

## X'-theory Pointers

1. The following categories are able to project to X' and XP levels:

**Noun, Preposition, Adjective, Verb, Inflection, and Complementizer.**

A. **Nouns, Adjectives, and Verbs** are open class categories, so the number of words belonging to these classes is theoretically infinite. Thus, I will not list them here.

**Prepositions** are an odd class, they are sometimes called lexical, even though they are a closed class. Prepositions include elements like: *to, at, under, around, with, about, for...*

These four lexical classes: **N, Adj, V, and P**, are all able to take various complements, depending upon their subcategorization requirements.

Category	Typical Complements
N	Ø, PP, CP...
Adj	Ø, PP...
V	Ø, NP, PP, NP PP, PP PP, CP...
P	Ø, NP, PP...

**Reminder:** we represent the information in the "typical complements" column in terms of subcategorization frames listed in a word's lexical entry. e.g. [ ], [ \_ NP ], [ \_ NP PP ], etc.

B. **Inflection and Complementizer** are closed class items.

INFL includes: Auxilliary elements ("helping verbs"), modals like *will, should, may, can, might*, and abstract features like [Tense] and [Agreement]

COMP includes: *that, whether, if*

Unlike the lexical class items, Infl and Comp are rigid in terms of what they are able to take as complements. (Except in the case of sentential negation. When sentential negation is present, a NegP comes between I and VP.)

Category	Required Complement
I	VP
C	IP

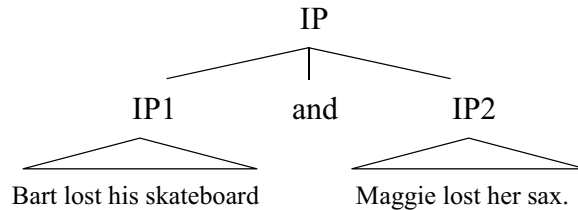
C. For all of the categories listed above, each category is associated with typical elements that are able to sit in its specifier position. For example:

Category	Typical Specifier	
N	Det, NP	
(Adj	Adv)	
V	Adv	
(P	Adv)	elements in parentheses are not common
I	NP, CP	in this course
C	Wh-P	

Furthermore, the element sitting in the specifier of IP position is always the subject of the sentence. And in the context of this course, the only kind of phrase that is able to sit in the specifier of CP position is one that contains a Wh-word.

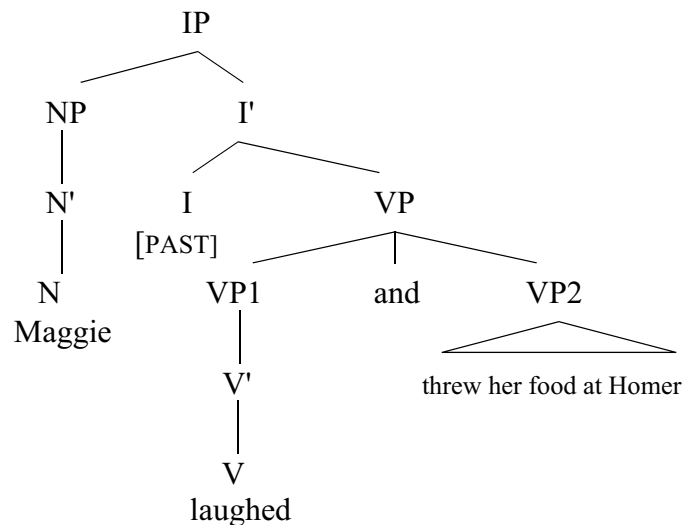
- All of your trees must be binary branching. There is one exception that we allow: cases of coordination. Coordinate structures may look like the following:

**Coordinated Sentences:** 'Bart lost his skateboard and Maggie lost her sax.'



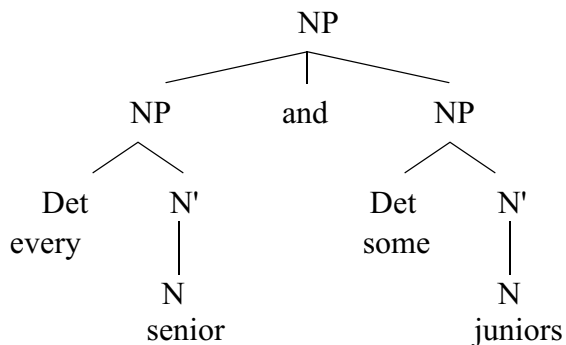
Of course, within each IP (IP1 and IP2), you should regular old IP structure. I'm abbreviating here to save space.

**Coordinated Verb Phrases:** 'Maggie laughed and threw her food at Homer.'



Notice that both verbs are able to be marked with the past tense, even though there is only one "I" in the sentence (and even though the second verb "threw" appears to be separated from the tense feature by the entire first Verb Phrase, VP1). This is just one of the many ways in which coordinated structures are peculiar.

**Coordinated Noun Phrases:** "Every senior and some juniors..."



And so on.