

15.1

Overview of constructions in English

S = A clause made up of NP VP Minimally: "I see"

However, consider: "Stop that man!"

Head of S = verb (phrase)

-- **Verb** => **the main function** which comprises the clause

(It gives the bare relationship that the clause expresses.)

-- **NP (and other things)** => **arguments** for the function

(These are the items which have the relationship.)

-- **Prep** => **optional function** which adds another argument

(It allows us to add extra items and relationships.)

-- **Modifiers**

(We can specify additional aspects of functions and arguments.)

<u>Types of Verbs:</u>	<u>Arguments</u>	<u>PS-rule</u>
Transitive:	Two NP's	VP -> V[trans] NP...
E.g. <i>Fred saw the dog</i>		
Intransitive:	One NP	VP -> V[intrans] ...
E.g. <i>Fred looked.</i>		
Linking:	Two NP's	
E.g. <i>Murrey is the one</i>		<u>or</u>
	One NP & one AP	
E.g.		<u>or</u>

Ditransitive: Three NP's

E.g.

Sentential:

E.g. *I knew he left for the weekend.*

"PUT"

"WANT"

NP arguments:

- Regular NP's:

The really big guy in the park ...

Rita ...

NP -> (Det) (AP*) N (PP)

- Pronouns:

She ...

NP -> Pron

- Gerunds:

Singing is hard.

Raising horses costs a lot of money.

I love raising horses.

Putting the ball in the hole is uncommon for me.

Being tall isn't much fun.

(Not Participles)

(Pounding headaches...)

c.f.

(Flying planes killed him.)

- Infinitival Phrases

To raise horses costs a lot of money.

I love to raise horses.

To put the ball in the hole takes skill.

- Clauses

That Rita stopped at the store is obvious.

Modifiers in NP (loosely: adjectival modifiers)

Before the noun:

NP -> (Det) (Q) (AP*) N (PP)

- Det's. Numbers, AP's

The very tall guy...

- Bare Participles

The working guy...

After the noun:

NP -> (Det) (AP*) N (PP)

- PP's

The guy in the house...

- Participial phrases

The guy running the machine...

- Relative Clauses

The guy who ran the machine...

- Appositives

The guy, my friend...

(an appositive can have a relative clause inside it:

The guy, my friend who ran the machine...