

# SYNTAX

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# Class regulations

- You are expected not to be absent any class sections during the term.
- Attendance will be checked regularly.
- Don't be late for classes.
- You are expected to participate actively in class activities.
- You are anticipated to finish all assignments.

# Testing & Assessment

	Ratio	Note
Participation	20%	Attending 8 classes
Assignments		04 assignments (at home)
Mini tests		02 mini tests (at class)
Group assignments		02 group assignments (at class)
Mini project		01 mini project (individual & at home)
Mid-term test	20%	on the 6 <sup>th</sup> week, at class
Final test	60%	Depending on the schedule of Dept. of Training & Examination
Total	100%	

# Textbooks

## Required textbooks:

- [1] Hector Campos & Bui Huynh Thuy Thuong, 2018. *English Syntax and Universal Grammar*. VNU-HCM Press

## Recommended textbooks:

- [2] Bas Aarts (2018). *English Syntax and Argumentation*. Red Globe.
- [3] Andrew Carnie (2012). *Syntax A Generative Introduction*. Wiley-Blackwell
- [4] Fromkin, V. (2018). *An Introduction to language*. (11<sup>th</sup> ed.) Boston: Cengage Learning.
- [5] Website: Syntax Tree Generator. Link: <http://mshang.ca/syntree/>

# Contents of the course

## 1 – Parts of speech

- Major classes
- Minor classes

## 2 – Phrases

- Heads, Complements, Modifiers
- X–bar theory
- Noun phrases
- Verb phrases
- Adjective, Adverb, Prepositional phrases

## 3 – Sentences

- Sentence patterns
- Simple sentences
- Complex sentences
- X–bar theory

## 4 – Ambiguity

- Phrases
- Sentences

# **SECTION 1 - Parts of speech**

# Parts of speech

Open/Major classes	Closed/Minor classes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs</li><li>- have a great many members</li><li>- tend to have referential meanings</li><li>- be receptive to new members</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- pronouns, numerals, determiners, prepositions, conjunctions</li><li>- have few members</li><li>- tend not to have referential meanings</li><li>- be not receptive to new members.</li></ul>

# English form & positional classes

- Stageberg (1965) divided English open/major classes into 2 types:
  - four **form** classes are **nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs**
  - each form-class has its **correlative positional** class, which will be later labelled as **nominals, verbals, adjectivals, and adverbials**.



# Nouns & Nominals

Nouns	Nominals
<p>Nouns <u>are identified</u> by <b>two aspects of form</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- their <b>inflectional morphemes</b>: <i>a four-form inflectional noun paradigm</i></li><li>- their <b>derivational morphemes</b>: prefixes &amp; suffixes</li></ul>	<p>“Any word, whatever its form-class (noun, verb, comparable, pronoun, uninflected word) will be tabbed a <i>nominal</i> if it occupies one of noun positions” :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The position of the <b>subject</b></li><li>- The position of the <b>object</b></li><li>- The position of the <b>subjective complement</b></li><li>- The position of the <b>objective complement</b></li><li>- The position of the <b>complement of a preposition</b></li></ul>

# Examples of nominal

- The position of the **subject**: ▶ *Swimming is my favorite sport.*
  - ▶ *Upstairs is the safest hiding place.*
- The position of the **object**: ▶ *I hate telling lies.*
  - ▶ *She gave nobody a hand shake.*
- The position of the **subjective complement**: ▶ *This book is hers.*
  - ▶ *He is a student.*
- The position of the **objective complement**: ▶ *You've made me what I am.*
  - ▶ *They named the little dog Neky.*
- The position of the **complement of a preposition**: ▶ *He is interested in nothing.*

# Verbs & Verbals

## Verbs

Verbs are identified by **two aspects of form**,

- their **inflectional morphemes**: *a five-form inflectional verb paradigm*
- their **derivational morphemes**: prefixes & suffixes

## Verbals

“Verbals are those forms that occupy the verb positions”

**Or** any verb form taking a **subject** or a **complement** (OV, SC, or Adj) or **modified** by an adverbial is a verbal, **regardless of its position.**

Examples:

$V_{\text{bare}}$ , to V, V-ing,  $V_3 / V_{\text{-ed}}$

Being +  $V_3 / V_{\text{-ed}}$ , having +  $V_3 / V_{\text{-ed}}$

# Examples of verbal

- She must have been loafing last week.
- I should leave the house in ten minutes.
- Becoming angry, she broke the dish.
- After having eaten dinner, we wanted to go to the cinema.
- The light having gone out, we lighted candles.

# Adjectives & Adjectivals

## Adjectives

Adjectives are identified by **two aspects of form**,

- their **inflectional morphemes**: *a three-form inflectional adjective paradigm*
- their **derivational morphemes**: prefixes & suffixes

## Adjectivals

“Adjectivals, like nominals, occupy certain characteristic sentence positions.”

- The position between the determiner and the noun
- The position right after the noun
- The position right after an intensive verb
- The position right after the direct object of a complex transitive verb

# Examples of adjectival

- The position **between** the determiner and the noun:

*That pretty / college freshman is bright.*

- The position **right after** the noun:

*The man who is waving drives a sport car.*

- The position **right after** an intensive verb:

*My boyfriend is very handsome.*

- The position **right after** the direct object of a complex transitive verb:

*You always make me happy.*

# Adverbs & Adverbials

Adverbs	Adverbials
<p>Adverbs <u>are identified</u> by <b>two aspects of form</b>,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- their <b>inflectional</b> morphemes: <i>a three-form inflectional adverb paradigm</i></li><li>- their <b>derivational</b> morphemes: prefixes &amp; suffixes</li></ul>	<p>Adverbials are <u>the word groups</u> as well as <u>the single words</u> that occupy the adverb positions and perform the adverb functions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Initial position</li><li>- Medial position</li><li>- Final position</li></ul>

# Examples of adverbials

- The **initial** position:

*Now it is time to go.*

*By using a little red here, you can balance your colors.*

- The **middle** position:

*She actually expects to marry him.*

*It is no longer a casino.*

- The **final** position:

*He left last night.*

*Tom put his watch where he can find it in the dark.*



# Closed/Minor classes

Give examples for each of the following classes

Word classes	Examples
<b>Pronouns</b>	
<b>Prepositions</b>	
<b>Conjunctions</b>	
<b>Determiners</b>	
<b>Auxiliaries</b>	
<b>Numerals</b>	

# Pronouns

**Pros** are words we use in the place of a full noun. Many different kinds of pros

Types of pronoun	Examples
Demonstrative	this, that, these, those, such, none, neither
Indefinite	anybody, anything, each, each one, either, neither, everyone, everything, no one, nothing, somebody, something, both, many, few, all, most, none, some, any, several, much, every, no
Interrogative	what, which, who, whom, and whose or whatever, whichever, whoever, whomever, and whomever
Personal	I/me, you, she/her, he/him, it, we/us, they/them
Possessive	my/mine, your/yours, her/hers, his, its, our/ours, their/theirs
Relative	which, that, whose, whoever, whomever, who, and whom or what, when, and where
Reflexive	myself, yourself, herself, himself, itself, ourselves, themselves
Reciprocal	each other, one another
Others	There, one & ones

# Prepositions

A **preposition** is a word that connects a noun, pronoun or noun phrase to other parts of a clause.

Prepositions of **place**: *in, on, under, in front of, behind...*

Prepositions of **time**: *in, on, at, from, to, for...*

Prepositions of **movement**: *up, down, into, toward...*

# Conjunctions

**Conjunctions** are words or phrases that are used to join two independent clauses together.

- **Coordinating conjunctions** are **FANBOYS** (F – for, A – and, N – nor, B – but, O – or, Y – yet, S – so)
- When they are used to connect two independent clauses together they should be accompanied by *a comma*, which comes *before* the coordinating conjunction.
- If, however, it is used simply to *connect two elements* in the same clause or sentence, *no comma is required*.

Example:

Paul went to Kenya for his holiday, **and** Steve went to Dorset

Paul **and** Steve went to sunny Barrow in Furness on holiday this year.

# Conjunctions (cont.)

- **Subordinating conjunctions** are used to make one of the two clauses in a sentence dependent on (or subordinate to) the other (main) clause.
- When these are used to separate two clauses (a main clause and a dependent or subordinate clause), no comma is needed.
- However, if the dependent (or subordinate clause) is put first in the sentence, it must be offset with a comma.

## Example:

The cyclist fell off her bike **because** the road was icy.

**Because** the road was icy, the cyclist fell off her bike.

# Some of subordinating conjunctions

<b>Subordinating Conjunctions</b>	<b>Used</b>
because, so that, as, since	to express cause or reason
although, even though, whereas	to express contrast or concession
unless, if, even if, in case, providing	to express condition
before, after, until / till, when, as soon as, whenever, while	to express time

# Auxiliaries

- An **auxiliary verb** (abbreviated AUX) is a verb that adds functional or grammatical meaning to the clause in which it appears, such as to express tense, aspect, modality, voice, emphasis, etc.
- Auxiliary verbs usually accompany a main verb. The main verb provides the main semantic content of the clause.
  - *be (am, are, is, was, were, being, been),*
  - *can, could,*
  - *do (does, did),*
  - *have (has, had, having),*
  - *may, might,*
  - *shall, should,*
  - *will, would,*
  - *dare, must, need, ought,*

# Numerals

Cardinal numbers		Ordinal numbers	
1	one	<b>1st</b>	<b>first</b>
2	two	<b>2nd</b>	<b>second</b>
3	three	<b>3rd</b>	<b>third</b>
5	five	<b>5th</b>	<b>fifth</b>
8	eight	<b>8th</b>	<b>eighth</b>
9	nine	<b>9th</b>	<b>ninth</b>
12	twelve	<b>12th</b>	<b>twelfth</b>
20	twenty	<b>20th</b>	<b>twentieth</b>



# Determiners

- **Determiners** are words which *come at the beginning* of the **noun phrase**. They tell us whether the noun phrase is *specific* or *general*.
- We use a *specific determiner* when we believe the listener/reader knows exactly what we are referring to.
- We use a *general determiner* when we are talking about things in general and the listener/reader does **not** know exactly what we are referring to.
- We can use an **uncountable noun** or a **plural noun with no determiner**

# Determiners

**The specific determiners are:**

- the definite article: *the*
- possessives: *my, your, his, her, its; our, their, whose*
- demonstratives: *this, that, these, those*
- interrogatives: *which, whose*

**The general determiners are:**

*a; an; any; another; other; what*

# Determiners

- Depending on its position before the noun, a determiner can be: a pre-determiner, a central determiner or a post-determiner.
- A phrase like this example is rare. We usually only use one or two determiners.

Pre-determiner	Central Determiner	Post-determiner	Noun
<b>all</b>	<b>the</b>	<b>many</b>	<b>roads</b>

# Determiners

There are different types of **pre-determiners** **determiners**.

The main ones are:

<b>Main Pre-determiners</b>	<b>Example Words</b>	<b>Example Phrases</b>
multipliers	twice, double three times...	Twice the money
fractions	half, one fourth...	half an hour
intensifiers	what, such, rather, quite	What a mess!
other words	both, all	both my legs

# Determiners

Main **Central determiners** include:

<b>Main Central determiners</b>	<b>Example Words</b>	<b>Example Phrases</b>
articles	a, an, the	all the time
demonstrative adjectives	this, that, these, those	half this page
possessive adjectives	my, your, his, her, its, our, their	both my parents

# Determiners

**Post-determiners** include:

<b>Main Post-determiners</b>	<b>Example Words</b>	<b>Example Phrases</b>
cardinal numbers	one, two, eighty...	the three eagles
ordinal numbers	first, second, twenty-third...	the first time
general ordinals	last, next, previous, latter, subsequent...	our next meeting
quantifiers	few, several, many...	his several successes

# Determiners

- Some words can be determiners or post-determiners, depending on the number of determiners in a sentence and their place.

## Examples:

I need *two* rackets.

I need **the** *two* rackets in the garage.

We know *many* uses for these products.

We know **their** *many* uses.

- Usually, we only use one pre-determiner. However, it is possible to use two post-determiners, as shown in the 2 examples below.

## Examples:

his *next two* projects

the *first three* days

# Determiners

- Definite article : the
- Indefinite articles : a, an
- Demonstratives: this, that, these, those
- Pronouns and possessive determiners : my, your, his, her, its, our, their
- Quantifiers : a few, a little, much, many, a lot of, most, some, any, enough
- Numbers : one, ten, thirty
- Distributives : all, both, half, either, neither, each, every
- Difference words : other, another



# this – that – these – those

- **Demonstrative pronouns**

*This* was my mother's ring.

*That* looks like the car I used to drive.

*These* are nice shoes, but they look uncomfortable.

*Those* look like riper than the apples on my tree.

- **Determiners**

I love **this** watch!

What about **that** one over there?

Do you like **these** shoes?

Actually, I prefer **those** ones in the window.