

Week 4: Exploring noun phrases

0. Review:

→ Tense, Aspect, and Mood

→ Questions from HW#3

1. Types of nouns

→ We divide nouns into: Common Nouns and Proper Names

→ Common Nouns are further subdivided into: Count and Mass

Examples of count nouns:

Examples of mass nouns:

→ Count nouns in English generally require determiners. We have definite and indefinite determiners.

→ What is the realization of the plural indefinite determiner in English? [trick question]

In other words we say: *the book vs. the books*

a book vs. ??? books

→ We can also use demonstrative determiners instead of articles: *that, those, this, these.*

2. Possessive pronouns

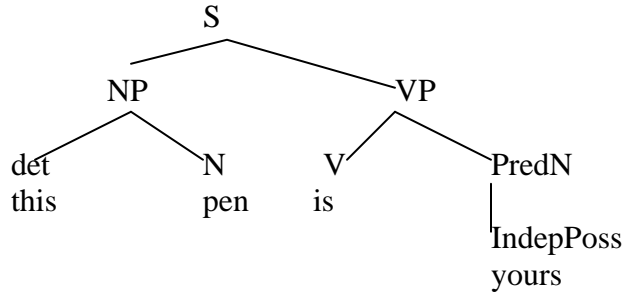
→ We have two types of possessive pronouns: those that require a noun and the independent possessive pronouns. What are some examples of each?

my, his, her, their, your

vs.

mine, his, hers, its, ours, theirs, yours

→ Independent possessive pronouns occupy the slot of nouns, while dependent possessive pronouns occupy the slot of determiners



3. Numbers, determiners, and quantifiers

→ Numbers that precede nouns are also determiners

→ we have two types of numbers: **CARDINAL**: *one, two, three* and **ORDINAL**: *first, second, third, last, fourth*

→ We also have **quantificational phrases** (your book calls them ‘**prearticles**’). These are phrases such as:

some (of), any (of), none (of), each (of), every, etc. These appear before the determiner or may even occupy the same place as the determiner in some case:

Each of the books
Some of the books
either of the books
any of the books
Every book
any book
some book

4. Genitive vs. possessive

→ Genitive is a case that often expresses possession, but may also have other functions.

→ Genitive can be expressed via the ‘-s’ or via the P ‘of’ :

The music of Piazzola vs . *Piazzola’s music*

→ Even though we often use the ‘-s’ to indicate possession, the term ‘genitive’ is more accurate because the ‘-s’ and the ‘of’ can also express other concepts. Consider the following:

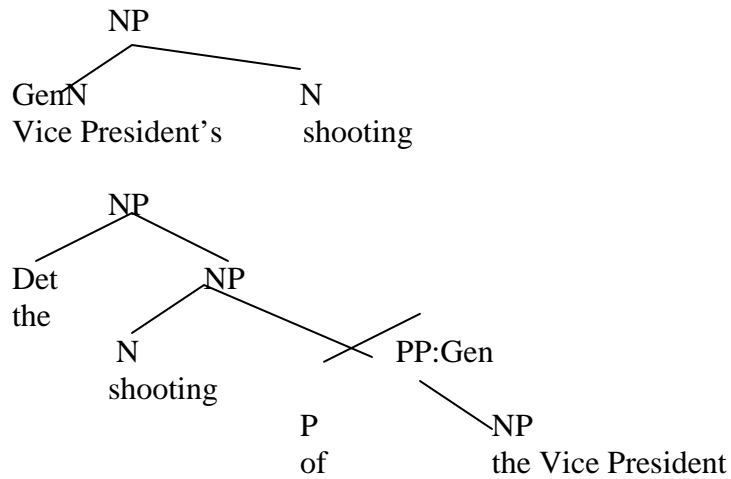
John’s picture = the picture that John owns OR the picture that John created

The shooting of the Vice President = (a) the shooting done by the Vice President
 (b) the shooting where the Vice President is a victim, but not the shooter

Similarly, we have:

The Vice President's shooting = (a) done by the VP; (b) suffered by the VP

We will treat Genitive Nouns as a separate class:



6. Pronouns

Personal pronouns: subject = he, she, it, they, you, we...
 object = him, her, it, them, you, us

Reflexive pronouns = those that end with 'self' or 'selves'

REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS CANNOT APPEAR IN THE SUBJECT POSITION!!!!

→ Consider the following grammaticality contrasts:

Bush considers himself smart

vs.

**Bush thinks that himself is smart*

There are very deep syntactic reasons for the above contrasts. unfortunately, they extend far far beyond the scope of this course!

→ Finally, we also have the indefinite pronouns that end in '-body' or '-thing'
 somebody / anybody/ anything/ something

→ we will call them 'pronouns' for short