

Phrases and clauses

How can we use rules to generate a sentence?

What is a *phrase*?

What kinds of *clauses* are there?

What's wrong with *passive voice*?

Our list again

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| clauses | sentences | adverbials |
| subordinate | complex | nominalisation |
| embedded | compound | apposition |
| conjunctions | modality | |
| co-ordinating | modal verbs | |
| subordinating | elaborated tenses | |
| phrases | | |

The Sentence Generator

Sort of like a computer program for generating sentences
but on paper

Sentence Generator
This page is like a simple grammar that can generate English sentences. We will also need to roll a die (or a pair of dice) to generate random numbers. (Don't have one? Search for 'Virtual Die'.)

The phrase structure rules give options for how your sentence can turn out. Roll the die to choose a rule, or switch to the bottom and roll for a word when you need one. (Don't like numbers you get? - no cheating!)

Phrase structure rules:

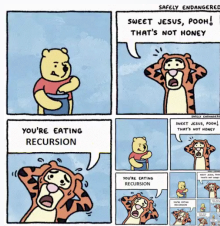
<input type="checkbox"/> through <input type="checkbox"/> S	S → NP VP	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> VP	VP → verb
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> NP	NP → det noun	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> VP	VP → verb NP
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<input type="checkbox"/> through <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> PP	PP → prep NP	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> AP	AP → adv adj

Lexicon

det	noun	verb	adj	adv	prep
<input type="checkbox"/> a	idea	drive	green	really	in
<input type="checkbox"/> an	table	runs	beautiful	quite	for
<input type="checkbox"/> the	city	knaps	useful	very	to
<input type="checkbox"/> some	cat	swims	amazing	usually	with
<input type="checkbox"/> this	person	walks	colorful	rather	near
<input type="checkbox"/> that	room	gives	big	extremely	beyond

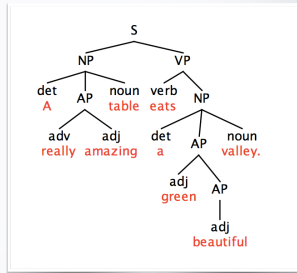
Recursion

A thing contains a copy of itself
or is defined in terms of itself.



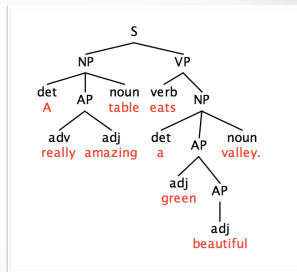
Phrases

Where are the phrases in
this sentence?



Clauses

This sentence is a clause.
It has everything the
sentence needs, and
nothing is left out.



Subjects and objects

How many participants do you need for a verb?

Depends on the verb

T	see	(seer, thing seen)	Bob saw the UFO.
I	smile	(smiler)	Joanne smiled.
D	give	(giver, gift, recipient)	John gave the pen to Mary.

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Are these clauses?

Daniel ✗

Daniel ate. ✓

An entire bowl of spaghetti. ✗

Ate an entire bowl of spaghetti. ✗

Daniel ate an entire bowl of spaghetti. ✓

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Clauses and sentences

A clause is a sentence all by itself

People left.

Everyone enjoyed the movie.

but some sentences can have more than one clause in them.

Join clauses with a *coordinating conjunction* to make a *compound sentence*

I put down my book **and** I fell asleep immediately.

Join them with a *subordinating conjunction* to make a *complex sentence*

We stayed in our seats **because** the credits hadn't finished.

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Conjunctions

Coordinating

F = for
A = and
N = nor
B = but
O = or
Y = yet
S = so

Subordinating

after	once	until
although	provided that	when
as	rather than	whenever
because	since	where
before	so that	whereas
even if	than	wherever
even though	that	whether
if	though	while
in order that	unless	why

Different structure

I studied linguistics **and** my wife studied medicine.
My wife studied medicine **and** I studied linguistics.

and is a coordinating conjunction



When the alarm rang, I got up.
I got up **when** the alarm rang.

when is a subordinating conjunction



Different kinds of clauses

An independent (or main) clause can stand by itself

I ate all the cupcakes...

A dependent (or subordinate or embedded) clause can't

...because I have no self-control.

Verbs

These verbs can be used all at the same time.

modal aux main

main verb

Daniel **marked** all the assignments.

auxiliary verb + main verb

Daniel **has marked** all the assignments.

modal verb + auxiliary verb + auxiliary verb + main verb

Daniel **should have been marking** all the assignments.

Tense and aspect

Make five sentences using these words. Try for a range of lengths.

Questions

When you put a verb in a sentence, does the form of the verb need to change? When, and to what?

Do you know the names for these forms of verbs? What about the names of these 'tenses'?

Subject	I	We
	It	She
	You	They
Modals	should	would
	might	must
	will	can
Perfective	have	-en
Continuous	be	-ing
Verb	eat	teach
	give	drive
	study	work

What are tenses?

Tense means *time*

and tells us when something happened.

Present tense

Daniel **eats** a lot of chocolate.

Past tense

Daniel **ate** a lot of chocolate.

Future

Daniel **will eat** a lot of chocolate.

(but notice how this is handled by a modal.)

Aside: why won't

Why is it **won't** and not **willn't**?

In early Modern English, there were two forms of 'will', including *will* and *woll*

Will became the positive form

but *woll* stuck for the negative
wollnot → *wonnot* → *won't*

E/I forms

welle, wele,
well, wel, wille,
wile, wel, **will**,
wil, wyll

O/U forms

wult, woo't,
wot, wut, wolle,
woll, wole

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Other verby things

Perfective aspect: *have*

Daniel **has eaten** squid.

present perfect

Continuous aspect: *-ing*

Daniel **is eating** chocolate.

present continuous

Combine them!

Daniel **has been eating** chocolate squid.

present perfect continuous



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What are these?

Daniel **was eating** chocolate squid.

past continuous

Daniel **had eaten** chocolate squid.

past perfect

Daniel **had been eating** chocolate squid.

past perfect continuous

Daniel **will have eaten** chocolate squid.

future perfect

Daniel **will have been eating** chocolate squid.

future perfect continuous



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Tense and aspect combos

go	present tense	past tense	future tense	conditional mood
\emptyset	simple present <i>I go.</i>	simple past <i>I went.</i>	simple future <i>I will go.</i>	simple conditional <i>I would go.</i>
continuous <i>-ing</i>	present continuous <i>I am going.</i>	past continuous <i>I was going.</i>	future continuous <i>I will be going.</i>	conditional continuous <i>I would be going.</i>
perfect have	present perfect <i>I have gone.</i>	past perfect (also pluperfect) <i>I had gone.</i>	future perfect <i>I will have gone.</i>	conditional perfect <i>I would have gone.</i>
perfect and continuous	present perfect continuous <i>I have been going.</i>	past perfect continuous <i>I had been going.</i>	future perfect continuous <i>I will have been going.</i>	conditional perfect continuous <i>I would have been going.</i>

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Passive voice

We can put a sentence in the regular way

A mysterious masked intruder stole the painting.

Or we can flip the participants

The painting was stolen by a mysterious masked intruder.

Notice two things that we need:

1. some form of the verb *be*
2. a past participle: **stolen**

but note some exceptions: The painting **got** stolen.

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What's wrong with passive voice?

Many people think that passive voice is an attempt to divert responsibility away from the speaker.

Mistakes were made.

But other times we use it when the doer isn't very important.

Aunt Alexandra was bitten by a snake.

It's okay to use passive voice sometimes, as long as you're not being a weasel about it.

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What have we done?

- Looked at some do's and don'ts of writing
- Gained familiarity with language terms
- Examined the concept of grammar
- Learned how to find answers to language questions

Resources about language

Blogs

- All Things Linguistic allthingslinguistic.com
- Superlinguo superlinguo.com
- Language Log languagelog.idc.upenn.edu/nll/
- Grammar Girl quickanddirtytips.com/grammar-girl/

Podcasts

- Talk the Talk talkthetalkpodcast.com
- Speakeasy: ABC Perth danielmidgley.com/speakeasy/
- Lingthusiasm lingthusiasm.com
- Vocal Fries vocalfriespod.fireside.fm

Websites

- Online Etymological Dictionary etymonline.com
- Linguist List linguistlist.org
- Free linguistics lectures from MIT ocw.mit.edu/courses/find-by-topic/



Outcomes for Session 3

- Given a grammar with *phrase structure rules* and a *lexicon*, generate a sentence
- Explain what a *clause* is, and recognise different types
- Explain what a *phrase* is
- Name the various tenses in the verb system of English
- Identify *passive voice*

Thank you!

And questions.
