LECTURE 2

1. Grammatical phrases
2. Functions of phrases

Aims of today's lecture:

- **To understand the concept of 'grammatical phrase' and to understand its significance**
- **To understand the distinction between form and function**
- **To be able to identify and name phrases**
- **To be able to identify and name functions of phrases**

Part I: Grammatical phrase

- **A grammatical phrase consists of <u>one or more words</u>. (Exception: <u>the prepositional phrase consists of at least two words</u>).**

- **The phrase functions and behaves as <u>a single grammatical unit</u> in a clause.**

'single grammatical unit' - illustrated

The boys **gathered**	in the street.
The boys had **gathered**	in the street.
The boys had been **gathering**	in the street.
The boys would have **gathered**	in the street.

'single grammatical unit' - ctd

<u>Boys</u>	gathered in the street.
The **<u>boys</u>**	gathered in the street.
All the **<u>boys</u>**	gathered in the street.
All the **<u>boys</u>** from Brixton	gathered in the street.

'single grammatical unit' - ctd

The car was **nice**.
The car was very **nice**.
The car was very **nice** to drive.
The car was much **nicer** than mine.

'single grammatical unit' - ctd

Bill drives **slowly**.
Bill drives too **slowly**.
Bill drives so **slowly** that we're
          sure to be late.

In this course, we recognise five grammatical phrases in English:

Verb phrase	**VP**
Noun phrase	**NP**
Adjective phrase	**AdjP**
Adverb phrase	**AdvP**
Prepositional phrase	**PP**

Clauses ('satser') are made up of phrases

Often, *strong coffee* *is*   **great** *on a cold morning*.
AdvP   NP   VP **AdjP**   **PP**

On a cold morning, *strong coffee* *is*   *often* *great*.
PP   NP   VP **AdvP** **AdjP**

VP

• **VPs contain verbs only (but can be broken up =be discontinuous) as in examples 4-5 below):**

  1. *He has a tummy ache.*

  2. *I have had lunch.*

  3. *I will be having lunch at 2.*

  4. *I have not had lunch.*

  5. *I will always love you.*

NP

• **consists of one or more words, e.g.**
  Tim is great.

  Coffee is great.

  Strong coffee is great.

  Very strong coffee is great.

  Very strong coffee from Columbia is great.

  Very strong coffee that is freshly ground is great.

An NP can consist of just a pronoun

He likes playing computer games.

They like it.

(Recall: one of the functions of pronouns is to 'replace' NPs.)

AdjP

Always contains an adjective:

Strong coffee **is** *great* **on a cold morning**.
NP   VP   AdjP   PP

Can also include an adverb and a prepositional phrase:

Her parents were so great.
Her parents were very happy.
Her parents were really nice to me.

AdvP

- **Always includes an adverb:**
  He drives carefully.
  He drives fast.
  She said it then.

- **AdvP may contain more than one adverb:**
  He drives very carefully.
  He drives very, very carefully.

PP
(cannot consist of just one word)

- **Typically consists of** a preposition + an NP**:**

  Dan is in the house

  I'm seeing him on Monday

  I walked in after him.

- **A preposition alone** <u>cannot</u> **form a prepositional phrase:**

  * We talked about.
  * I'm seeing him on.

All phrases have a HEAD

- **The most important word in the phrase.**
- **The word that tells us what kind of phrase it is**
- **The only obligatory element in the phrase (with the exception of PPs, which need more).**

A chant to meditate over

- **The head of a noun phrase is always a noun (or a pronoun).**
- **The head of a verb phrase is always a verb.**
- **The head of an adjective phrase is always an adjective.**
- **The head of an adverb phrase is always an adverb.**
- **The head of a prepositional phrase is always a preposition.**

How do I know where a phrase begins and ends?

The word or group of words functions and behaves as a <u>single grammatical unit</u> in the sentence.

We can <u>test</u> this:

Two tests:

1. **Substitution**
2. **Movement**

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1. Is it possible to <u>substitute</u> the group of words by <u>one</u> other word?

Strong coffee   *<u>is</u>*   **great**   *on a cold morning.*
NP   **VP** **AdjP**   **PP**

<u>It</u>   *is*   **great**   *then.*
NP **VP** **AdjP** **AdvP**

<u>All the</u> **boys** <u>from Brixton</u> gathered <u>in the street</u>.
<u>They</u> gathered <u>there</u>.

<u>Very strong coffee that is freshly</u> ground is great.
<u>It</u> is great.

I <u>had seen</u> him <u>on Monday</u>.
I <u>saw</u> him <u>then</u>.

Test 2: Movement

2. A phrase can be MOVED in its <u>entirety</u> (we cannot move groups of words that do not form a phrase).

Strong coffee is great <u>on a cold morning</u>.

<u>On a cold morning</u> strong coffee is great.

*Morning coffee is great on a cold.

Syntax at the **clause** level

A <u>clause</u> expresses a complete thought. It communicates a message which can be true or false.

Clause element = function at the clause level: A simple example

The boy **hit** **the girl.**
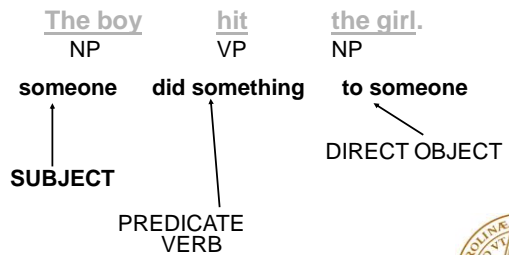NP   VP   NP
The girl **hit** **the boy.**
NP   VP   NP
"Skeleton" message:
'someone did something to someone'

Adding our skeleton message yields:

The boy   **hit**   **the girl.**
NP   VP   NP
someone   **did something**   **to someone**

DIRECT OBJECT

SUBJECT

PREDICATE
VERB

What are clause elements?

- **A description of the function of grammatical units in a clause**
- **all the units that <u>the predicate verb requires</u> + any <u>optional units</u> the speaker/writer has chosen to include.**
- **participants in the state, event, etc., which is communicated by the clause**

Clause elements

Subject (S)
(Predicate) Verb (V)
Object
   direct object (Od) **('ackusativobjekt')**
   indirect object (Oi) **('dativobjekt')**
Predicative
   subject predicative (Ps) **('subjektiv pred.fylln.)**
   object predicative (Po) **('objektiv pred.fylln.)**
Adverbial **(time, place, manner, degree, etc)**

A clause element takes the shape of a phrase (or a dependent clause – defined later in the course):

The man wearing a suit   *walked*   *her*   *back.*
Subject   Verb Od   A

NP   **VP** **NP**   **AdvP**

	The man wearing a suit	*walked*	*her*	*back.*
Function	Subject	Verb	Od	A
Form	NP	VP	NP	AdvP

The importance of the predicate verb

- **The predicate verb determines what the clause is like, in terms of what other clause elements must, or can, be present.**
- **In other words, the verb determines whether there must be objects, predicatives, or obligatory adverbials in the clause.**

An example:

- **predicate verb, e.g.** *like*

- **The verb LIKE requires both a subject and an object.**
  We like juice.
  * like juice.
  * We like.

(PREDICATE) VERB

is <u>always</u> a VP, e.g.

The children <u>sing</u> in the morning.
The children <u>were singing</u> when we arrived.
The children <u>had been singing</u> all morning.

An example of a discontinuous VP

[The boy] [had] [not] [eaten] [since yesterday].

S	V	A	V	A
NP	**VP**	**AdvP**	**VP**	**PP**

SUBJECT

Semantics:

- **typically somebody who performs the action expressed by the verb**

- **typically denotes the most important participant in the action, and the subject therefore often represents the topic, i.e. what the clause (or sentence) is about.**

NB! Notions like "most important", "what the sentence is about" reflect the speaker's (or writer's) perspective on the text, etc. Also, other factors may determine the choice of subject.

Examples:

The boy *threw the ball.*
  S

but does not have to be a human being or animal:

Flying *frightened him.*
  S

Syntax: 1. the subject <u>typically</u> precedes the <u>predicate verb</u>, e.g.

*The old man **played** the guitar.*
    S   V

*Yesterday the old man **played** the guitar.*
                S   V

Syntax 2. The subject changes places with the first auxiliary verb in questions, e.g.

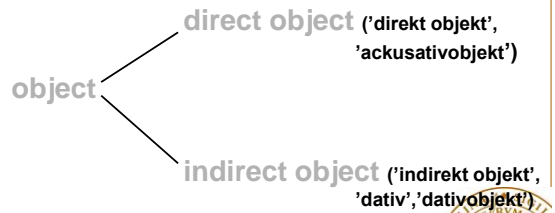**_He can speak English_ .**
S   V   Od

Can he speak English?
v   S   V   Od

Syntax 3. The subject agrees with the predicative verb (if the verb is in the present tense):

He understands the problems.
S   V   Od

We _understand_ the problem
S   V   Od

OBJECT

object — **direct object** ('direkt objekt', 'ackusativobjekt')

object — **indirect object** ('indirekt objekt', 'dativ','dativobjekt')

DIRECT OBJECT

Semantics: somebody or something affected by the action expressed by the predicate verb.

Dennis read a book.
S   V   Od
NP VP NP

Syntax:
- **the direct object typically follows the verb.**
- **occurs after <u>transitive verbs</u> of different kinds.**
- **Objects are typically NPs, but can also be a dependent clause, e.g.**

We saw him.
S   V   Od
NP VP NP

We saw that they really tried their best.
S   V   Od
NP VP   clause

INDIRECT OBJECT

Semantics: is a recipient **of something, usually people receiving something or benefiting from the action expressed by the verb:**

America has given me everything.
S   V   Oi Od
NP   VP   NP NP

Syntax:
- **The indirect object is typically an NP.**
- **When a clause has an indirect object, there is also a direct object.**
- **The indirect object normally precedes the direct object.**

Mini exercise: which is the indirect object?

The student bought his girl-friend flowers.
S   V
NP   VP   NP   NP

Mini exercise: which is the indirect object?

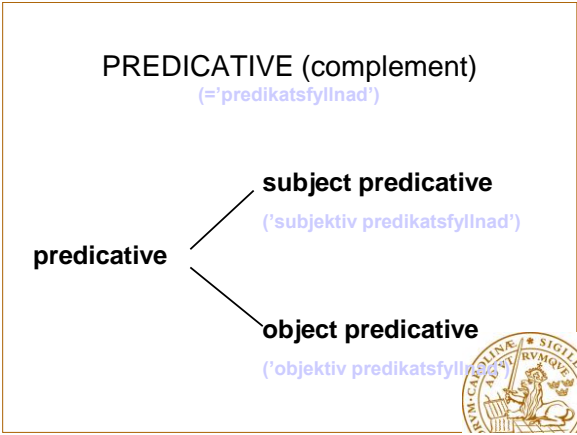*They asked their teacher a lot of questions.*
S   V
NP VP   NP   NP

NOTE: the indirect object **can also be realised by a PP. The** indirect object **then comes** after **the direct object. UGE calls it a** **prepositional object** **in this case.**

They gave a bunch of flowers to Anne.
S   V   Od   Oi/Op
NP VP   NP   PP

PREDICATIVE (complement)
(='predikatsfyllnad')

subject predicative
('subjektiv predikatsfyllnad')

predicative

object predicative
('objektiv predikatsfyllnad')

SUBJECT PREDICATIVE

Semantics:

A subject predicative ascribes a property to the subject (*Susan is nice*) or identifies the subject (*Susan is the teacher*).

Ascribing a property:

Dixie   is   a dog.
S   V   Ps
NP   VP   NP

Comparison with direct objects:

The object does not describe or identify the subject:

Dennis has a dog.
S   V   Od
NP   VP   NP

Mini exercise: object vs predicative

Dennis became a lawyer.
S   V
NP   VP   NP

Dennis needs a lawyer.
S   V
NP   VP   NP

The subject predicative is often an AdjP:

Sally is brilliant.

I got nervous.

She looked very happy.

The syntax of subject predicatives

The subject predicative:
- **typically follows the V**

- **is realised by an AdjP, an NP or a dependent clause**

- **the verb is a <u>linking</u> verb (copula, 'bindeverb')**
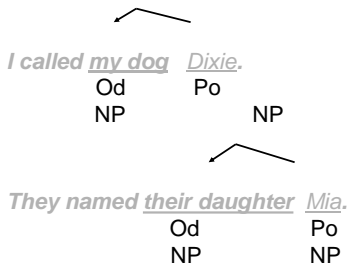

Summing up

Subjects and objects have <u>different</u> referents.

When the subject predicative takes the form of a noun phrase, the subject and the subject predicative have <u>the same</u> referent.

OBJECT PREDICATIVE

I called <u>my dog</u>   Dixie.
  Od Po
  NP   NP

They named <u>their daughter</u>   Mia.
  Od   Po
  NP   NP

PREDICATIVES: summing up

The semantics of predicatives**: If they are AdjPs, they <u>ascribe properties</u> to the subject or object. If they are NPs, they have the same <u>referent</u> as the subject or object, or identify the subject or object**

A subject predicative typically follows the verb.
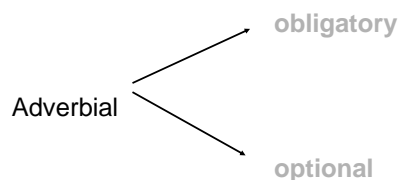**An object predicative typically follows the direct object.**

Adverbial

Adverbials convey a range of information about the event expressed by the core of the clause, e.g.
- **Time**
- **Place**
- **Reason**
- **Condition ('villkor')**
- **Speaker's attitude**
- **etc**

Subcategories of adverbials based on <u>syntactic criteria</u>

obligatory

Adverbial

optional

Obligatory adverbial:

- **can occur with two patterns:**
  a) after a <u>linking</u> verb
  b) after some other verbs such as *put*

Example: linking verb:
  *I   **am** <u>at home</u>.*

S	**V**	**A**
NP	**VP**	**PP**

* I am.

With the verb *put, place* etc:

He put the butter <u>in the fridge</u>.

S	V	Od	A
NP	VP	NP	PP

*He put the butter.

Optional adverbials:

- **can be added to clauses with <u>any type of verb</u>, e.g.**

I   will leave   now.

S	V	A
NP	VP	AdvP

I will leave.

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*If you finish your dinner **you can have dessert**.*

A		S	V	Od

You can have dessert.

*Luckily, **Sweden beat Denmark**.*

A	S	V	Od

Sweden beat Denmark.

Clause patterns in English
(cf. UGE p. 73):

Dennis <u>sneezed</u>.	**SV**
Dennis <u>lives</u> in Maryland.	**SVA**
Lilian <u>likes</u> chocolate.	**SVO**
Lilian <u>is</u> a lovely person.	**SVP**
He <u>gave</u> me this necklace.	**SVOO**
We <u>named</u> our daughter Sue.	**SVOP**
He <u>put</u> his keys on the table.	**SVOA**

Optional adverbials can be added:

*Dennis <u>sneezed</u> **all the time**.*	**SV(A)**
***These days,** Dennis <u>lives</u> in Maryland.*	**(A)SVA**
***Luckily,** Lilian <u>likes</u> chocolate.*	**(A)SVO**
***Fortunately,** Lilian <u>is</u> a lovely person.*	**(A)SVP**
*He <u>gave</u> me this necklace **for my birthday**.*	**SVOO(A)**
*We <u>named</u> our daughter Sue **even before she was born**.*	**SVOP(A)**
*He <u>put</u> his keys on the table **when he got back from work**.*	**SVOA(A)**