

LING2005 Syntax I

Tutorial: X-bar Theory I

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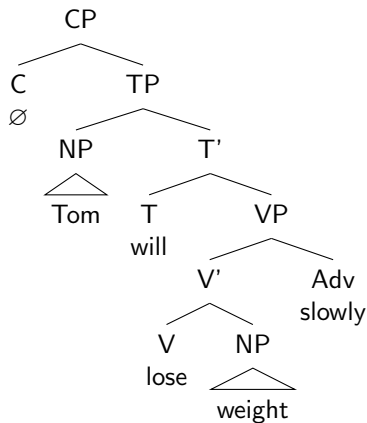


- Specifier Rule: $XP \rightarrow (WP) X'$
- Adjunct Rule: $XP \rightarrow (YP) XP$ or $XP (YP)$
- Complement Rule: $X' \rightarrow X (ZP)$
- Advice for Tree Drawing
 - Check if the expansion of each node in the tree strictly follows the three X' syntax rule.
 - Check if the element is attached to the tree using the right rule. For example, if the phrase is a complement, it should be attached to the tree using the complement rule but not a specifier rule or an adjunct rule.
- Note: the linear order above is language-specific, i.e., works for English

Question 1



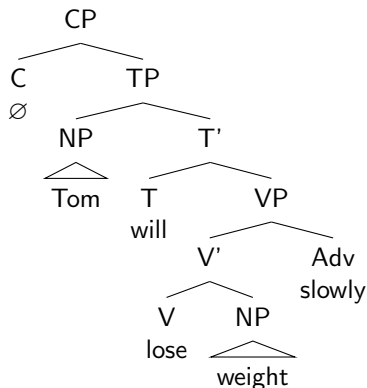
- A student proposed the following X-bar tree structures. Do they conform to X-bar rules? If not, how would you revise the trees?



Question 1



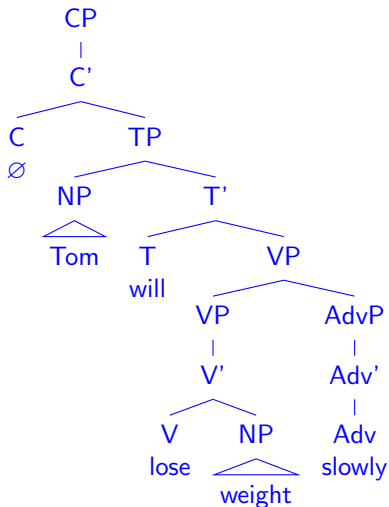
- $CP \rightarrow C TP$ does not conform to any of the X' rules.
- $VP \rightarrow V'$ Adv does not conform to any of the X' rules.
- Adv is a head and is an adjunct. It has to be expanded into a phrase first and then attached to the tree via the adjunct rule.



Question 1



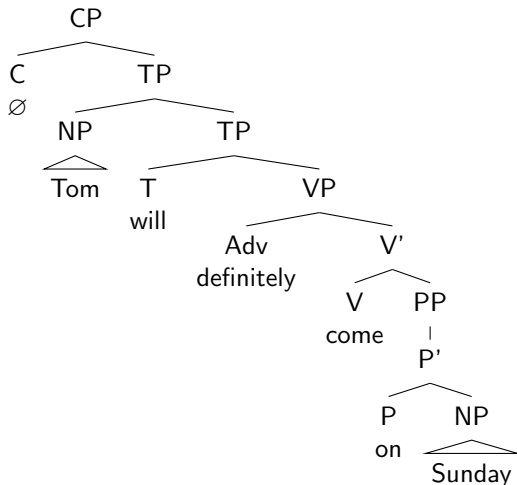
- Revised tree



Question 1



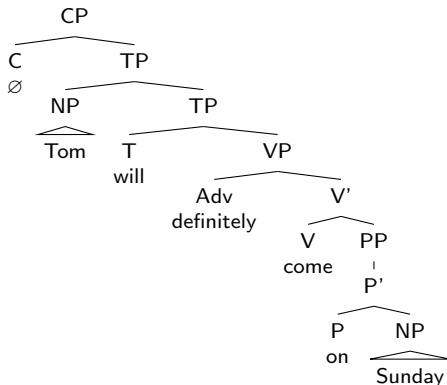
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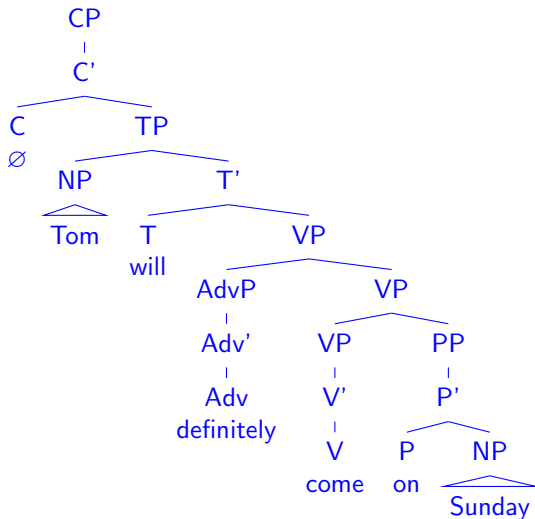
- $CP \rightarrow C TP$ does not conform to any of the X' rules
- $TP \rightarrow NP TP$ is an adjunct rule. But NP is a subject, not an adjunct.
- Adv is a head and is an adjunct. It has to be expanded into a phrase first and then attached to the tree via the adjunct rule.
- “on Sunday” is an adjunct and should be attached to the tree via the adjunct rule. But the PP is now a complement in the structure.



Question 1

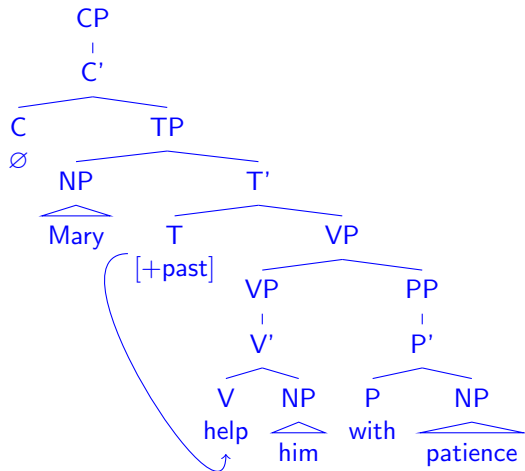


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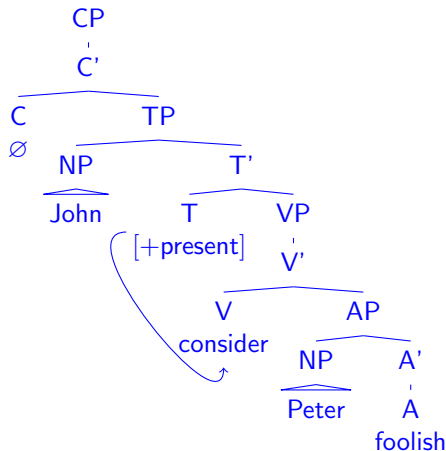




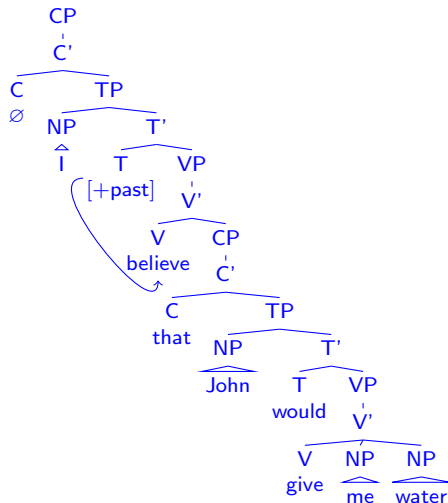
- Draw the following sentences using the three X-bar rules. Note that it is important to decide whether a phrase should be treated as a subject, an adjunct or a complement in the structure.
- ① Mary helped him with patience.
 - Assume that “with patience” is a VP adjunct.
- ② John considers Peter foolish.
- ③ I believed that John would give me water.



- Note that the PP is attached to the VP as an adjunct. We can verify this by applying constituency test. For example, "Help the old man with patience, Mary (really) did."



- As discussed in the lecture, one way to analyze the structure is to say that V selects an AP as a complement.
- "Peter foolish" is analyzed as a small clause. The NP "Peter" is attached to the tree via the specifier rule.



- Almost all X' structures involve binary branching. The only exceptions are ditransitive verbs and coordination. Ditransitive verbs like "give" and "put" which take 2 complements.



- No tutorial next week
- Please scan the QR code and complete the attendance form
- Let us know if you notice any problem related to the grading of your assignment or midterm