Advanced Syntax
· Extra Exercises 3 ·

Structure of IP and CP. Complements and Adjuncts. Subject and Object. V°-to-I° and I°-to-C° movement.

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Exercise 1

What’s wrong with this tree?
Exercise 2

Draw the tree structure of the following sentences:

(1) Could you help me?
(2) That poor Joe is always the victim.
(3) She has never been a nice person.
(4) You should not run the experiment without me.
(5) They met her there yesterday for no reason.
(6) Jack asked if he could see my results.
(7) He did not consider the tiger dangerous.
(8) In this cave you really need a helmet.
(9) Is it safe?
(10) Hell is the impossibility of reason.
ANSWERS TO EXERCISE 1

Trees drawn using Miles Shang’s Syntax Tree Generator (http://mshang.ca/syntree/)
Additional text, figures, lines and arrows added in Microsoft PowerPoint
A headless phrase!?!  

This IP doesn’t have a head (I°). All phrases (XPs) have heads (X°s) because XPs are projected from X°s. Furthermore, the subject, the DP she, is in IP-spec which is the sister of I°.

A specifier on the right!?!  

The PP is a modifier of VP, an adjunct, but it is not adjoined to VP. Instead it is incorrectly the sister of V'. However, if X' has a sister, this sister is on the LEFT of X', and then we call it a specifier, not a modifier.

The object, books, is a DP. It can be substituted by another DP, e.g. them or these books. The head of this DP is empty, a silent version of the indefinite article a, cf.:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{a book} & \quad \text{(indefinite singular)} \\
\text{books} & \quad \text{(indefinite plural)}
\end{align*}
\]

Spain is a DP, but not a D°. The DP is headed by an empty D° and Spain is the head of its NP complement.

Missing DP

Missing NP
Corrected tree

```
  IP
    DP
      D°
    I°
  I'
  VP
    VP
      V°
      DP
        D°
        NP
           N°
    PP
      P°
      DP
        D°
        NP
           N°
    She
    bought
    books
    in
    Spain
```
ANSWERS TO EXERCISE 2

Trees drawn using Miles Shang’s Syntax Tree Generator (http://mshang.ca/syntree/)
Additional text, figures, lines and arrows added in Microsoft PowerPoint
Subject in IP-spec

Could is a modal verb. Modals are always finite and are inserted in I°. Here it precedes the subject, so it has moved to C°.

Object: DP sister of V°

I°-to-C° movement: Subject-auxiliary inversion (SAI)

Main verbs never leave V° (except be).
Subject in IP-spec

Adjunction to an XP projects another instance of that XP.

Adjunct: Left-adjoined modifier of NP

Object: DP sister of V°

The copula *be* is the only main verb that ever moves to I°, and it only does so when it is FINITE.

*He will always be the victim* (be: non-finite)

*He is always the victim* (is: finite)

*(Have and be are born in V° and move to I° when FINITE.*)
Subject in IP-spec

V°-to-I° movement:
Auxiliary *have* is born in V° but MOVES to I° when it is FINITE.

The copula *be* is born in V°. (*Have* and *be* are born in V° and move to I° when FINITE.) *Been* is a past participle, which is NON-FINITE, and therefore, it stays in V° (where it follows the sentence-medial adjunct *never*).

Adjunction to an XP projects another instance of that XP.

Left-joined modifier of NP

Object: DP sister of V°
Subject in IP-spec

*Should* is a modal verb. Modals are always **FINITE** and are inserted in I°.

**Adjunct:** Sentence adverbials are modifiers adjoined to the highest VP. That this one is left-adjoined to VP can be seen from the fact that it precedes the main verb.

Main verbs never leave V° (except *be*).

Object: DP sister of V°

**Adjunct:** This PP modifies VP; it is a so-called VP-adverbial. As it follows the main verb and the object, it is right-adjoined to VP.

Adjunction to an XP projects another instance of that XP.
Subject in IP-spec

Object: DP sister of V°

Main verbs never leave V° (except be).

Adjuncts: They modify VP. As they follow the main verb and the object, they are right-adjointed to VP.

Adjunction to an XP projects another instance of that XP.
Subjects in IP-spec

Main verbs never leave V° (except be).

Could is a modal verb. Modals are always FINITE and are inserted in I°.

Main verbs never leave V° (except be).

Clausal object: Sister of V°

Object: DP sister of V°
Subject in IP-spec

Do-support takes place directly into I°: dummy do is always FINITE.

Adjunct: Sentence adverbials are modifiers adjoined to the highest VP.

Main verbs never leave V° (except be).

Verbless clauses ("small clauses") are IPs (all clauses are at least IPs). A CP layer would prevent exceptional case marking (ECM) from V° (consider) to the embedded subject (the tiger).

Clausal object: Sister of V°
Main verbs never leave V° (except be).

Object: DP sister of V°
The copula *be* is the only main verb that ever moves to I°, and it only does so when it is FINITE. (*Have* and *be* are born in V° and move to I° when FINITE.)

Here it precedes the subject because it has moved to C° (subject-auxiliary inversion, SAI).

It has very little or no lexical content. It only means “=”. The real predicate here is the adjective *safe*.
The copula *be* is the only ‘main’ verb that ever moves to I°, and it only does so when it is FINITE. (*Have* and *be* are born in V° and move to I° when FINITE.)

It has very little or no lexical content. It only means “=”. The real predicate here is the DP, *the impossibility of reason*.

Note: The DP, *the impossibility of reason*, is NOT the object, even though it is the DP sister of V°. It is the predicate.