What is a sentence?

- **Sentence as an informational-discursive unit**
  - “A complete thought,” generally including a topic and a comment about the topic
  - *Boys are naughtier.*
  - *Boys will be boys.*
  - The topic usually coincides with the grammatical subject.
  - *That doctor is rich.*
  - *That doctor, I hate.*

What is a sentence?

- **Sentence as a phonological-orthographical unit**
  - Phonological features, e.g. intonation, pause
  - Orthographical features, e.g. letter case, punctuation
  - *London, Michaelmas term lately over, and the Lord Chancellor sitting in Lincoln's Inn Hall. Implacable November weather.*
  - Tonal languages? Languages with no use of punctuation?

What is a sentence?

- **Sentence as a grammatical unit**
  - Simple sentence: 1 independent clause
  - Compound sentence: ≥ 2 independent clauses conjoined
  - Complex sentence: 1 independent clause + ≥ 1 dependent clause(s)
Simple sentence

- Consists of one clause
  - A clause consists of a subject and a predicate.
    - *Pat runs every morning.*
    - *Pat sent Sam a letter.*
    - *The first-year students in the linguistics department did well on the midterms.*

Simple sentence

- Independent clause
  - Can stand alone
    - *That Tom went to Phuket*
    - *Tom to be a teacher*
  - Typically contains a finite verb; finite verbs show morphological categories such as tense, person and/or number. (cf. p. 70)

Simple sentence

- In some languages, a sentence (an independent clause) consists of a subject and a predicate with no verb. (cf. p. 71)

Finiteness

- In English only one element in any clause can be finite.
  - Main verb
    - *Pat saw three bears and a moose.*
  - Auxiliary (helping verb)
    - *Pat could see three bears and a moose.*
    - *Pat has seen three bears and a moose.*
  - In some languages (e.g. Warlpiri), both the main verb and the auxiliary are finite.
Auxiliaries

- Modal auxiliaries: express permission, necessity or ability
  - Present and past forms
  - Precede the bare uninflected form of the verb (infinitive)
- *Have* and *Be*
  - Main verbs or aspectual auxiliaries
    - *I have an apple hidden in the cupboard.*
    - *I have hidden an apple in the cupboard.*
- Cf. p. 73

Non-finite verbs

- Non-finite verbs: not marked for tense, person and/or number.
- Infinitives
  - English: bare uninflected form of verb
  - French: suffixes -er, -ir, -re (manger, finir, vendre)
- Occur after modal auxiliary or auxiliary *do*
- Occur after infinitival marker *to*

Non-finite verbs

- Participles: non-finite verbs which co-occur with a finite auxiliary
  - Present participle –ing
  - Past participle –(e)n/-ed
    - *Kim has _____ (that) already.*
    - *Kim _____ (that) yesterday.*
- Participles can occur without any finite verb.
  - *the professor having taught linguistics*
  - *words heard on the street*

True or False

- A predicate is always realized as a verb phrase.
- A sentence has at least one independent clause.
- Present participles must occur with finite verbs.
- A simple sentence in English has only one finite verb.
- *Have* is a main verb.
### Compound sentences

- Independent clauses can be **co-ordinated**.
  - Conjoined by co-ordinating conjunctions (and, or, but)
  - Clauses in a co-ordination are on equal footing.

- Sam opened the window and Ken jumped out.
- Sam and Ken opened the window.
- Sam opened the window and jumped out.
- Sam and Ken opened the window and jumped out.

### Complex sentences

- Have more than one clause; clauses do not have equal syntactic status.
  - **Matrix clause, main clause or root clause**
  - **Subordinate clause or embedded clause** (embedded within another clause)

  ```
  John said that Mary was nice.
  When John heard the news, he was very surprised.
  She wanted to leave.
  I doubted if he told you the truth.
  Mary persuaded John to resign.
  ```

### Complex sentences

- Verbs can select a noun phrase or a clause.

  ```
  I know it.
  I know that he lied.
  ```

- Not all subordinate clauses are selected by the matrix verb.

  ```
  When John heard the news, he was very surprised.
  adverbial clauses
  ```

### Matrix and subordinate clauses

- Not all subordinate clauses are optional; some are required.
  - When selected by the verb
    ```
    Pat wondered whether Sam would come.
    ```
  - When in the subject position
    ```
    For Sam to fight is impossible.
    ```
  - **sentential subjects/ clausal subjects**
Matrix and subordinate clauses

- Not all subordinate clauses would be possible independent clauses.
  - *John said that Mary was upset.*
  - *For Sam to fight* is impossible.

Matrix and subordinate clauses

- Subordinate clause(s) may precede and/or follow the verb in the matrix clause.
  - Can’t tell whether a clause is a subordinate clause by looking at its position.

- One matrix clause, but an infinite number of subordinate clauses
  - Recursion in human language

Matrix and subordinate clauses

- Each clause contains a main verb.
  - Both main and subordinate clauses have a main verb.
  - A main verb (lexical verb) carries the semantic content.

  *John said that Mary was nice.*
  *When John heard the news, he was very surprised.*
  *She wanted to leave.*
  *I doubted if he told you the truth.*
  *Mary persuaded John to resign.*

Subordinate clauses

- Functional relationship
  - Relative (adjectival) clauses
  - Adverbial clauses
  - Complement (noun) clauses
Relative clauses
- Relative clauses or adjectival clauses
- Modifier of a noun phrase
- Embedded within the NP it modifies
  - *The boy who ate the cake* felt sick.
  - *The cake that the boy ate* was bad.
Relative pronouns

Different functions of relative pronouns
- Subject
  - *The man who came to the dinner left again.*
- Object
  - *The book that he brought is on the table.*
- Indirect object
  - *The man to whom you gave a book was here.*
- Accompaniment
  - *The man with whom you work was here.*
- Cause
  - *I met the man because of whom you no longer have work.*
- Benefit
  - *The man for whom you work phoned.*
- Adverbial
  - *The corner where he had the accident is over there.*

Adverbial clauses
- Adverbial in function
- Can be replaced by single-word or phrasal adverbs
  (except for sentential adverbial clauses)
- Time, location, manner, purpose, reason
  - *She talks as if she has a cold.*
  - *When Joy's mother called, she ran home.*
  - *We walked slowly where the path was rocky.*
  - *I went in order to see Sally.*
  - *I went because they wanted me.*

Restrictive relative clause: identify or specify the head noun
- *Mi hermano que vive en Mexico tiene dos hijos*
  - My brother who lives in Mexico has two children

Nonrestrictive relative clause: explain something about the noun, but identification is not necessary
- *Mi hermano, que vive en Mexico, tiene dos hijos*
  - My brother who lives in Mexico, has two children
Complement clauses

- Subject or object of the verb in the main clause
- Sentential complement clauses: subject complement clause or object complement clause

Independent forms

- I know he lied.

Independent forms introduced by markers

- **Complementizer**: an introductory word
  - That John can fight is doubtful.
  - John said (that) he could fight.

In some languages, the complementizer is an affix on the verb.

- Cupeno:
  
  `ne pe-n-enan-qa pis-e-hici-ve-y`
  
  I it-l-know-DUR SUBR-your-go-R-ACC
  
  'I know that you went.'

Complement clauses

- Special forms of the verbs
  
  *I suggest that he see the doctor immediately.*

Deletion of subject

- The subject of the object complement clause is not expressed when it refers to the subject of the main clause.

  *I want to go.*

  **Spanish**
  
  *El quiere ir a Mexico*
  
  he wants to go to Mexico
  
  'He wants to go to Mexico.'
Complement clauses

- Subject raising
  - The subject of the embedded clause is marked as the object and functions as the object of the main clause.
    I want him to go.
    I expect him to go.

- Depending on verbs
  *I hope him to go.

Cross-linguistic variation

- Are complement clauses indispensable in all languages?
- Co-ordination (cf. p. 85)
- Nominalization (cf. pp. 86-87)
- Serial verbs (cf. reading assignment)

Exercises

- 2 (pp. 90-91)
- 5 (p. 94)