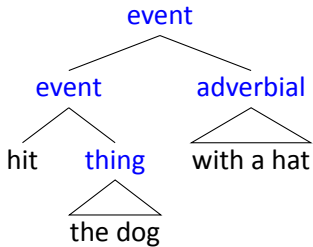
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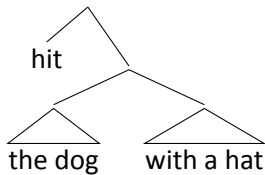
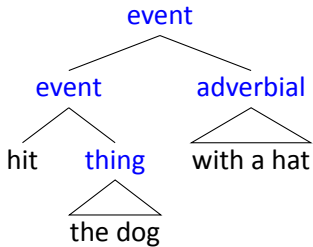
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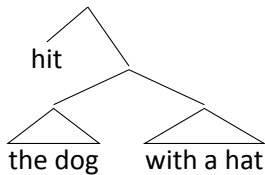
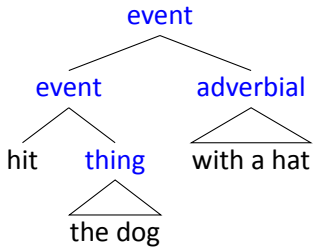
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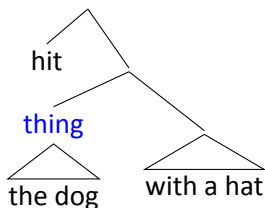
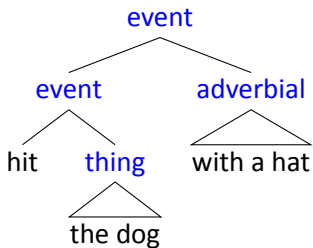
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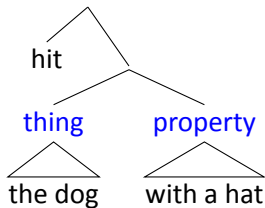
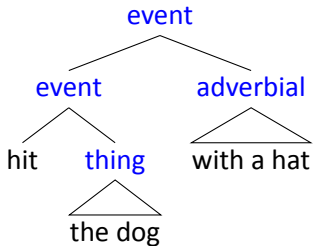
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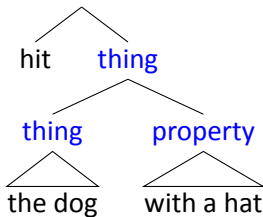
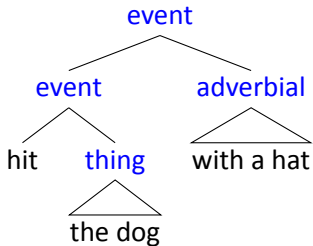
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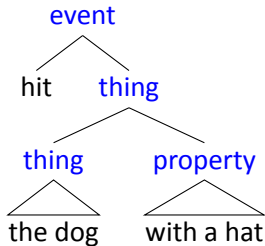
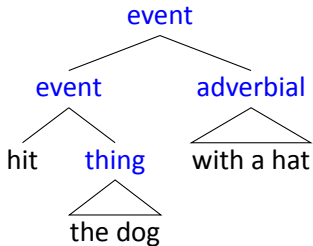
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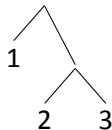
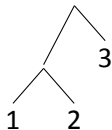


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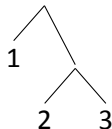
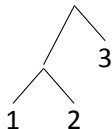


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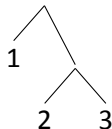
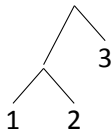




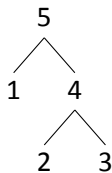
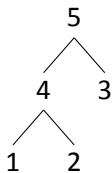
► lines are called edges



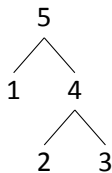
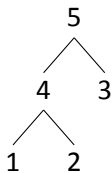
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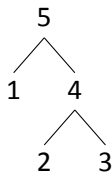
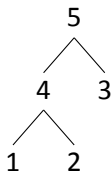
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- ▶ terminals dominated by a particular non-terminal form a constituent
- ▶ constituents are units of meaning

Recap

Sentence structure

The predicate

Conclusions

Intuition

- (3) The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal.

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- (4) Parts of the sentence

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- (3) **The customer in the corner** will order the drinks before the meal.
- (4) Parts of the sentence
 - a. subject (agent)

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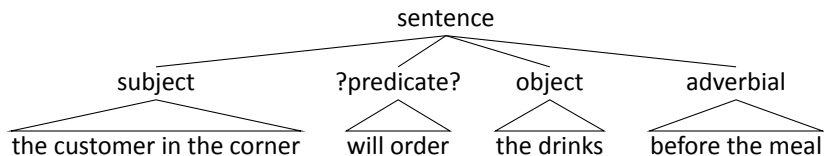
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- (9) The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal.
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- (9) The customer in the corner will order **the drinks** before the meal.
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- (9) The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal.
- (10) a. The drinks, the customer in the corner will order before the meal (but the dessert, they will order later).
b. Before the meal, the customer in the corner will order the drinks.

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- (12)
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 - b. What will the customer in the corner order?

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▶ Constituents can be given as a response to a question

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- ▶ Constituents can be joined by *and* (a co-ordinating conjunction)

- (13) The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal.
- (14) a. The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal.
b. The customer in the corner will order the desert before the meal.
c. The customer in the corner will order **the drinks** and **the desert** before the meal.

- ▶ Constituents can be joined by *and* (a co-ordinating conjunction)

- (13) The customer in the corner will order **the drinks** before the meal.
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(15) a. I bought two apples, and he bought three.

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b. I bought two apples, and he bought three apples.

(16) Constituents can be

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- a. replaced by a pronoun

- (16) Constituents can be
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 - b. moved around

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- a. replaced by a pronoun
 - b. moved around
 - c. provided as an answer to a question
 - d. co-ordinated

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▶ These tests can only show that something is a constituent.

- (16) Constituents can be
- a. replaced by a pronoun
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- ▶ These tests can only show that something is a constituent.
- ▶ They cannot be used to show that something is not a constituent

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 - b. moved around
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 - d. co-ordinated
 - e. elided

- ▶ These tests can only show that something is a constituent.
- ▶ They cannot be used to show that something is not a constituent
- ▶ One way implication: if a string has the property X, then it is a constituent

- (16) Constituents can be
- a. replaced by a pronoun
 - b. moved around
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- ▶ These tests can only show that something is a constituent.
- ▶ They cannot be used to show that something is not a constituent
- ▶ One way implication: if a string has the property X, then it is a constituent
- ▶ If a string does not have this property, we know nothing

Handle with care

- (17) Constituents can be
- replaced by a pronoun
 - moved around
 - provided as an answer to a question
 - co-ordinated
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Handle with care

- (17) Constituents can be
- a. replaced by a pronoun
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- (18) I bought milk.

Handle with care

- (17) Constituents can be
- a. replaced by a pronoun
 - b. moved around
 - c. provided as an answer to a question
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 - e. elided
- (18) I bought milk.
- a. What did you buy?

Handle with care

- (17) Constituents can be
- replaced by a pronoun
 - moved around
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- (18) I bought milk.
- What did you buy?
 - Milk

Handle with care

- (17) Constituents can be
- replaced by a pronoun
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- (18) I bought milk.
- What did you buy?
 - Milk
 - Milk I bought

Handle with care

- (17) Constituents can be
- replaced by a pronoun
 - moved around
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- (18) I bought milk.
- What did you buy?
 - Milk
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 - Milk I bought

Recap

Sentence structure

The predicate

Conclusions

- ▶ So far, there is no rule that targets the predicate *will order*

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- ▶ Is the predicate a constituent?

- ▶ So far, there is no rule that targets the predicate *will order*
- ▶ Is the predicate a constituent?
- ▶ Well, no...

Pronoun replacement

- (19) The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal.

Pronoun replacement

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- (20) He will pay for **them** later.

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- (19) The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal.
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- (21) The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal but in order to do **so** before the meal he will first need a wine list.

Pronoun replacement

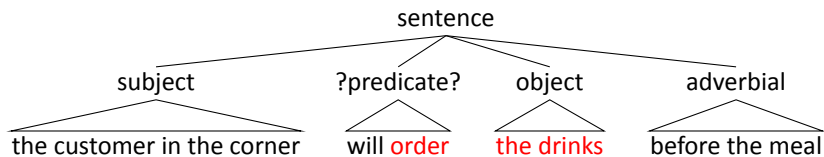
- (19) The customer in the corner will **order the drinks** before the meal.
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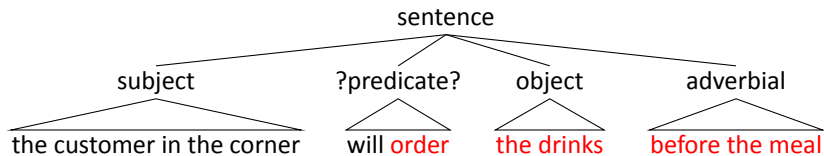
Pronoun replacement

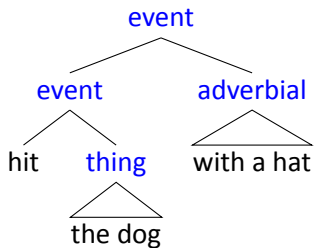
- (19) The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal.
- (20) He will pay for **them** later.
- (21) The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal but in order to do **so** before the meal he will first need a wine list.
- (22) The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal but in order to do **so** he needs a wine list now.

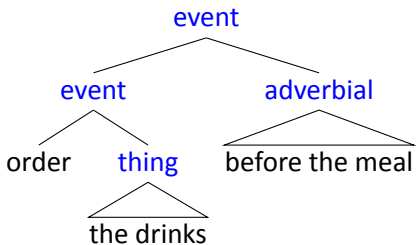
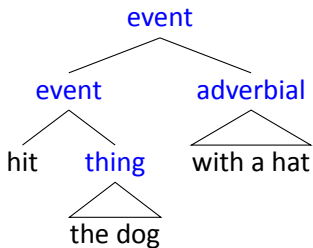
Pronoun replacement

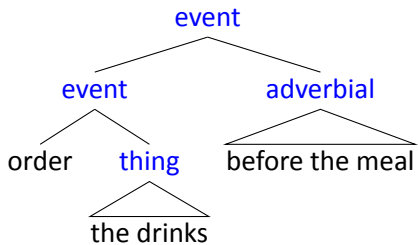
- (19) The customer in the corner will **order the drinks before the meal**.
- (20) He will pay for **them** later.
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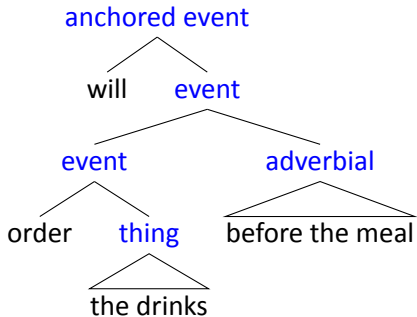
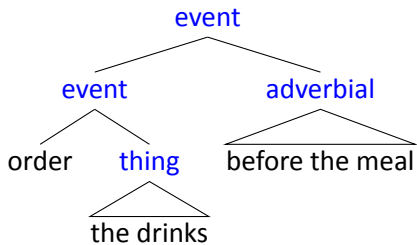






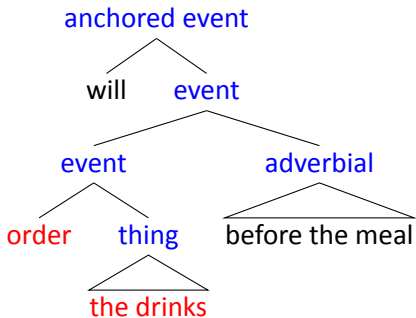






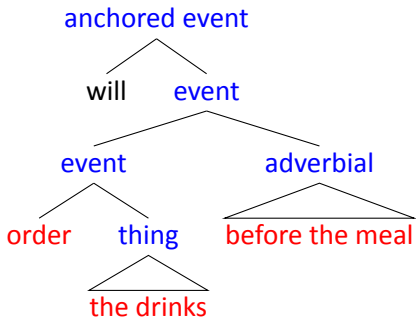
- (23) The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal but in order to do **so** before the meal he will first need a wine list.

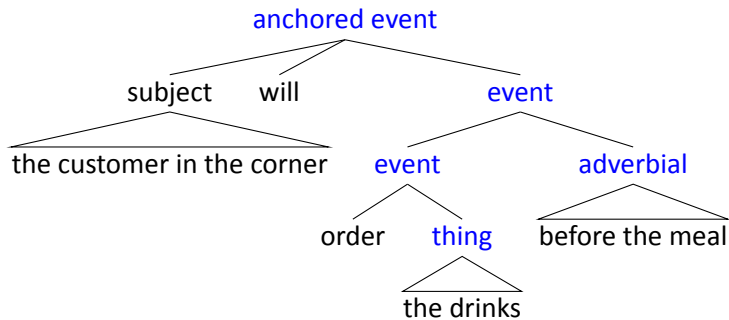
- (23) The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal but in order to do **so** before the meal he will first need a wine list.

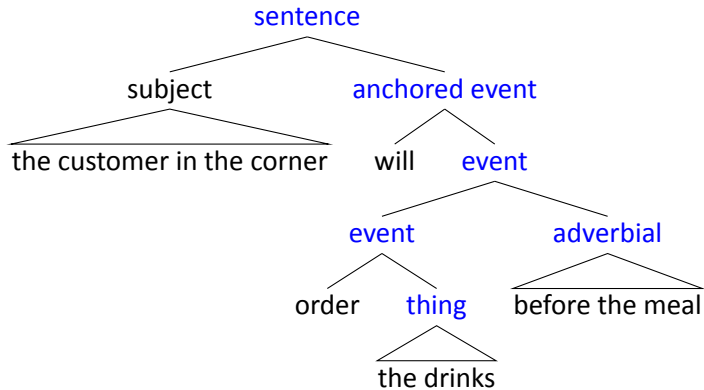


(24) The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal but in order to do **so** he needs a wine list now.

- (24) The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal but in order to do **so** he needs a wine list now.







Movement

- (25) **The drinks**, the customer in the corner will order before the meal (but the dessert, they will order later).

Movement

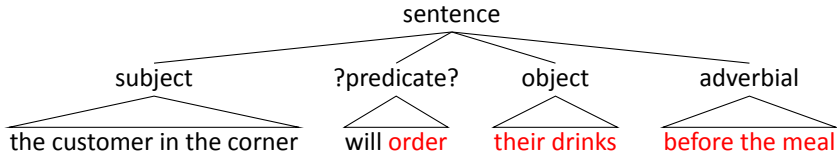
- (25) **The drinks**, the customer in the corner will order before the meal (but the dessert, they will order later).
- (26) **Order their drinks before the meal**, they will.

Movement

- (25) **The drinks**, the customer in the corner will order before the meal (but the dessert, they will order later).
- (26) **Order their drinks before the meal**, they will.
- (27) **Order their drinks**, they will before the meal.

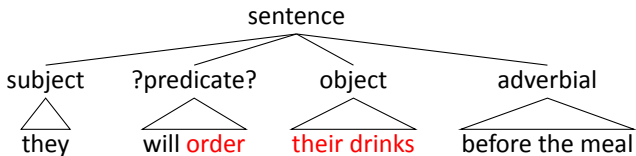
(28) Order their drinks before the meal, they will.

(28) Order their drinks before the meal, they will.



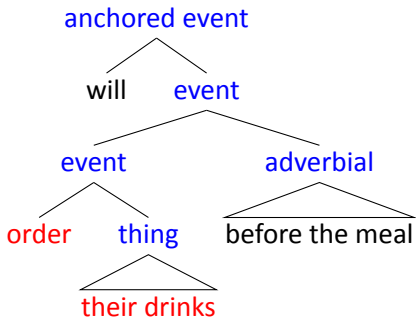
(29) **Order their drinks**, they will before the meal.

(29) **Order their drinks**, they will before the meal.



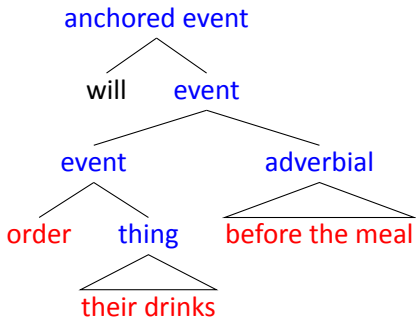
(30) **Order their drinks**, they will before the meal.

(30) **Order their drinks**, they will before the meal.



(31) Order their drinks before the meal, they will.

(31) Order their drinks before the meal, they will.

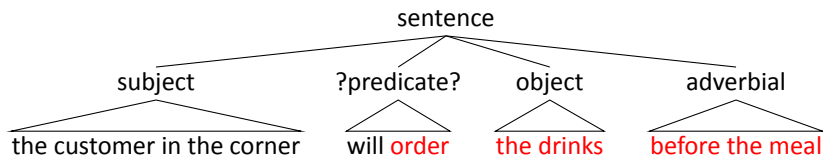


ellipsis

- (32) A: The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal.
- (33) B: Actually, I wouldn't be so sure that he will —.

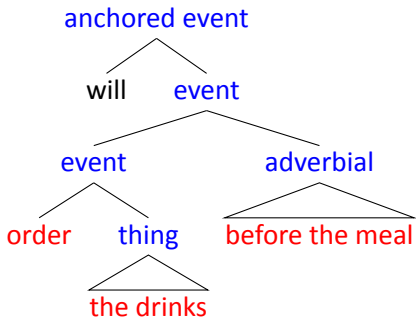
ellipsis

- (32) A: The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal.
- (33) B: Actually, I wouldn't be so sure that he will —.



- (34) A: The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal.
- (35) B: Actually, I wouldn't be so sure that he will —.

- (34) A: The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal.
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Coordination

- (36) The customer in the corner will order the dessert and the drinks before the meal.

Coordination

- (36) The customer in the corner will order the dessert and the drinks before the meal.
- (37) a. The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal and accompany his guests into the dining room.

Coordination

- (36) The customer in the corner will order the dessert and the drinks before the meal.
- (37) a. The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal and accompany his guests into the dining room.
- b. The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal and accompany his guests into the dining room.

Coordination

- (36) The customer in the corner will order the dessert and the drinks before the meal.
- (37)
- The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal and accompany his guests into the dining room.
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Coordination

- (36) The customer in the corner will order the dessert and the drinks before the meal.
- (37)
- The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal and accompany his guests into the dining room.
 - The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal and accompany his guests into the dining room.
 - The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal and accompany his guests into the dining room.
 - The customer in the corner will [order the drinks before the meal] and accompany his guests into the dining room.

Coordination

- (38) a. The customer will order the drinks before the meal and is waiting for the wine list.

Coordination

- (38)
- a. The customer will order the drinks before the meal and is waiting for the wine list.
 - b. The customer will order the drinks before the meal and is waiting for the wine list.

Coordination

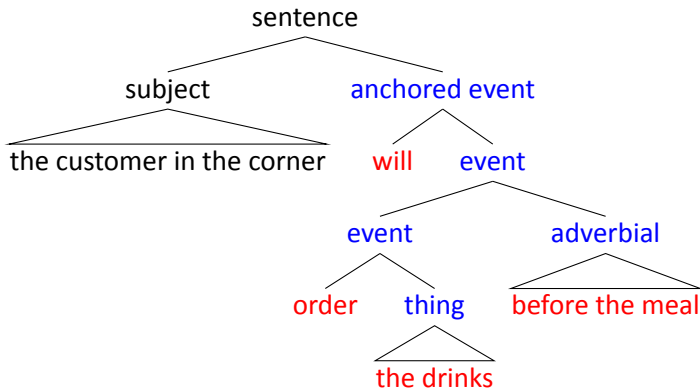
- (38)
- a. The customer will order the drinks before the meal and is waiting for the wine list.
 - b. The customer will order the drinks before the meal and is waiting for the wine list.
 - c. The customer will order the drinks before the meal and is waiting for the wine list.

Coordination

- (38)
- a. The customer will order the drinks before the meal and is waiting for the wine list.
 - b. The customer will order the drinks before the meal and is waiting for the wine list.
 - c. The customer will order the drinks before the meal and is waiting for the wine list.
 - d. The customer will order the drinks before the meal and is waiting for the wine list.

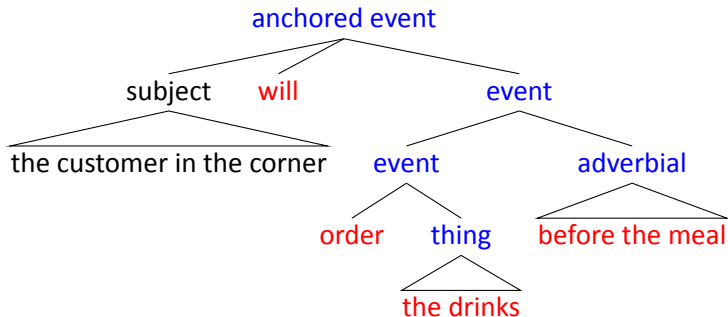
(39) The customer will order the drinks before the meal and is waiting for the wine list.

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- (40) The customer will order the drinks before the meal and is waiting for the wine list.



Recap

Sentence structure

The predicate

Conclusions

Constituency diagnostics

(41) Constituents can be

Constituency diagnostics

- (41) Constituents can be
- a. replaced by a pronoun

Constituency diagnostics

- (41) Constituents can be
- a. replaced by a pronoun
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- (41) Constituents can be
- a. replaced by a pronoun
 - b. moved around
 - c. provided as an answer to a question

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- (41) Constituents can be
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 - b. moved around
 - c. provided as an answer to a question
 - d. co-ordinated

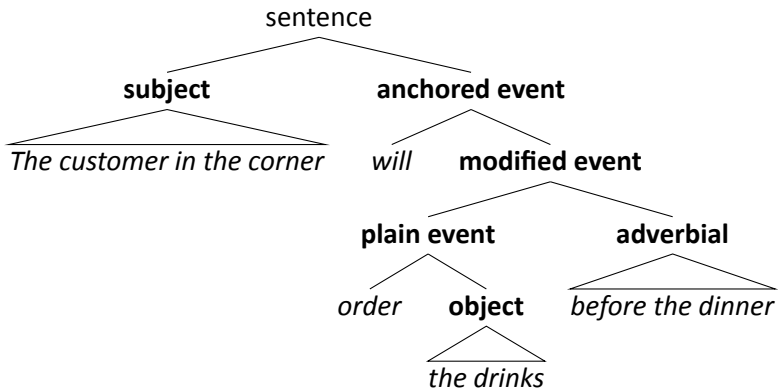
Constituency diagnostics

- (41) Constituents can be
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- (41) Constituents can be
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(42)



References