

# A rapid overview: Week 2

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This is a quick overview of the terminology used in the later chapters of the book. You don't need to memorize most of these terms yet, but remember where to go when you see them down the road. I will indicate the terms that are important to know by the end of the chapter.

## 1 Two kinds of sentence

Clausal and coordinated clauses. Clausal sentences are more basic (one clause) coordinated clauses are more complex (more than one clause)

## 2 Clause, word, and phrase

Clauses are made up of **subjects** and **predicates** (the verb + everything else). These can be one word, or more than one word. Below, subjects are in **bold** and predicates are in *italics*.

- (1) **John** *swam*.
- (2) **The man with the black coat** *gave flowers to his wife*.

Phrases are words that go together and have a head (the most important element) and dependents. The words: *the man* form a noun phrase with *man* as its head, *gave flowers* is a verb phrase with *gave* as its head. Phrases can be made up of many words, or simply one; so *John* above is a noun phrase and *swam* is a verb phrase.

## 3 Subject and predicate

Subjects are:

1. Usually NPs.
2. Usually before the verb.
3. In an interrogative (question) clause, it comes after the auxiliary verb.

Table 1: Declarative and interrogative clauses

BASIC	INTERROGATIVE
a. The clock has stopped.	b. Has the clock stopped?
a. Kim is downstairs.	b. Is Kim downstairs?
a. Some customers complained.	b. Did some customers complain?

*One easy way to find the subject is to turn a declarative sentence into a yes/no question sentence. The subject will come after the auxiliary verb*

Can you find the subjects in Table 1?

## 4 Two theoretical distinctions

These are important terms to learn, although you don't need to worry about all of the words used in the examples.

### 4.1 Functions and categories

**Function:** relational concept, describes relations between categories. For example, subject and preterite.

**Category:** describes a class of similar expressions/words. For example, an NP or VP.

### 4.2 Words and lexemes

**Word:** anytime there is a difference between two forms, they are different words. For example, *cat* and *cats* are different words.

**Lexeme:** words that are related, they might have different inflectional forms, but they have the same root. For example, *cat* and *cats* are the same lexeme.

## 5 Parts of speech

See table on page 16 for an overview.

### 5.1 Nouns

**Semantic:** physical and abstract objects (lots of exceptions though).

**Structural:** take certain suffixes (plural -s), can be subjects and objects.

Nouns can be common nouns, proper nouns (names), or pronouns (more inflected).

## 5.2 Verbs

**Semantic:** determines the situation of a clause (action word is not great).

**Structural:** they take verbal suffixes (inflection) like the -ed, -s, and -ing.

Verbs are heads of verb phrases (VPs). Also important is the difference between an auxiliary (helping) verb and a lexical (main) verb. Auxiliary verbs invert with the subject in questions, main verbs can't. Also, auxiliary verbs usually have reduced pronunciation.

## 5.3 Adjectives

**Semantic:** describes properties of nouns and states.

**Functions:** attributive (before nouns) and predicative (following the verb *be*, *become*, *feel*, *seem*, *etc*)

**Gradability and inflection** adjectives can be put into comparative (-er) and superlative (-est) forms (but so can other parts of speech).

## 5.4 Determinatives

**Definiteness:** there are two determinatives (articles) in English, the (definite) and a/an (indefinite). Generally speaking, definite articles are used when I expect you to know who I'm talking about.

**Determinative and determiner:** determinative is a category, determiner is a function. They sort of made up these terms, but we'll use them anyway.

**Traditional grammar:** determinatives are not adjectives, they behave very differently as we'll see.

## 5.5 Adverbs

**Relation to adjectives:** some adverbs are derived (created through morphology) from adjectives. Simply add the -ly suffix. But there are other adverbs that do not have an -ly suffix, like: *almost*, *always*, *not*, *often*, *quite*, *rather*, *soon*, *too*, and *very*.

**Function:** adverbs are modifiers of VPs, adjectives, or adverbs. See example [13] on p. 20.

## 5.6 Prepositions

**Meaning:** express relations of space or time.

**Function:** heads of preposition phrases (PPs), and are dependents in a number of phrase types.

**Traditional grammar:** can combine with more than NPs as we'll see.