In the beginning was the word. But by the time the second word was added to it, there was trouble. For with it came syntax…

- John Simon
Syntactic Categories

Lexical categories
Phrasal categories (noun phrase, verb phrase, etc.)

Clause is a grammatical expression of a proposition.
1. The coconut fell on the windshield.
2. *Coconut the fell on the windshield.
3. The windshield fell on the coconut.
4. # The banana danced at the party.
Sentences are more than a string of words

5. There were (old)(men and women)
5. There were (old men)(and women)
Getting at knowledge of constituency and hierarchical structure is tricky.

Sam loves you more than Jim.

Constituency tests!

- Movement
- Substitution
- Coordination
- Interposition
- Ommisibility
Fronting - how it works: move a word or group of words to the front of the sentence.

Fronting doesn't work for constituents already at the beginning of the sentence.

These works best when the fronted constituent is emphasized.

Test: [In the ruins], the weeping angels are chasing the time traveler.
Use this test for a determiner phrase.

Original sentence: I ate \([_{dp} \text{a hamburger}]\) earlier.
Test: I ate \([_{dp} \text{it}]\) earlier.
Conclusion: It is a constituent.

Original sentence: \([\text{My brown dog}]\) will eat that bone.
Test: 
Conclusion:
Substitution – *did so/do so*

You can replace VP with *did so* and *do so*.

Original sentence: My brown dog will [eat that bone after he takes a nap].
Test: My brown dog will do so.
Conclusion: The bracketed portion is a constituent

Original sentence: My brown dog will [eat that bone] after he takes a nap.
Test:  
Conclusion: 

Original sentence: My brown dog will [eat that bone after he] takes a nap.
Test:  
Conclusion:  

Description: If two strings are connected by a conjunction like and or or and the result is grammatical, then the strings are the same kind of constituent.

Some examples of coordination:

Original sentence: \([\text{DP My green turtle}]\) is going to race.
Test sentence: \([\text{DP My green turtle}]\) and \([\text{DP your orange frog}]\) are going to race.
Conclusion: The bracket portion is a constituent.

Original sentence: Kramer \([\text{VP borrowed my car}]\).
Test sentence:
Conclusion:
**Coordination**

Original sentence: Peter sent [Matt to] Africa.
Test: *Peter sent [Matt to] and [Bill to] Africa.
Conclusion: It is not a constituent.

Original sentence: The girls like to [ride bicycles in the street.]
Test:
Conclusion: