Serial verbs
Complement clauses

Multi-clausal constructions…
“Combining basic clauses to form more complex constructions”
2 or more verb roots that are neither compounded nor members of separate clauses.

(1) John came to give Mary the hedgehog.
(2) John came and gave Mary the hedgehog.

Express various facets of one event.

Yoruba (Kwa: Nigeria)
(3) Mo mú iwé wá ilé.
    I take book come house
    ‘I brought a book come.’
Serial verbs

- **Characteristics**
  - No independent expression of the subject of the 2\(^{nd}\) verb
  - No independent tense/aspect marking of the 2\(^{nd}\) verb

(5) *Mo n mú ìwé bo.*  
I prog take book come.prog  
‘I am bringing a book.’

(6) *Mo n mú ìwé wá.*  
I prog take book come.perf  
‘I am bringing a book.’
Negative particle is associated with the first verb.

(5) a. Èmi kò mú ìwé wá.
I.NEG not take book come
‘I did not bring a book.’

b. *Èmi mú ìwé kò wá.
Verbs of motion are often used in serial constructions.

Sùpyìré

Zànhe sì dùfugé kèègè.
rain go maize.DEF spoil
‘The rain will spoil the maize.’

Tibetan

qʰó pʰoo (cεε) či pərēè
he.ABS escape NF went PERF.DISJUNCT
‘He escaped away.’
A clause inside another clause.

1. He said that you are tired.
   main clause  embedded clause

Other terms: dependent clause or subordinate clause

Types
- complement clause
- adverbial clause
- relative clause
Complement clause

- Clause that functions as an argument of another clause
  
  **Subject**
  
  [That John gave Mary a hedgehog] is unbelievable.

  **Object**
  
  I heard [that John gave Mary a hedgehog].
Complementizer Phrase (CP)

CPs consist of a complementizer (the head) followed by a IP.

-Comp = *that, for, if, whether*

I heard \[_{CP} \text{that John gave Mary a hedgehog}\].
I heard \[_{CP} \emptyset \text{John gave Mary a hedgehog}\].
Susan knows \[_{CP} \text{if/whether/that John gave Mary a hedgehog}\].
Mary wishes \[_{CP} \text{for John to give her a hedgehog}\].

*To is not a complementizer!*
A subject complement clause that comes after the verb.

- **Subject**
  
  It is unbelievable [that John gave Mary a hedgehog].

However, we need to distinguish between the syntactic subject and the semantic subject.

- *it* is the syntactic subject, meaning that it occupies the subject position.
- The CP is the semantic subject, meaning that it is the thing that is unbelievable.
John said [that Susan thinks [that John gave Mary a hedgehog]].

Other examples?
Finite clauses

- Carry their own tense and aspect
- Express their own subjects directly.

Finite object complement clause (head initial)

[I heard that [John gave Mary a hedgehog]].

Mandarin

(24) wǒ zhīdào nèige rén chī-le sān wǎn fàn
I know that person eat-PERF three bowl rice
‘I know that that person ate three bowls of rice.’

Finite object complement clause (head final) - Wappo

(25) ?ah ce k’ew ew tum-tah hatiskhi?
1sg that man fish buy-PAST know
‘I know that man bought fish.’
Nonfinite clauses

- Verb is usually nonfinite – how is this marked in English?
- Do not express their own subjects directly

Nonfinite object complement clause (head initial)

[John likes [to give hedgehogs to Mary]].

Mandarin non-finite object complement clause:
(28)  wǒ yào nian (*-le) shù
      1SG want read (-PERF) book
      ‘I want to read a book.’

Finite object complement clause (head final) - Wappo

(29)  ᚣah  ce  k’ew  ew  tum-uhk  hak’se?
      1SG that man fish buy-INF want
      ‘I want that man to buy fish.’