RAITH ZEHER ABID

- Sentence construction in English involves organizing words into a coherent structure to convey meaning. This is done through the use of hierarchies and a central nucleus.
- Hierarchies:
- At the most basic level, sentences consist of words. These words are grouped into different categories based on their function in the sentence. The hierarchy typically looks like this:
- Words: These are the smallest units of meaning. They can be nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, etc.
- Phrases: These are groups of words that function as a single unit within a sentence. They can be noun phrases, verb phrases, prepositional phrases, etc. For example, "the big brown dog" is a noun phrase.

- Clauses: These are groups of words that contain a subject and a predicate (verb). They can be independent (can stand alone as a sentence) or dependent (cannot stand alone). For example, "He runs fast" is an independent clause, while "because he runs fast" is a dependent clause.
- Sentences: These are complete units of thought that can stand alone and express a complete idea.

• Specifiers:-

Category	Typical function	Examples
Articles (Art)	Specifier of N	The, a, this, those
Qualifier (Qual)	Specifier of V	Never, perhaps, often, always
Degree word (Deg)	Specifier of A or P	Very, quite, more, almost

- Complements:-
- Complement options for verbs:-

Complement options	Sample heads	Example	
	vanish, arrive, die	The rabbit vanished.	
NP	devour, cut, prove	The professor proved [the theorem].	
AP	be, become	The man became [very angry].	
PP <sub>for</sub>	dash, talk, refer	The dog dashed [for the door].	
NP NP	spare, hand, give	We handed [the man] [a map].	
NP PP <sub>to</sub>	hand, give, send	He gave [a diploma] [to the student].	
NP PP <sub>for</sub>	buy, cook, reserve	We bought [a hat] [for Andy].	
NP PP (location)	put, place, stand	We placed [the dish] [on the table].	
PPto PPabout	talk, speak	I talked [to the doctor] [about Andy]	
NP PP <sub>for</sub> PP <sub>with</sub>	open, fix	We opened [the door] [for Andy] [with a crowbar]	

#### Complement options for nouns:-

Complement options	Sample heads	Example	
	Car, boy, electricity,	The car	
PPof	Memory, failure, death	The memory [of a friend]	
PPofPPto	Presentation, description, donation	The presentation [of a medal] [to the winner]	
PPwith PPabout	Argument, discussion, conversation	An argument [with Andy] [about politics]	

#### Complement options for adjectives:-

Complement options	Sample heads	Example
	tall, green, smart	Very tall
PPabout	curious, glad, angry	Curious [about china]
PPto	apparent, obvious	Obvious [to the student]
PPof	fond, full, tired	Fond [of chocolate]

#### • Complement options for preposition:-

Complement options	Sample heads	Example	
	near, away, down	He got down	
NP	in, on, by, near	In [the house]	
PP	down, up, out	Down [into the cellar]	

#### • Nucleus:

- Within a sentence, there is usually a central nucleus that carries the main message or idea. This is often the main clause in a complex sentence or the main phrase in a simpler one.
- For example, in the sentence "The cat (subject) chased (verb) the mouse (object)", the nucleus is "chased", as it conveys the main action of the sentence.
- In a more complex sentence like "Although it was raining, he went for a run", the nucleus of the sentence is "he went for a run". The subordinate clause "Although it was raining" provides additional information but is not the main message.

#### • Important Abbreviations:-

The Full Term	Abbreviation	The Full Term	Abbreviation
Noun	Ν	Nucleus	Nuc
Verb	V	Sentence Modifier	SM
Adjectives	Adj	Auxiliary	Aux
Adverbs	Adv	Phrase	Р
Prepositions	Р	Main Verb	MV
Sentence	S	Plural	PL

- All rules in transformational grammar are numbered **p1**, **p2**, **p3**...etc.
- The *p* stands for phrase structure.
- P1: S→ (SM) Nuc
- P2: Nuc  $\rightarrow$  NP+VP
- P7: NP $\rightarrow$ (Det) N (PL)

#### • Examples on P1 and P2:

- Certainly, I know the answer.
- The fireman fought the fire.
- Apparently, Tom is sick.
- Unfortunately, the fish died.

#### • Examples on P7:

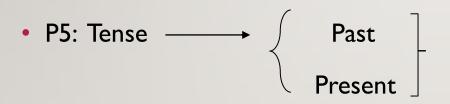
- Those cars look expensive.
- The ducks are noisy.
- Certainly, those sheep run fast.

P3:VP → Aux+MV (Manner) (Place) (Time) (Reason)

#### • Examples:

- Ali drove carefully in town today because of the ice.
- She sang beautifully because of her father.
- He leaves tomorrow because of work.

• P4: Aux → Tense



- Examples:-
- The woman sings beautifully. (present+ sing)
- They were at home

(past+are)

• P6: 
$$MV \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} MP \\ be \\ AP \\ V \\ (NP) \end{pmatrix}$$

- This book is a text.
- This book is in the room.
- This book is great.
- This book received a discount.

- P8: AP → (intens) Adj
- Examples:
  - Very happy
  - Extremely hot
  - Incredibly good
- In syntax, a "node" refers to a point in a tree structure that represents a linguistic unit, such as a word, a phrase, or a clause.

. .

#### • Let us practice:-

- She ran rapidly.
- John is an artist.
- John was devastated.
- Ahmad is happy.

#### • Homework:-

Draw trees of the following sentences:

- 1. The boy ate a hamburger greedily.
- 2. Bobby is quite intelligent.
- 3. Of course, the car is in the garage.
- 4. Naturally those ducks sat there for an hour.
- 5. No, those women planted the garden yesterday.