

Syntax II

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College of Staten Island

Midterm Review


I: Phonetics & Phonology

1. What is the difference between [ɹ] and [ɹ̥]?

- [ɹ] is syllabic and [ɹ̥] is not.
- [ɹ̥] is syllabic and [ɹ] is not.
- [ɹ] does not appear in English, but [ɹ̥] does.
- [ɹ̥] is only used in loanwords.

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2. How many syllables are there in [ʃʌvɫ̩]?

- 
- one
 - two
 - three
 - not enough information to tell


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3. Given the words sheep [ʃip] and cheap [tʃip], we can tell that:

- [tʃ] and [ʃ] are in contrastive distribution, and are thus allophones of different phonemes.
- [tʃ] and [ʃ] are in complementary distribution, and are thus allophones of the same phonemes.
- [tʃ] and [ʃ] are in free variation.
- [ip] is a morpheme.

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4. Which of the following is a minimal pair for [s] and [z]?

- 
- stew [stu] and zoo [zu]
 - face [feɪs] and phase [feɪz]
 - sue [su] and ooze [uz]
 - mods [madz] and moss [mas]

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5. Which of the following words contains a diphthong? (Hint: Putting them into IPA will help make it clearer.)

- 
- graze
 - grapple
 - grip
 - grumpy

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6. Which of the following is false?

- A syllabic consonant will always be in the nucleus of a syllable.
- A vowel will always be in the nucleus of a syllable.
- A syllabic consonant never appears in the nucleus of a syllable.
- Every syllable has a nucleus.

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7. Give a minimal pair for [p] and [b]. Write your answer in both normal English orthography and IPA.

peach [pitʃ] ; beach [bitʃ]

pay [peɪ] and bay [beɪ]

/pɪg/ , /bɪg/ (pig, big)

plunder [plʌndə] blunder [blʌndə]

Pet & Bet [pet] & [bet]

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8. Give a word that starts with a voiceless labiodental fricative and contains a high front lax unrounded vowel. Write your answer in both normal English orthography and IPA.

Fist [fɪst]

flip [flɪp]

figure [fɪgjə]

fit [fɪt]

fin [fɪn]

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9. Give a minimal pair for [aɪ] and [eɪ]. Write your answer in both normal English orthography and IPA.

lice [laɪs] ; lace [leɪs]

say [seɪ] and sigh [saɪ]

ride [ɹaɪd] , rate [ɹeɪt]

Time[taɪm] Tame [teɪm]

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10. Give a word that contains the high back rounded tense vowel in its second syllable. Write your answer in both normal English orthography and IPA.

accuse /əkjuːz/

Shampoo [ʃæmpuː]

bamboo [bæmbuː]


igloo [ɪɡluː]

rainboot [reɪnbuːt]

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II: Morphology

11. The word "milkshake" is formed through:

- 
- Affixation
 - Compounding
 - Alternation
 - Suppletion


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12. Which of the following is false?

- 
- suppletion is only used for derivation, never inflection
 - affixation may be used for derivation as well as inflection
 - inflection does not result in the creation of a new lexical entry
 - derivation results in the creation of a new lexical entry

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13. Which of the following word pairs shows the morphological process of alternation?

- 
- tooth → teeth
 - go → went
 - hat → hats
 - hazy → hazardous

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14. How many morphemes are there in the word “toasters,” and what are they? If there are any affixes, write whether they are inflectional or derivational.

three: toast 'a bread that is cooked to harden a little' + -er 'derivational' makes the word change from a verb to a noun' + -s 'inflectional' 'makes the word stay as a noun but turns it plural'.

3; toast -er (Derivational) -s (Inflectional).

3, (toast)(er) (s), 2 affixes ER derivational and S inflectional

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15. How many morphemes are there in the word “log cabins”, and what are they? If there are any affixes, write whether they are inflectional or derivational.

3 morphemes log-cabin-s. (The 's' in 'log cabins' is an inflectional morpheme; it only adds to indicate the state of being plural but does not change the meaning.)

3; log+cabin+-s; the -s is inflectional

three morphemes: log + cabin + s -s affix is inflectional

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16. How many morphemes are there in the word “southernmost,” and what are they? If there are any affixes, write whether they are inflectional or derivational.

3, (south) (ern) (most), one affix ERN derivational

3 Morphemes. "Ern" being the derivational affix

Why did so many of you put *-ern* as inflectional?

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Lexical entry: Teachers

17. Form (in IPA): [tɪtʃəz] tɪtʃəɪz tɪtʃɪz

18. Meaning (in your own words):

People who stand in front of the classroom to educate students

A group of people who usually instruct academic material in a classroom setting

19. Lexical category: noun

20. How many morphemes are there in "teachers," and what are they? Include a quick explanation of what each morpheme means or does.

Three morphemes. teach, -er and -s. -er is a suffix denoting a person that performs a specific action, in this case the action is teaching. -s is a suffix to show plurality.

Syntactic Properties



1. John ate a sandwich.
2. *John a sandwich ate.

- Why is sentence 1 grammatical, and sentence 2 ungrammatical?
- Sentence 2 violates the syntactic properties of the expressions within it. Remember, an **expression** is a word or phrase
- Two kinds of syntactic properties: one concerns **word order**, the other concerns **co-occurrence**.

Word Order

*Sally an apple ate.

*Ate Sally an apple.

*Ate an apple Sally.

Sally ate an apple.

Word Order

*Sally an apple ate.

*Ate Sally an apple.

*Ate an apple Sally.

Sally ate an apple.

Remember:

the **subject** “does” the verb

the **object** has the verb “done” to them

*Sally an apple ate.

The diagram shows the sentence '*Sally an apple ate.' with three brackets underneath. The first bracket is under 'Sally' and labeled 'SUBJECT'. The second bracket is under 'an apple' and labeled 'OBJECT'. The third bracket is under 'ate.' and labeled 'VERB'.

SUBJECT OBJECT VERB = SOV
SOV is **ungrammatical** in English.

Word Order

*Sally an apple ate.

*Ate Sally an apple.

*Ate an apple Sally.

Sally ate an apple.

*Ate Sally an apple.

The diagram shows the sentence '*Ate Sally an apple.' with three brackets underneath. The first bracket is under 'Ate' and labeled 'VERB'. The second bracket is under 'Sally' and labeled 'SUBJECT'. The third bracket is under 'an apple.' and labeled 'OBJECT'.

VERB SUBJECT OBJECT = VSO

VSO is **ungrammatical** in English.

Word Order

*Sally an apple ate.

*Ate Sally an apple.

*Ate an apple Sally.

Sally ate an apple.

*Ate an apple Sally.

VERB OBJECT SUBJECT

VERB OBJECT SUBJECT = VOS
VOS is **ungrammatical** in English.

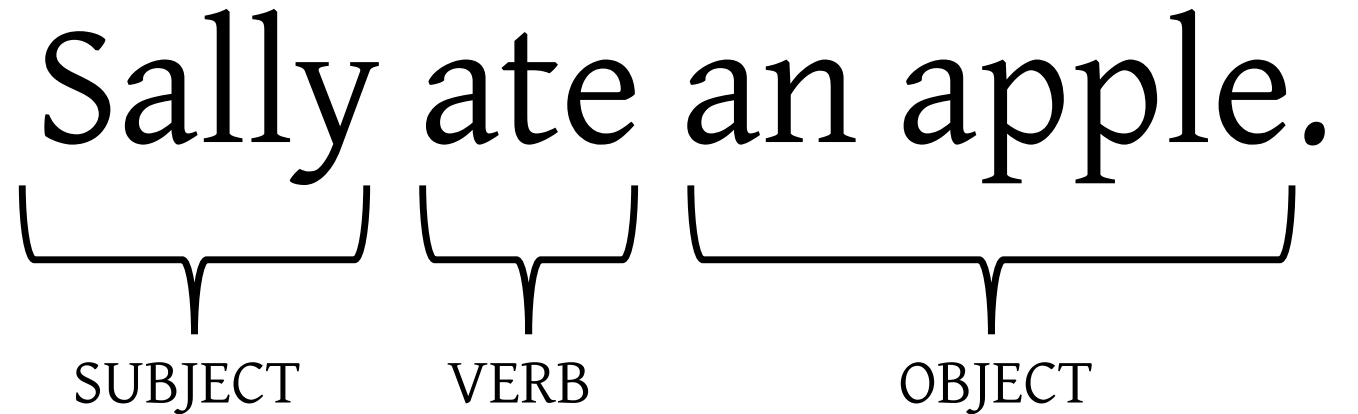
Word Order

*Sally an apple ate.

*Ate Sally an apple.

*Ate an apple Sally.

Sally ate an apple.



SUBJECT VERB OBJECT = SVO
SVO is grammatical in English.

Word Order

*Sally an apple ate. → SOV

*Ate Sally an apple. → VSO

*Ate an apple Sally. → VOS

Sally ate an apple. → SVO

44% of languages are SOV.

19% are VSO.

Other patterns are really rare.

English has an SVO word order,
like 35% of the world's languages.

Word Order

Word-order labels, like SVO, can be misleading. There are contexts where word order changes.

- Is Sally a student? (VSO)
- Oh, **apples**, I like. It's pears that I can't stand. (OVS)

And some languages have totally flexible word order, including Russian and Serbo-Croatian.

Practice!

Identify the subject, verb, and object in the following sentences:

- Bees make honey.
- The cat nibbles cheese.
- I pet the very fluffy dog.
- My wife and I watch *Seinfeld*.
- They closed the door.
- You want a muffin.
- This fresh bread burns my hands.



Word Order

- There are words that are not subjects, objects, or verbs, and their order matters, too.

John ate the sandwich.

*John ate sandwich the.



The determiner 'the' must precede a noun.

Sally finally met with that bird.

*Sally finally met that bird with.



The preposition 'with' cannot follow the expression it refers to.

Word Order

- Word order is a syntactic property.
- There are all kinds of restrictions on word order.
- Different languages have different rules for word order.

Practice!

Why are the following sentences ungrammatical? Be specific.

- *Bees honey make.
- *Cat the nibbles cheese.
- *The very fluffy dog I pet.
- *Watch *Seinfeld* my wife and I.
- *Closed they the door.
- *He a muffin wants.
- *This bread fresh my hands burns.



Co-Occurrence

- There's another syntactic property: **co-occurrence**.

Sally devoured an apple.
*Sally devoured.

Devoured requires the co-occurrence of an object noun phrase (NP).

Sally ate an apple.
Sally ate.

Ate does not require the co-occurrence of an object NP.

He plays soccer.
*Plays soccer.

Plays (like all English verbs) needs a subject.

Lui gioca a calcio.	'He plays soccer.'
Gioca a calcio.	'S/he plays soccer.'

In Italian, verbs don't need an overt subject.

Co-Occurrence

- In English, all verbs require the co-occurrence of a subject.

I walked.

*Walked.

Sally runs.

*Runs.

Elephants are big.

*Are big.

Toast tastes good.

*Tastes good.

- Some verbs also require the co-occurrence of an object.

I bought clothes.

*I bought.

He closed the window.

*He closed.

She founded a company.

*She founded.

Practice!

Why are the following sentences ungrammatical? Be specific.

- *John carved.
- *Sally devoured.
- *Carved the turkey.
- *Devoured an apple.
- *The chef roasted.
- *Roasted some potatoes.



Co-Occurrence>Arguments

- If the occurrence of an expression (X) necessitates the occurrence of another expression (Y), we say that Y is an **argument** of X.

Sally devoured an apple.

Y X Y



Remember: 'devoured' requires an object noun phrase

Remember: verbs in English require a subject noun phrase

'an apple' is an argument of 'devoured'

non-subject arguments are a.k.a. **complements**,
so 'an apple' is a complement of 'devoured'

'Sally' is an argument of 'devoured'

Practice!

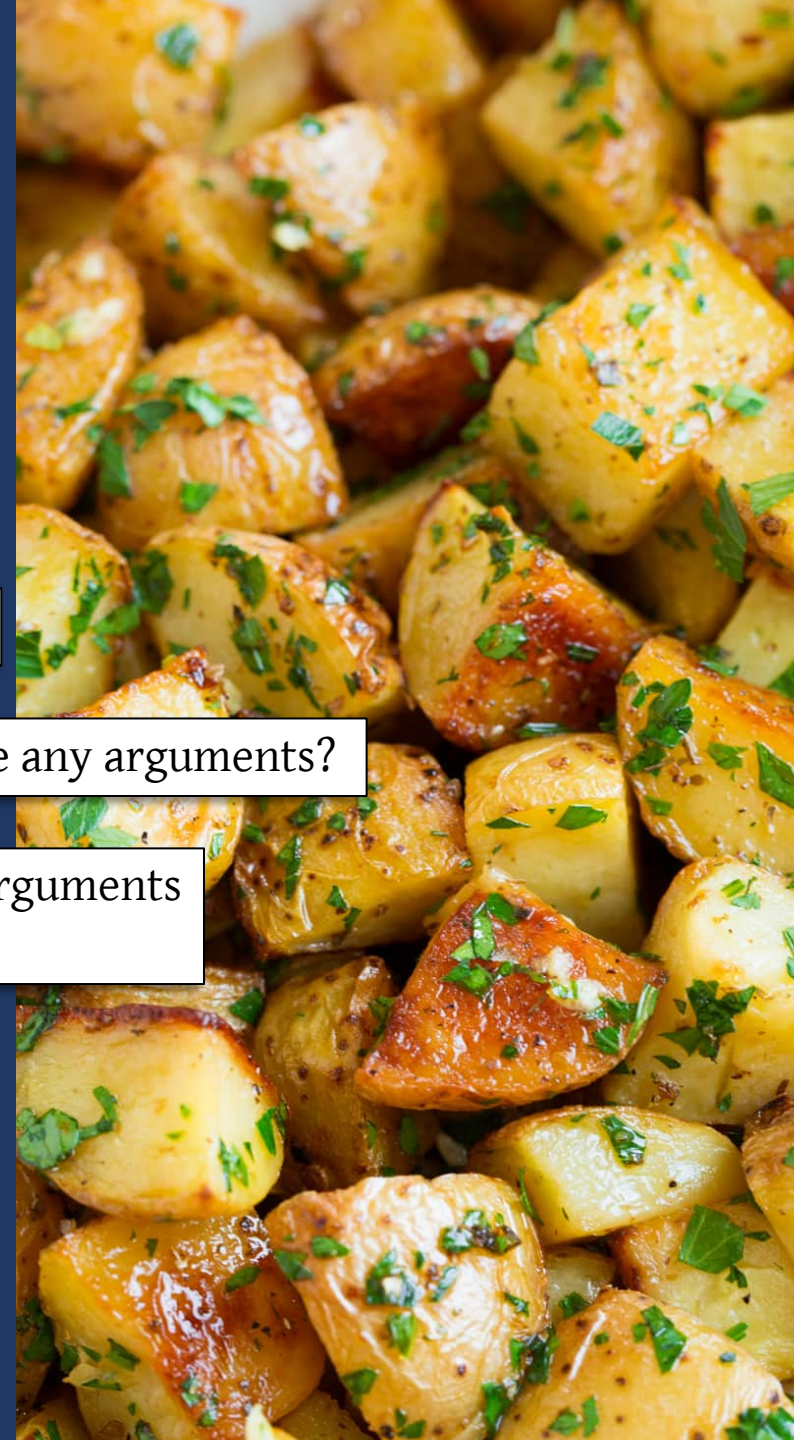
In the following sentences, identify the arguments and complements of the verbs, where applicable.

- John carved the juicy turkey.
- Sally devoured an apple.
- Charlotte runs.
- The chef roasted some potatoes.
- My cat purrs.
- This band rules.

1. Identify the verb.

2. Does the verb have any arguments?

3. Are any of those arguments also complements?



Co-Occurrence>Arguments

- Not all arguments are noun phrases. Compare *wondered* and *devoured*.

*Sally wondered an apple.

Sally wondered about Bob.

In these sentences, complements are underlined.

Remember, complements are non-subject arguments.

Sally devoured an apple.

*Sally devoured about Bob.

Wondered wants a complement like 'about Bob,' but **not** a noun-phrase complement.
Devoured wants a noun-phrase complement, but **not** a complement like 'about Bob.'



Practice!

In the following sentences, are the complements noun phrases, or something else?

- I said “I love potatoes.”
- The chef roasted these potatoes.
- He salted them.
- Cris wonders where the potatoes are.
- Mary asked when I’d stop talking about potatoes.
- John hopes this is enough.
- I had a delicious lunch.



Co-Occurrence>Arguments

Some expressions want two complements.

Sally put the book on the desk.

*Sally put the book.

Why are these
ungrammatical?

*Sally put on the desk.

Tom gave the chickens some food.

*Tom gave the chickens.

Why are these
ungrammatical?

*Tom gave some food.

How many arguments are there of *put*?
What are they?

How many arguments are there of *give*?
What are they?

Remember: all complements are arguments,
but not all arguments are complements.

What are arguments?

What are complements?

Co-Occurrence>Arguments

So far, we've only talked about verbs having arguments. But other kinds of expressions can have arguments, too.

I am fond of parties.

*I am fond.

Fond requires 'of' + a noun phrase.

Of parties is an argument of *fond*.

Bob invited Polly and Sally to the party.

*Bob invited Polly and to the party.

*Bob invited and Sally to the party.

Polly and Sally are both arguments of *and*.

Sally came to the party with Bob.

*Sally came to the party with.

Bob is an argument of *with*.

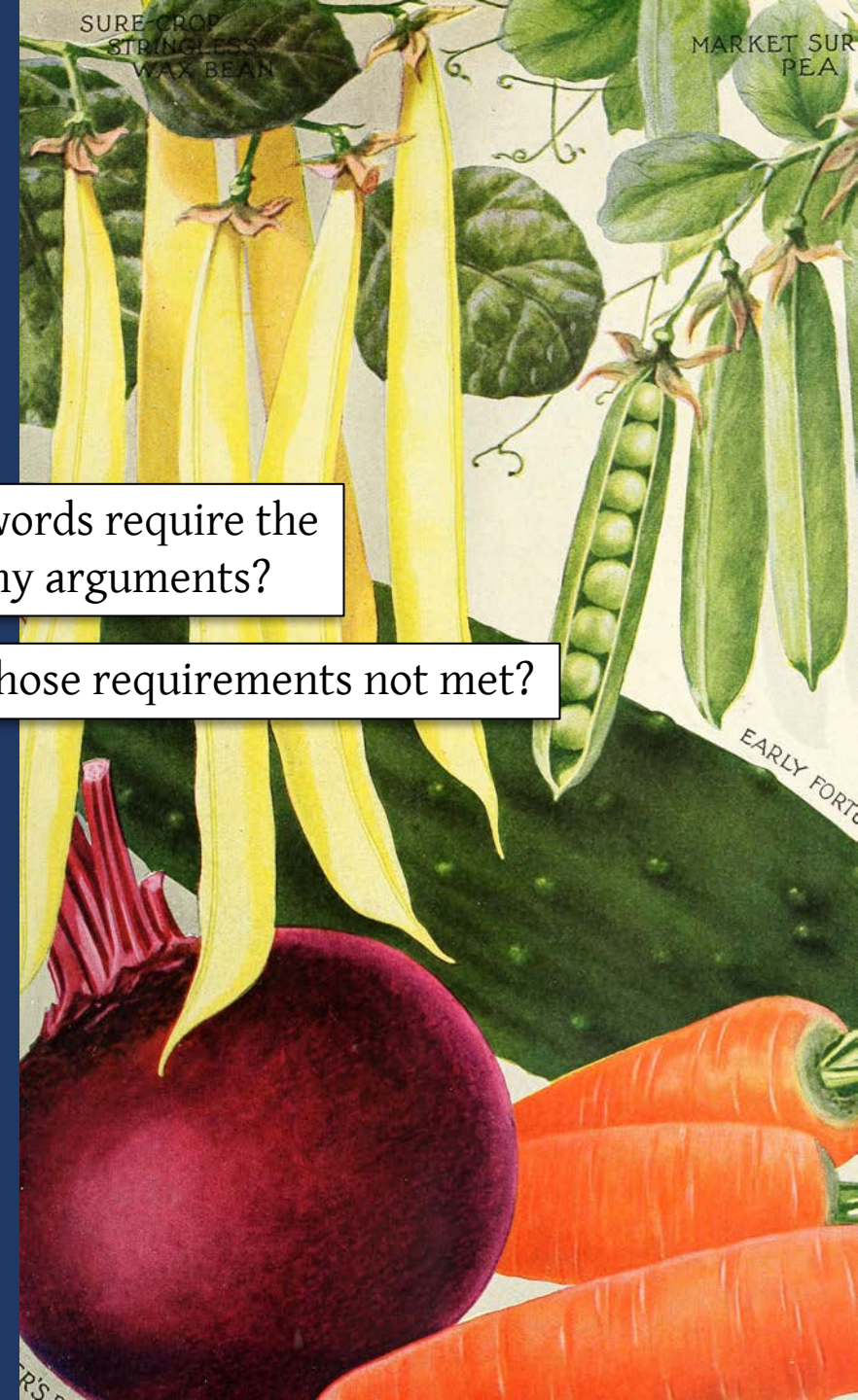
Practice!

Why are the following sentences ungrammatical?

- *I saw the.
- *Dogs and make really nice pets.
- *You put something on top of.
- *There's a lot of water in.
- *A might be very tall.
- *I eat stringbeans and.
- *The book is inside of.
- *Mark feels really fond.

1. Do any of these words require the co-occurrence of any arguments?

2. If so, are any of those requirements not met?



Co-Occurrence > Adjuncts

In addition to arguments, which are obligatory, there are **adjuncts**, which are **optional**.

- *Juan likes.
- Juan likes dogs. *Dogs is an argument of likes.*
- Juan likes small dogs.
- Juan likes small fluffy dogs.
- Juan likes small fluffy brown dogs.



Practice!

Add an adjunct to the following sentences.

- I saw a castle.
- Dogs and parakeets make nice pets.
- The Mississippi river is long.
- I ate.
- Rebecca types.
- Stephen King writes.
- You sing.
- Pam is talking about the governor.



Practice!

Identify the adjuncts and complements in the following sentences.

- Sally devoured the delicious apple.
- John hopes he wins the race.
- I ate onions.
- The chef roasted the potatoes last night.

Remember, complements are non-subject arguments.

And adjuncts are optional.



Co-Occurrence > Agreement

- In English, subjects and verbs must **agree** in terms of number and person. Agreement is usually shown by the absence or presence of the inflectional affix -s.

I like cupcakes.

Person: 1st
Number: singular

We like cupcakes.

Person: 1st
Number: plural

He likeses cupcakes.

Person: 3rd
Number: singular

They like cupcakes.

Person: 3rd
Number: plural

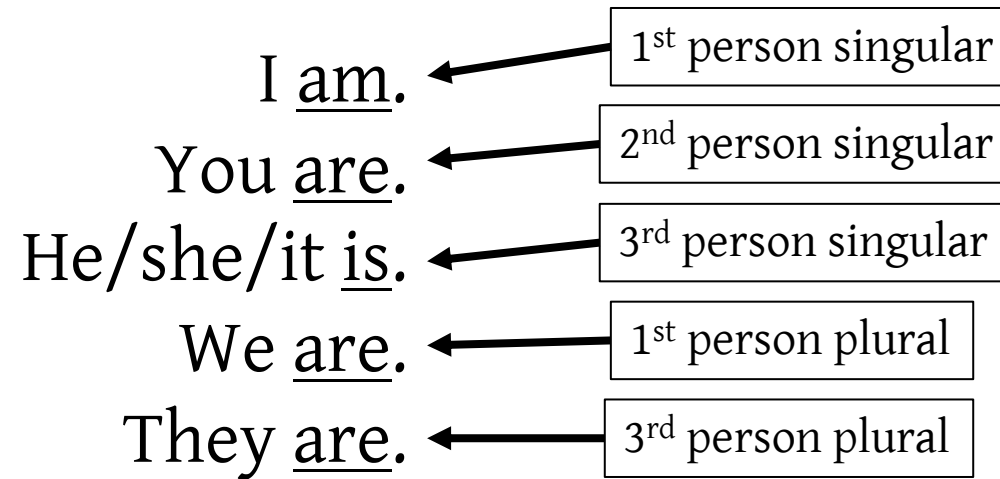
*I likes cupcakes.

*He like cupcakes.

These are ungrammatical because they violate the agreement rules for these expressions.

Co-Occurrence>Agreement

The English verb 'to be' has the most complex agreement in English.



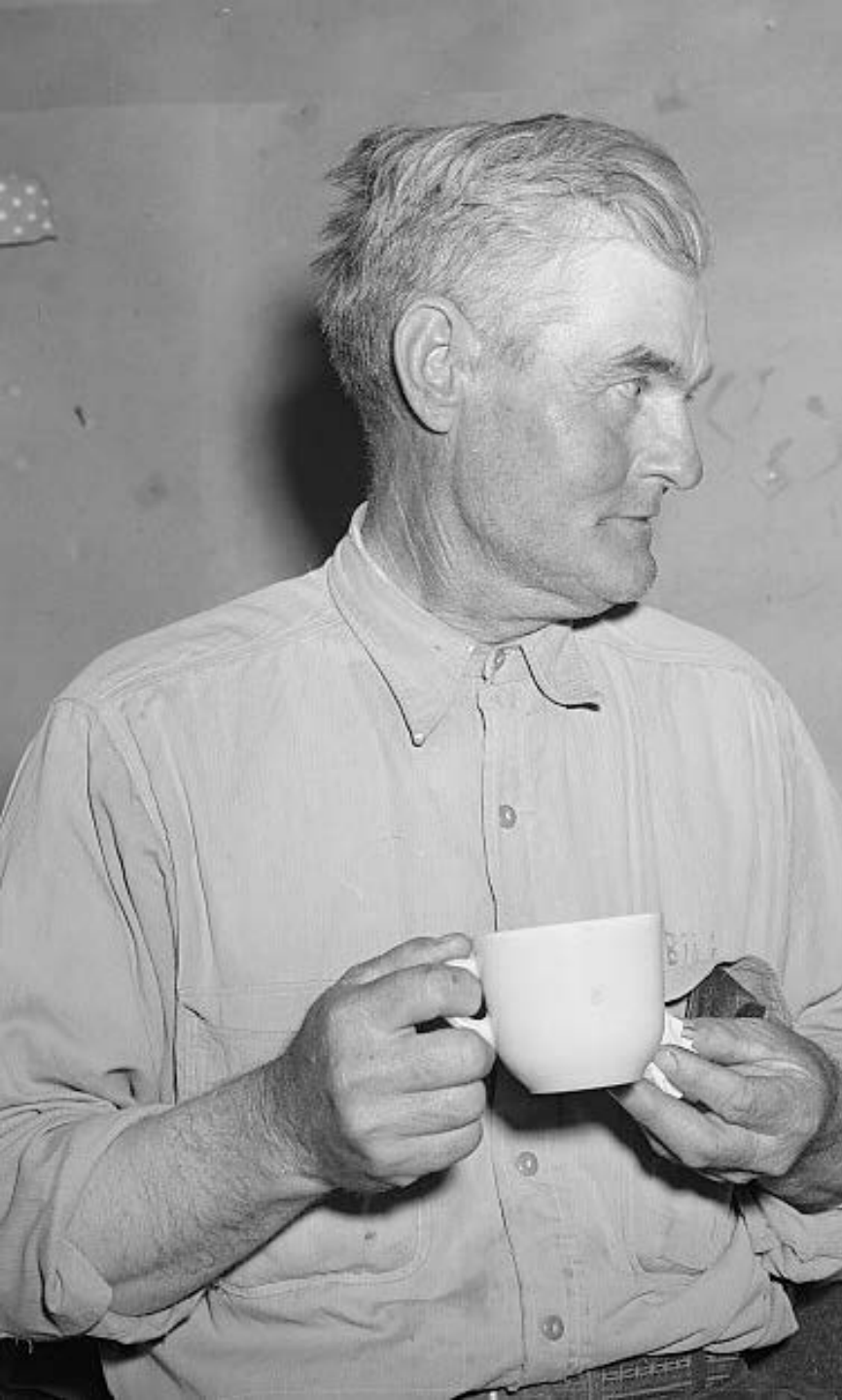
Co-Occurrence>Agreement

- Agreement in other languages is far more complex.

Italian

giocare 'to play'

Io gioco	1 st person singular
Tu giochi	2 nd person singular
Lui/lei gioca	3 rd person singular
Noi giochiamo	1 st person plural
Voi giocate	2 nd person plural
Loro giocano	3 rd person plural



Practice!

Why are the following sentences ungrammatical?

- *I drinks hot coffee.
- *My brother drive a big car.
- *The dogs all eats together.
- *The mayor are doing a good job.
- *I sure hopes so.

Practice!

Now, let's bring it all together. Why are the following sentences ungrammatical?

- *Sally the apple devours.
- *Devours the apple.
- *Sally devours.
- *Sally devour the apple.
- *I put the book.
- *I put on the bookshelf.
- *Put I the book on the bookshelf.
- *I put the on the bookshelf.



Recap

- Syntactic properties include rules for word order and co-occurrence.
- Word order is often described in terms of subject, verb, and object. English has SVO word order.
- Word order rules differ from language to language.
- Some expressions (X) demand the presence of other expressions (Y). Y is an argument of X. If Y is not a subject, then it is also a complement of X.
- Adjuncts are like arguments, but are optional.
- Co-occurring expressions must agree.

Sally devoured an apple.
Y X Y

The big beautiful tasty sandwich.

John eats a sandwich.
*John eat a sandwich.

I eat a sandwich.
*I eats a sandwich.

For next class...

- Quiz 4 to be shared tomorrow! It will be due by 6:30pm on 21 April.
- Read pp.217–227 in the text, posted on our Readings page now.