

Introduction to General Linguistics - Syntax exam **Practice!**

Name:

There are two parts in this exam. In the first part (questions 1-25) you must choose one of the possible answers. Choose one answer to each question in the first part and tick it on this sheet. In the second part (questions (26-30) you must draw trees. You do this on a separate sheet of paper. Write your name on this sheet too.

Part I: Choose the correct answer.

There is always only one correct answer. Each question is worth one point. Circle or tick the best answer: (A) or A ✓

- (1) *player* is
 - A. a free morpheme and a bound morpheme
 - B. a root with an inflectional affix
 - C. a compound
 - D. two bound morphemes

- (2) *hilltop* consists of two morphemes. They are, in order:
 - A. a bound morpheme and a functional morpheme
 - B. two lexical morphemes
 - C. a cranberry morpheme and a lexical morpheme
 - D. a free morpheme and a functional morpheme

- (3) *un-miss-able* ("so good you can't miss it") has three morphemes. *-miss-* is here:
 - A. the root
 - B. the stem
 - C. an infix
 - D. a syllable

- (4) Which of these is true? A finite verb (in English or German):
 - A. can't occur in the past tense
 - B. can't show visible agreement with the subject
 - C. can be the complement of a auxiliary verb
 - D. can occur with other verbs in the same clause

- (5) A lexical item is:
 - A. either a noun or an adjective
 - B. an entry in our mental lexicon
 - C. either the subject or object of a verb
 - D. either a suffix or a prefix

- (6) Which is true? Argument structure:
 - A. contains information about adjuncts
 - B. defines what complements a word requires
 - C. relates to the pronunciation of a word
 - D. tells us that a word is a functional category

- (7) Which of these is a head plus an adjunct?
 - A. *the queen of Denmark*
 - B. *a boy with glasses*
 - C. *a neighbour of my friend*
 - D. *a visit to my mother*

- (8) Which one is true? An adjunct is:
- sister to a phrasal projection XP
 - never on the same side as the specifier, spec-XP
 - daughter of a separate head Y
 - often also the complement
- (9) Which is true? A specifier position is:
- never empty
 - usually an adjective
 - daughter to XP, sister to X'
 - always the object
- (10) In [*read his book in bed*]
- [*his book*] is a complement and [*in bed*] is an adjunct
 - [*his book*] is an adjunct and [*in bed*] is a complement
 - both [*his book*] and [*in bed*] are complements
 - both [*his book*] and [*in bed*] are adjuncts
- (11) How many separate verb phrases (VPs) are there in: '*Joe can give Gina the computer.*' ?
- 1 VP
 - 2 VPs
 - 3 VPs
 - 4 VPs
- (12) How many different VPs are there in this structure?
Isobel hat Pizza backen dürfen
 Isobel has pizza bake been.allowed
 'Isobel has been allowed to bake pizza.'
- 1 VP
 - 2 VPs
 - 3 VPs
 - 4 VPs

Look at example (i):

(i) *The noble queen will always punish disobedient knights.*

- (13) In (i) what is true of *punish*?
- it is a finite verb
 - it selects the status of the adjunct *disobedient*
 - its status is selected by *will*
 - it selects the status of the finite verb
- (14) In example (i) what is the complement of *punish*?
- the NP *knights*
 - the NP *disobedient knights*
 - the DP *disobedient knights*
 - none of A-C

Look at example (ii)

(ii) *The noble queen rarely listens to her advisors at the palace.*

- (15) In (ii), how many adjuncts are there?
- 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4

- (16) In example (ii) what is true of *listens*?
- A. it is an auxiliary verb
 - B. it is the finite verb of the clause
 - C. it does not have its own VP projection
 - D. none of A-C

Look at the examples (iii) and (iv):

(iii) *James would eat a pizza with mozzarella and mushrooms*

(iv) *Jakob würde eine Pizza mit Mozzarella und Pilzen essen.*
 Jakob would a pizza with mozzarella and mushrooms eat
 'Jakob would eat a pizza with mozzarella and mushrooms.'

- (17) In (iii), what is true of *would*?
- A. *would* has moved from V to I
 - B. *would* has moved from V to C
 - C. *would* is in I and hasn't moved
 - D. *would* has moved from V to I to C
- (18) Which is true? In the German sentence (iv), *würde*
- A. stands in I
 - B. is an auxiliary verb
 - C. is in the same position as *would* in (iii)
 - D. has moved three times
- (19) Which of these could you **not** find in the C position?
- A. an English modal
 - B. a German finite verb
 - C. a complementizer
 - D. a wh-item (*who, what, where, ...*)
- (20) Where can a subject never appear?
- A. in spec-CP
 - B. as a wh-item
 - C. as the complement of a verb
 - D. in spec-IP

Look at example (v).

(v): *Hast du meine Pizza mit Chilli bestellt?*
 have you my pizza with chilli ordered
 'Have you ordered my pizza with chilli?'

- (21) How many *movements* are there? Each movement hop counts separately.
- A. 1
 - B. 2
 - C. 3
 - D. 4

Look at example (vi).

(vi): *Which pizza has Mati ordered?*

- (22) How many *movements* are there? Each movement hop counts separately.
- A. 1
 - B. 2
 - C. 3
 - D. 4

Look at the embedded sentences in examples (vii) and (viii). Both examples are fine in German, both have the same meaning.

(vii) *Ich denke, dass er oft Pizza isst.*

(viii) *Ich denke, er isst oft Pizza.*

(23) In the embedded clause in (vii), the finite verb:

- A. stands in the position of the V head of a VP
- B. stands in I
- C. stands in C
- D. there is no finite verb in (vii)

(24) Why is it also possible to say (viii) *Ich denke, er isst oft Pizza* in German?

- A. Because the verb can move into the complementizer position, if it is empty.
- B. Because people in Germany eat a lot of pizza.
- C. Because German embedded clauses have a head-initial VP.
- D. Because the verb *denken* can take a clause as an adjunct.

(25) Which one is true?

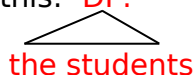
- A. Main verbs cannot move to I in German.
- B. English does not have complementizers.
- C. English statements are IPs, German statements are CPs
- D. German questions don't usually contain a subject.

Part II Drawing trees:

In this part you should draw trees showing the syntactic structure of the examples structures (26)-(30).

In (26) and (27) you **must show** the internal details of DP, PP and AdvP.

In (28) to (30) you do **not** need to show the detail of DP, PP, AP. You can just show the simple forms with triangles, like this: **DP**.



Each tree is worth up to five points. If you make a mistake in one part you can still get marks for other parts of the same tree. If you think there has been movement, put in arrows or traces (t_i) to show the movement.

(26) *The clever student of linguistics from Italy*

(27) *Gina is quickly forgetting her boyfriend*

(28) *Should she have left him?*

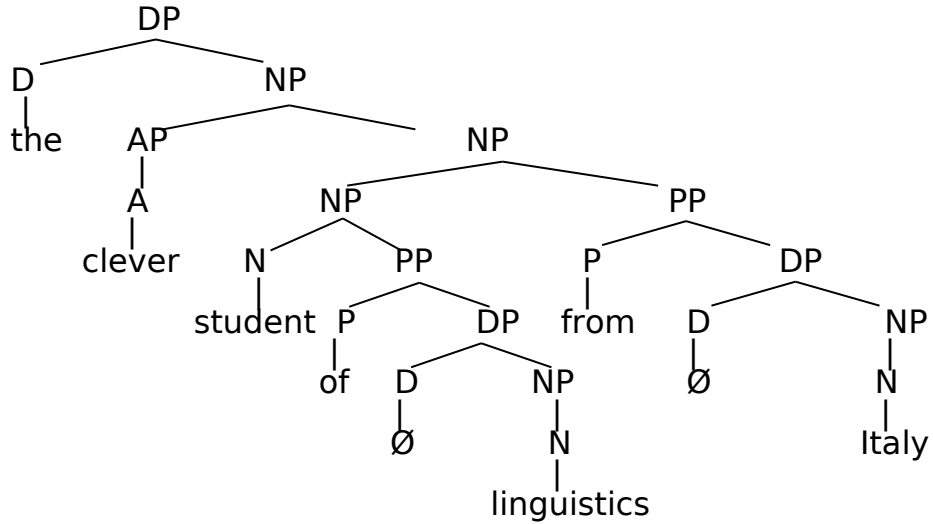
(29) *Marco vermisst seine Freundin*
Marco misses his girlfriend

(30) *Wird Marco jemals Gina vergessen?*
will Marco ever Gina forget
'Will Marco ever forget Gina?'

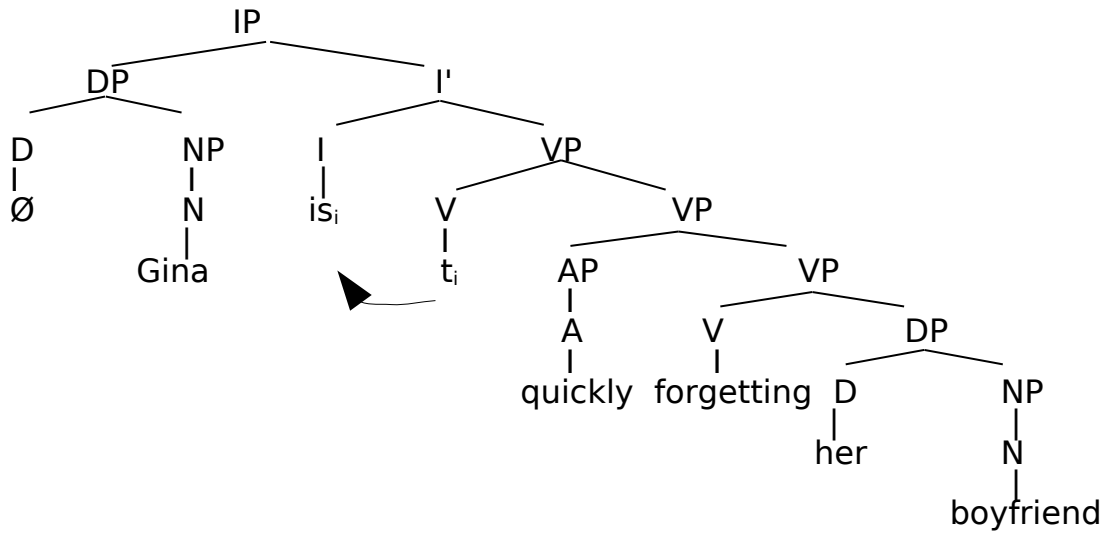
Answers:

- 1A 2B 3A 4D 5B 6B 7B 8A 9C 10A
 11A 12C 13C 14C 15C 16B 17C 18B 19D 20C
 21B 22C 23B 24A 25C

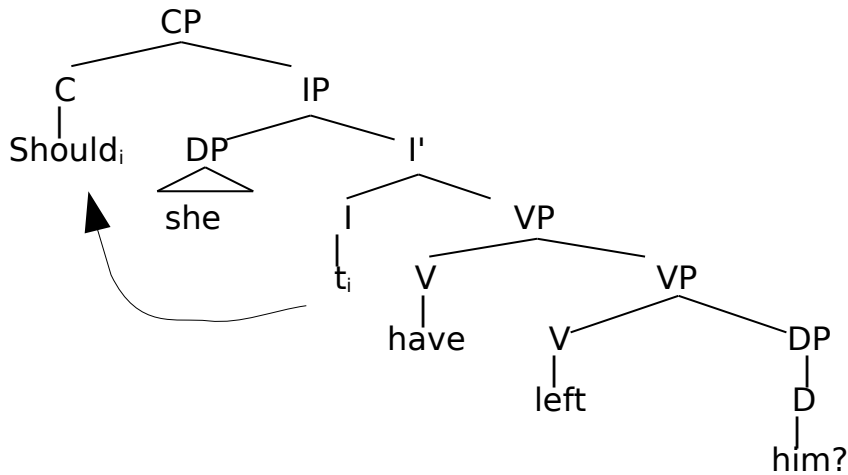
26



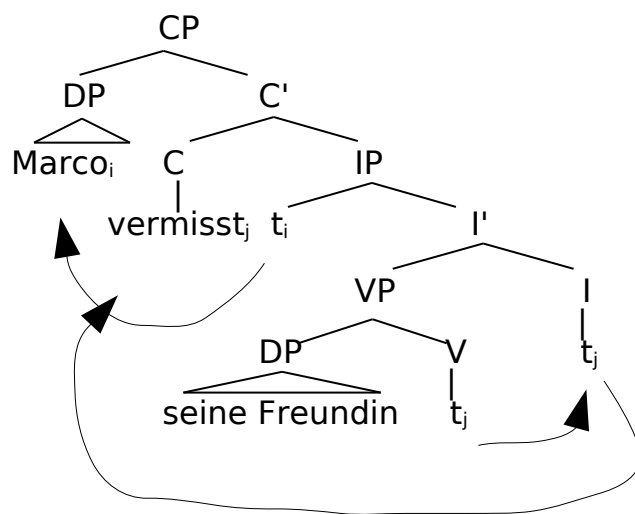
27



28



29



30

