

# Linguistics 101 Phrase Structure Rules for English

This set of simplified phrase structure rules will allow you to describe the kinds of sentences given to you in Linguistics 101. There are many English sentences that these rules will not be sufficient to describe, and this simplified set of rules will be abandoned quickly as you continue onto LIGN 121 Syntax, but this basic set will get you started with the concepts of constituency, hierarchy, and tree-building.

1.  $NP \rightarrow DET\ N'$
2.  $NP \rightarrow N'$
3.  $N' \rightarrow N$
4.  $N' \rightarrow ADJ\ N'$
5.  $NP \rightarrow NP\ PP$
6.  $PP \rightarrow P\ NP$
7.  $S \rightarrow NP\ VP$
8.  $VP \rightarrow V$
9.  $VP \rightarrow V\ NP$
10.  $VP \rightarrow V\ PP$
11.  $VP \rightarrow VP\ PP$
12.  $VP \rightarrow V\ CP$
13.  $CP \rightarrow C\ S$

## A few tree-building reminders

- In LIGN 101, every single branching in your trees will split either two ways (e.g. Rule 1) or one way (e.g. Rule 2), and every split will be described by one of the rules above. *You should be able to point to a specific rule above which describes both sides of every split!*
- In LIGN 101, the very top node of your sentence should be 'S', and the node above every word should be labeled with the word's part of speech (e.g. N, V, DET, P, ADJ)
- Trees branch downwards, never up, and lines don't need to cross.
- **Use only this specific set of phrase structure rules for LIGN 101!** Myriad other sets of phrase structure rules exist online and in other courses, but answers using rules not from this list will be graded as incorrect.