

1 English Phrase Structure Rules

Phrase Structure Rule	Function
$S \rightarrow NP VP$	allows VPs to combine with their subject NP to form a sentence.
$NP \rightarrow Det N$	allows determiners to combine with a noun to form an NP
$N \rightarrow Adj N$	allows attributive adjectives to be noun adjuncts
$VP \rightarrow VP Adv$	allows adverbs to be VP adjuncts
$VP \rightarrow TV NP$	allows transitive verbs to combine with their object NP to form a VP
$VP \rightarrow DTV NP NP$	allows ditransitive verbs to combine with their object NPs to form a VP
$VP \rightarrow SV S$	allows sentential complement verbs to combine with their complement S to form a VP
$PP \rightarrow P NP$	allows prepositions to combine with their complement NP to form a PP
$N \rightarrow N PP$	allows allows PP to be noun adjuncts
$VP \rightarrow VP PP$	allows PPs to be VP adjuncts

2 Some Ambiguities

1. I saw the astronomer with a telescope.
2. We enjoyed the movie with Cher.
3. The room contained noisy children and animals.
4. People with children who use drugs should be locked up.
5. I forgot how good beer tastes.
6. I saw that gas can explode.
7. Visiting relatives can be boring.
8. Flying planes can be dangerous.
9. This animal has four legs and flies.
10. I saw her duck.