LIGN 101 Section Activity - Syntax

1   Building Trees

First, use your syntactic knowledge and the phrase structure rules we gave you in class to diagram the following sentences:

- Will ranted.

- Maho graded papers.

- Matt graded papers in his office.

- Olivier ran a discussion section on Friday.

- Alaina prefers homeworks with little tiny fixable errors.

- Jessica gasped at the housing prices in San Diego.

- Kati hates when LIGN101 students use incorrect rules in trees.

- Victoria saw Vincent in the LingUA lounge.

- Two stuffed kittens plotted revenge in an empty, quiet apartment.

2   Proving Ungrammaticality

Now, making reference to your phrase structure rules, demonstrate why the following sentences are ungrammatical (at least according to our current syntactic approach). \begin{parts}

- *Baker the went the park to.

- *Small the cuddly cat the dog scratched.

- *Jian while his cat slept ate.

3   Wake up, new phrase structure rules just dropped

Your set of phrase structure rules is woefully incomplete when faced with the full joy of the English language. Each of the sentences below will require you to create, just for this assignment, a new phrase structure rule to properly capture the structure. Create a rule, describe it, and use it to diagram the sentence.

- Andres quickly ate. (*Hint: Think about your rule for adjectives*)

- Will should sleep. (*Hint: You can use the term 'AUX' for 'Auxiliary Verb'*)

- The Jeweler's ring had shiny rubies. (*Hint: 'the Jeweler's' is kind of acting like a determiner, and 's' can be treated as its own word (POSS)*)

- Her incessant desire for enchiladas consumed her every waking thought while her thoughtful partner drove to the restaurant.