

# Syntax

Pavel Caha

Syntax  
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## Sentence structure

The predicate

Conclusions

# Intuition

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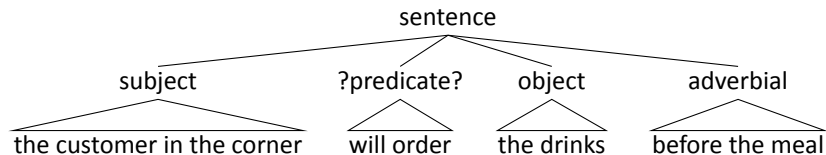
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- Who will order the drinks before the meal?
  - What will the customer in the corner order?
  - When** will the customer in the corner order the drinks?

## Summarising the result



## Pronouns in subsequent discourse

- (5) The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal.
- (6) Parts of the sentence
  - a. subject (agent)
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- (11) The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal.
- (12) 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.

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

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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

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?
- ▶ Well, no...

## Pronoun replacement

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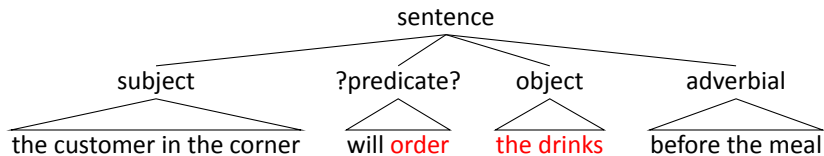
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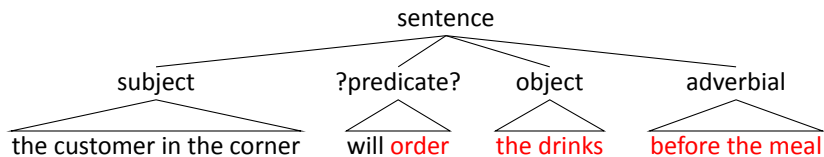
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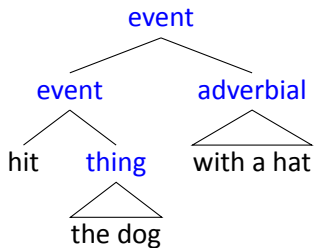
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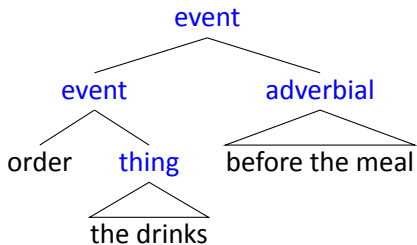
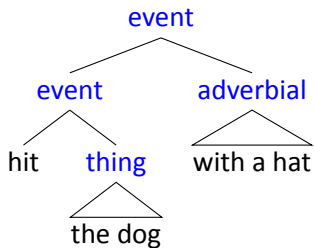
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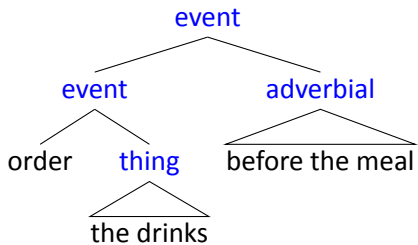


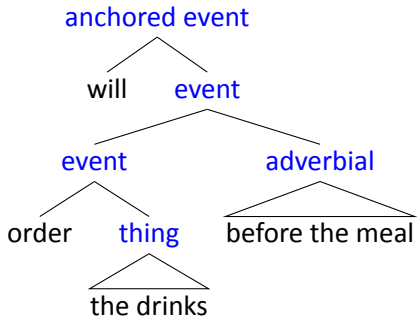
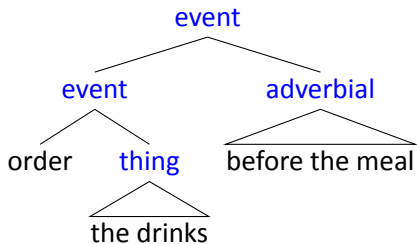






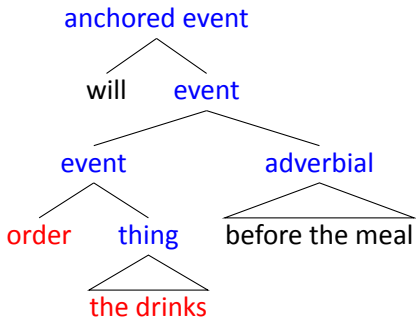






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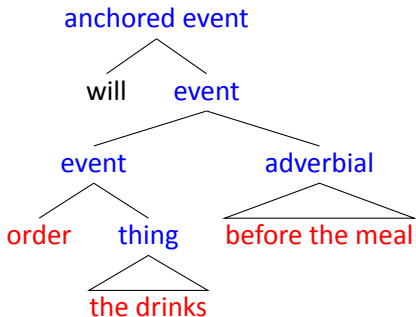
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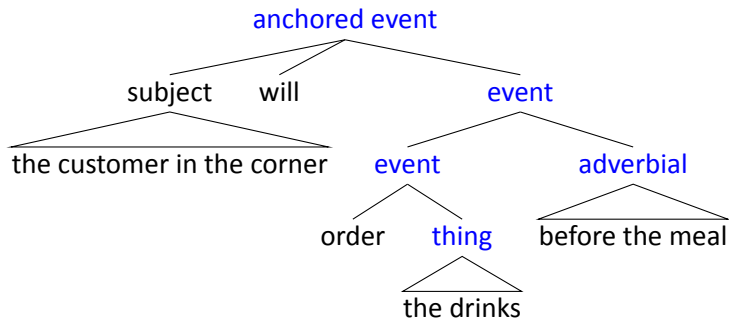


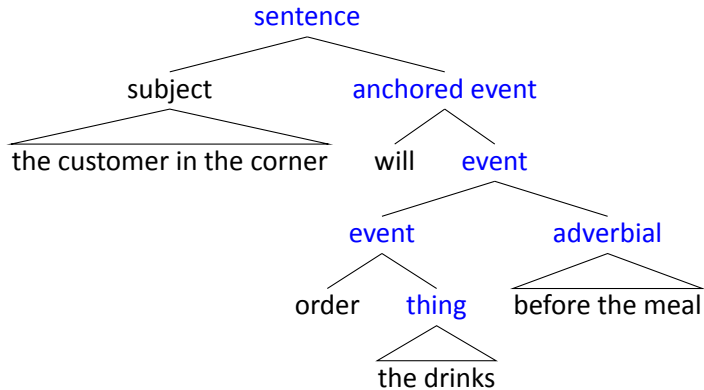


(20) The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal but in order to do **so** he needs a wine list now.

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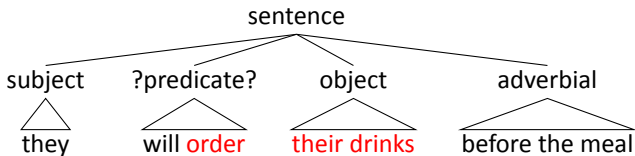




- (21) **The drinks**, the customer in the corner will order before the meal (but the dessert, they will order later).

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

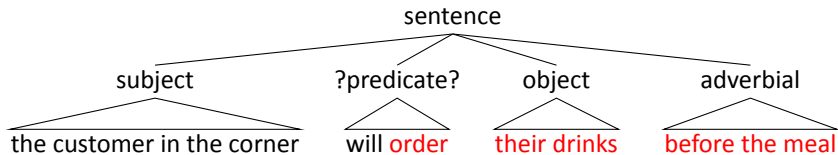
- (21) **The drinks**, the customer in the corner will order before the meal (but the dessert, they will order later).
- (22) **Order their drinks**, they will before the meal.



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

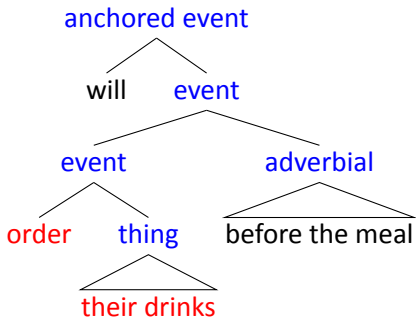


(23) Order their drinks before the meal, they will.



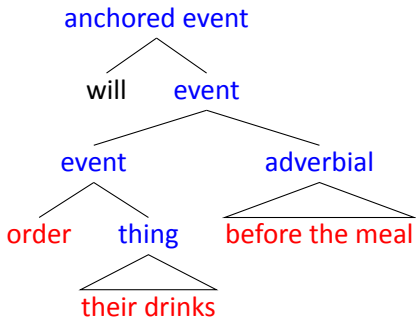
(24) **Order their drinks**, they will before the meal.

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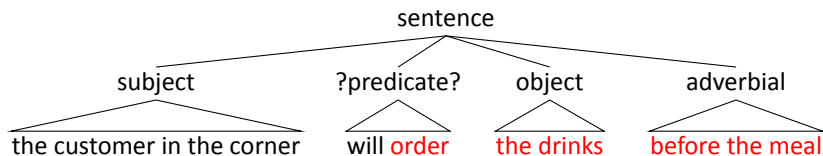


# ellipsis

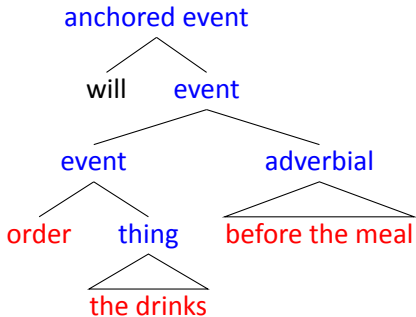
- (26) A: The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal.
- (27) B: Actually, I wouldn't be so sure that he will —.

# ellipsis

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





## Coordination

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

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

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- (31) a. The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal and accompany his guests into the dining room.
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- (30) The customer in the corner will order the dessert and the drinks before the meal.
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- b. The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal and accompany his guests into the dining room.
- c. The customer in the corner will order the drinks before the meal and accompany his guests into the dining room.
- d. The customer in the corner will [ order the drinks before the meal ] and accompany his guests into the dining room.

## Coordination

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

## Coordination

- (32)
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  - b. The customer will order the drinks before the meal and is waiting for the wine list.

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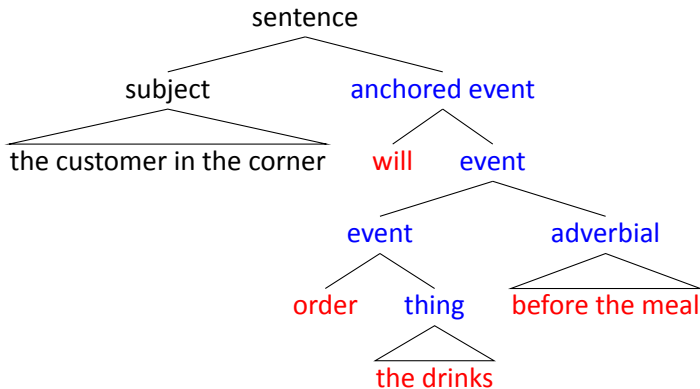


## Coordination

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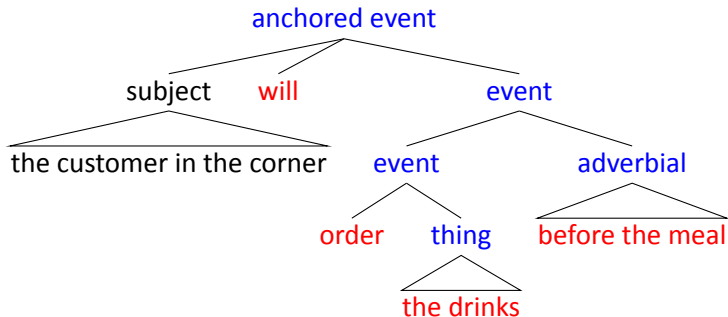
(33) The customer will order the drinks before the meal and is waiting for the wine list.

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



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

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Sentence structure

The predicate

Conclusions

# Constituency diagnostics

(35) Constituents can be

# Constituency diagnostics

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



# Constituency diagnostics

- (35) Constituents can be
- a. replaced by a pronoun
  - b. moved around

# Constituency diagnostics

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

# Constituency diagnostics

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

# Constituency diagnostics

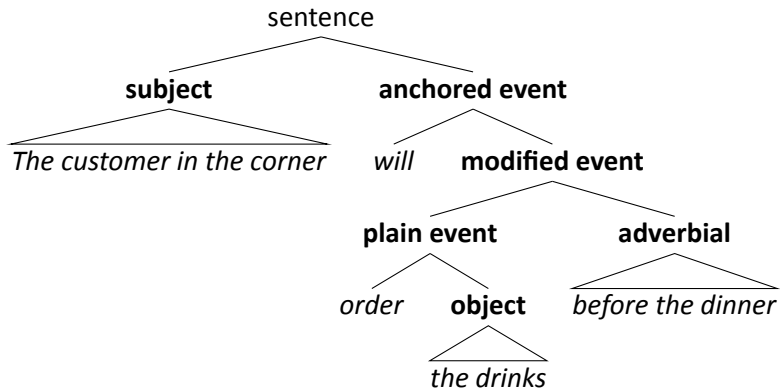
- (35) Constituents can be
- a. replaced by a pronoun
  - b. moved around
  - c. provided as an answer to a question
  - d. co-ordinated
  - e. elided

# Constituency diagnostics

- (35) Constituents can be
- a. replaced by a pronoun
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  - c. provided as an answer to a question
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# Sentence structure

(36)



## Binary branching (hypothesis)

(37) All branching in natural language is binary.

## Handle with care

- (38) Constituents can be
- replaced by a pronoun
  - moved around
  - provided as an answer to a question
  - co-ordinated
  - elided



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- (38) Constituents can be
- a. replaced by a pronoun
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- (39) I bought milk.

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- What did you buy?

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- a. replaced by a pronoun
  - b. moved around
  - c. provided as an answer to a question
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  - e. elided
- (41) a. I saw that movie. (demonstrative detrminer)

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- (40) Constituents can be
- replaced by a pronoun
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  - I saw that. (demonstrative pronoun)



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  - I saw that ~~m~~ovie. (noun ellipsis)

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- Juan está leyendo **la** revista. (definite detminer)  
Juan is reading the magazine

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- (42) Spanish
- Juan está leyendo **la** revista. (definite detminer)  
Juan is reading the magazine
  - Juan **la** está leyendo. (pronoun)  
Juan it is reading

# References