

11.1. Subordinate Clause

- = characteristically functions as dependent within some larger construction

→ embedded into complex sentence

[1] i [The book she recommended] is out of print.

ii He [knows that she is right].

iii [Although the paper is poorly written,] it contains some excellent ideas.

11.1. Subordinate Clause

1.1 Marking of subordination

●

- subordination often marked by some feature in the internal structure of clause

[2] i It is clear [**that** he made a mistake].

ii They interviewed all those [she mentioned in her declaration]

iii She's asking [how many copies we will want].

11.1. Subordinate Clause

1.1 Marking of subordination

- [2] iii She's asking [how many copies we will want].
 - clause in brackets is subordinate
 - marker:
 - combination of prenuclear interrogative phrase
 - +
 - subject- predicator order
 - corresponding main clause:
 - How many copies will we want?

1. Subordinate Clauses

1.1 Marking of subordination

- English does not require that subordination be marked in structure of subordinate clause itself

[3] i He knows she is right.

ii She is right. → corresponding main clause

1. Subordinate Clauses

1.1 Marking of subordination

- clause can be marked as subordinate even though it is not functioning as dependent within larger construction

[4] He took advice from his daughter, who was manager of the local bank.

1. Subordinate Clauses

1.2 Finite and non- finite

- - major division is between finite and non-finite subordinate clause:

[5]	i	He thinks that she is here.		[finite]
	ii	He thinks that she be here.		
	iii	She wants to be here.		[non-finite]

1. Subordinate Clauses

1.3 Relative, comparative, and content clause



Three main classes of finite subordinate clause:

[6] i I couldn't find the book that I wanted.

[relative]

ii He gave me more copies than I wanted.

[comparative]

iii You know that I wanted it.

[content]

2. Clause Types

- **distinction between**

(a) declarative content clause

(b) interrogative content clause

(c) exclamative content clause

3. Subordinators in content clause

3.1 Expanded declarative vs bare declaratives

●

- declarative content clauses prototypically introduced by subordinator **that**
- also without such a marker of subordination

- [1] i He knows that you are here.
[expanded declarative]
ii He knows you are here.
[bare declarative]

3. Subordinators in content clause

3.2 Non- expandable vs expandable declarative

certain prepositions take declarative complements that are invariably bare (= non-expandable)

[2] a. I'll do it **if** [you pay me].

b. I'll do it provided [(that) you pay me].

3. Subordinators in content clause

- 3.3 Conditions under which **that** must or may appear

(a) That is obligatory

- when content clause is subject or precedes matrix
predicator

- [3] i [That they were lying] is now obvious.
ii But [that he really intended to cheat us] I still
can't believe.

3. Subordinators in content clause

3.3 Conditions under which ***that*** must or may appear

- **(a) *That* is obligatory**

- when content clause is adjunct

[4] He appealed to us to bring his case to the attention of the authorities that justice might be done.

3. Subordinators in content clause

- 3.3 Conditions under which ***that*** must or may appear

(a) *That* is obligatory

- when content clause is complement of comparative
than/ as

[5] I'd rather (that) he hired a taxi [than that he drove my car]

3. Subordinators in content clause

3.3 Conditions under which *that* must or may appear

- - (b) *That* must be omitted**

- when the content clause is embedded within unbounded dependency construction in a way that subject is realised by gap

- [6]i Who does she think [_ is Santa Claus]?
ii Bernhard is the one she thinks [_ is Santa Claus].

3. Subordinators in content clause *that* as subordination marker

- According to H&P (2002), *that* is not the head of the clause. It is just a syntactic marker of subordination
 - it is frequently omissible and thus rather a dependent element of the clause, i.e. not a head
 - the mood of the dependent clause depends on the matrix predicate, not on the subordinator
 - We insist [that the work **be** finished this week]
 - *We hope [that the work **be** finished this week]
 - adjunct clauses may precede the *that*-clause
 - The boat was such an attraction that I was afraid, [**if** he came near it again], that I should never see the last of him]

3. Subordinators in content clause *whether* and *if*

- Like that *whether* and its variant *if* are markers for subordination
 - *whether* is not omissible
- Content clause types behave differently w.r.t. subordination markers
 - declarative
 - omissible *that*
 - closed interrogative
 - obligatory *whether/if*
 - open interrogative
 - without any subordinator but with a wh-phrase in the pre-nuclear position

Functions of declarative content clauses

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4.0 Definition of content clause

➤ ***Content clauses***

the default category of finite subordinate clauses, they lack the special properties of relative and comparative clauses, their structure is less different from the main clauses.

- ***subordinate clause***

a clause embedded as a dependent (complement or modifier) in a larger clause

I think she said [he was ill]

- ***main clause***

a clause not embedded as a dependent in a larger clause

[It is raining]

- ***matrix clause***

a clause within which a subordinate clause is embedded

[I think she said [he was ill]]

4.0 Definition of content clause

➤ **3 major subclasses of subordinate clause**

- **relative clause**

they weren't among [_{NP} the people [who had been invited]]

- **comparative clause**

More people came [_{PP} than [_ had been invited]]

- **content clause**

provides content, implied by, or commented upon by it's main clause

I don't think [that these people had been invited]

- ***declarative content clause (that-clause)***
- ***interrogative content clause***

4.0 Definition of content clause

➤ **grammatical roles of declarative content clauses**

- ***external complement of verbs or adjectives (subject)***

It annoys me [_{CP}that she does it] extraposition

It is obvious [_{CP}that she does it]
- ***internal complements of verbs***

He **told** her [_{CP}(that) she was smart]
- ***internal complements of adjectives***

I am not **sure** [_{CP} (that) he was right]
- ***complements of nouns***

...[the [_{NP} **idea**] [_{CP}that a son would do such a thing to his father]]
- ***complements of prepositions or adverb***

They left [_{PP} [_P **before**] [_{CP}the meeting ended]]

We discussed [_{PP} [_P about] [_{CP}that he sould pass the examen]]

4.0 Definition of content clause

➤ the subordinator *that*

▪ **obligatory**

- if the content clause in the left periphery
[**That** I need help] is obvious.
*I need help is obvious.
- if the head is a noun

▪ **inadmissible:**

with particular prepositions

I left [before [he arrived]]

*I left before **that** he arrived.

▪ **optional**

with particular verbs and adjectives

I know [**that** it's genuine]

I know [it's genuine]

4.1 Declarative content clause as subject

❖ *Subject*

- The prototypical subject is an NP
- All verbs allow an NP as subject
- **[_{NP} Their failure to reply]** doesn't worry her.
- Content clauses do not have the same properties as subjects, but they occupy the position before the verb, therefore their analysis as a subject is unproblematic

[_{CP} That he tried to retract his statement] is hardly surprising

surprise x

p

DO

S

It is hardly surprising **[_{CP} that he tried to retract his statement]** extraposition
Even more surprising is **[_{CP} that he tried to retract his statement]** postposition

4.1 Declarative content clause as subject

➤ ***predicates licensing subject declarative content clauses***

- ***adjectives***

[_{CP} That he tried to retract his statement **]** is hardly surprising
true, clear, obvious, important, striking ...

true **p**
 S

- ***nouns***

[_{CP} That he tried to retract his statement **]** is a miracle
an accident, a measure of, a miracle, the result. ...

miracle **p**

- ***verbs***

4.1 Declarative content clause as subject

■ **verbs**

- **intransitive**

matter, offend, ...

matter ***p***
 S

- **transitive**

amuse, bother, disgust, help, show, suggest, surprise

surprise ***x*** ***p***
 DO ***S***

4.2 Declarative content clause as internal complement

❖ declarative content clause as internal complement

➤ It is contained within the matrix VP

▪ **2-place predicates**

Everyone [_{VP} expected [_{CP} that he would resign]]

expect	p	x
	IC	S

IC: internal complement

accept, add, forget, presume, suspect, guess, threaten, feel, consider, ...

▪ **3-place predicates**

They [_{VP} told us [_{CP} that the battery was flat]]

tell	p	y	x
	IC	DO	S

4.2 Declarative content clause as internal complement

▪ 3-place predicates

- NP as first internal complement

They [_{VP} told [_{NP} us] [_{CP} that the battery was flat]]

tell	p	y	x
	IC	NP	S

obligatory y: *assure, convince, inform, persuade, reassure, remind, ...*

optional y: *advise, caution, show, ?ask, ?order, ...*

- optional PP as first internal complement

- She [_{VP} suggested [_{PP} to me] [_{CP} that she was ill]]

suggest p	y	x
	IC	PP S

- y is recipient (*to*): *admit, announce, reply, suggest, prove, ...*
- y is source (*from*): *conclude, discover, elicit, see, learn, ...*
- y is ? (*with*): *agree, arrange, confirm, organise, plead, ...*

4.2 Declarative content clause as internal complement

➤ As complement to the verb *be* (cleft-constructions)

The reason he resigned [_{VP} **was** [_{CP} that he didn't get on with the boss]]

The problem [_{VP} is [_{CP} he can't afford the rent]]

- The content clause identifies the value of the variable expressed in the subject.
- Although the subject contains the definite article there is no reference to any previously mentioned problem. The effect is to present the content clause as new information.

4.3 Content clause in constructions with *it* subject *it*

❖ It as subject

- ***it* as correlate of an extraposed subject (expletive *it*)**

It is hardly surprising [_{CP} that he tried to retract his statement]

[_{CP} That he tried to retract his statement] is hardly surprising

surprising ***x***

S

true, clear, obvious, important, striking ...

matter, offend, ...

amuse, bother, disgust, help, show, suggest, surprise

4.3 Content clause in constructions with *it* subject *it*

- **it in impersonal constructions (impersonal *it*)**

It appeared [CP that he was trying to hide his true identity]

appear *p*

IC

Apparently he was trying to hide his true identity

- the subject is semantically empty
- The content clause represents the sole argument of the matrix clause
- The content clause is an internal complement of the verb
- The subordinate clause can not occupy the actual subject position
- *seem, appear, ?happen,*

4.3 Content clause in constructions with *it* subject *it*

■ Difference expletive *it* vs. impersonal *it*

■ subject function

○ impersonal construction

the content clause is only an internal argument, i.e. it cannot be a subject

It seems that he was wrong.

**That he was wrong seems.*

Peter seems to be wrong

○ expletive construction

the content clause is the subject since it is licensed by the verb in this position

It is obvious that he was wrong

That he was wrong is obvious.

4.3 Content clause in constructions with *it* subject *it*

- **Impersonal constructions with adjectival predicatives**

It seems that he was wrong.

**That he was wrong seems.*

seem ***p***
IC

It seems clear that he was guilty.

It seems [_{AP} clear [_{CP} that he was guilty]] expletive ***it***

[_{CP} That he was guilty]_i seems clear _i CP in subject position

- The *that*-clause can function as a subject if a predicative complement is added. Then we have an ***ordinary complex intransitive*** construction

His guilt seems clear.

seem ***P*** ***x***

P ***n***

4.3 Content clause in constructions with *it* subject *it*

■ **Complementation with as if**

With *seem* and *appear* the content clause as impersonal construction can be replaced without any change of meaning by *as if*.

It seemed that/as if he was trying to hide his true identity.

- But *as if*-phrases cannot function as subject

4.3 Content clause in constructions with *it* subject *it*

■ With be

There are several idiomatic uses of be with it as subject and content clause as internal complement:

It is not that I don't understand what you are trying to say.

- The *it* has no clear reference and can hardly be regarded as defining a variable whose value is specified by the content clause.

4.3 Content clause in construction with it complex-transitive construction

❖ *complex-transitive construction*

I [regard [it [_{pp} as a discourtesy]]] [_{CP} that you didn't notify them]

I [find [it [_{pp} hardly surprising]]] [_{CP} that he tried to sing]

P

IC

PC

extraposition

find *P* *p* *x*

PC

IC

S

- The *that*-clause is the predicand of the predicative complement (PC). If the predicand is a content clause, we normally need *it* as dummy object (***expletive object it***), with the content clause in extraposed object position.
accept (as), believe, call, confirm (as), consider, declare, recognise, ...

4.3 Content clause in construction with it other constructions

- *I **take it** you'll be accepting their offer.*
take it is a verbal idiom which as a whole licenses the content clause
- *He didn't like it that she had brought the children*
like doesn't license a content clause on its own, it has to be added
- *She resents **it** that they appointed someone less qualified than her.*
here: it could be omitted
- *You can depend on **it** that she will find a solution.*
it is object of *on* rather than of the verb, it is obligatory
- *We owe **it** to you that we got off so lightly.*
- The content clause can be preposed with omission of it
- *This brought **it** home to us that we were in great danger.*
it can be dropped without change in position of the content clause.

4.4 Complement of an adjective

➤ *complement of an adjective*

He's [_{AP} very **conscious** [_{CP} that they like him]]

afraid, angry, aware, certain, confident, conscious, eager, fearful, glad, grateful...

participle adjectives

amazed, amused, annoyed, determined, disgusted...

<i>afraid</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>x</i>
	IC	S

- IC is oblique, either [_{pp} P [NP]] or [_{pp} P [CP]]
- There is a sense of *afraid* that is found only with a clausal complement
 - approximately “regret”:
I'm afraid I can't help you.

<i>afraid</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>x</i>
	IC	S

- IC is core complement

4.4 Complement of an adjective

➤ *multiple argument structures*

- Max is [_{AP} certain [_{CP} that he is being victimised]]

<i>certain</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>x</i>
	IC	S

- **It** is [_{AP} certain] [_{CP} that he is being victimised]]
[_{CP} that he is being victimised] is [_{AP} certain]

<i>certain</i>	<i>p</i>
	S

4.5. Complement of a noun or supplement

❖ **Complements of a noun or supplement**

➤ ***complement of a noun***

[_{NP} The thought [_{CP} that we might need him]] is awful

thought **p** **x**
IC

We're looking for [_{NP} evidence [_{CP}that he was the offender]]

- i. nouns derived from verbs: *admission, agreement, argument, assertion, assumption, belief, claim, proof, hope...*
- ii. nouns derived from adjectives: *awareness, certainty, confidence, possibility, probability, sorrow, likelihood*
- iii. derivative nouns which differ in meaning from the source: *awareness, certainty, confidence, possibility, probability, sorrow, likelihood, ...*

4.5. Complement of a noun or supplement

➤ *subject of the source commonly appears as a*

- *genitive determiner*

[_{NP} [_{NP} Frank's] **assumption** [_{CP} that he was not ill]]

<i>assume</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>x</i>	
	IC	S	
<i>assumption</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>z</i>
	IC	<i>NP_{GEN}</i>	

- *as a by/of-Phrase* (if the source is an agentive verb)

[_{NP} a proposal [_{PP} by them] [_{CP} that he should leave]]

<i>propose</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>x</i>	
	IC	S	
<i>assumption</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>z</i>
	IC	<i>PP[by/of]</i>	

4.5. Complement of a noun or supplement

➤ ***genitive determiners with nouns derived from adjectives***

- the content clause is an internal complement of the adjective

[_{NP} [_{NP}his] **confidence** [_{CP}that he would get the job]]

confident

p

X

IC

S

confidence

p

X

Z

IC

NP_{GEN}

awareness, certainty, eagerness,

- inadmissible genitive

the/***his** probability that he would get the job

probable

p

S

**likelihood, *possibility, ...*

4.5. Complement of a noun or supplement

➤ *the fact that*

- most frequent noun taking a content clause complement
- it serves as a device for nominalising clauses by incorporating them into an NP that can occupy any ordinary NP position

This theory is borne out [_{PP} **by** [_{NP} the **fact** [_{CP} that children in co-educational schools often mature earlier than those who are segregated]]]]

- The preposition *by* allows NP complements but not declarative content clauses: use of *the fact* here is therefore necessary to accommodate the content clause within a *by phrase*

4.5. Complement of a noun or supplement

➤ *verbs and adjectives that do not license content clauses*

indifferent, disguise, ...

Are they [_{AP} **indifferent** [_{PP} **to** [_{DP} the [_{NP} **fact** [_{CP} that the dog can easily pick up germs from the preceding patient]]]]]?

No amount of statistical explanation can [_{VP} **disguise** [_{DP} the [_{NP} **fact** [_{CP} that, as a nation, we are still spending more than we are earning]]]]]

- *indifferent* and *disguise* don't license content clauses:
indifferent requires a to-phrase, *disguise* requires an NP-object

4.5. Complement of a noun or supplement

➤ *the fact that in subject position*

the fact is not limited to cases where the content clause could not stand on its own, it commonly occurs in subject position, where it is in competition with two other constructions:

- ***NP as subject***

[_{NP}The fact that it was illegal] didn't worry him.

- ***clause as subject***

[_{CP}That it was illegal] didn't worry him

- ***extraposition***

It didn't worry him [_{CP}that it was illegal]

4.5. Complement of a noun or supplement

- ***attributive adjuncts***

We should encourage the leaders of these societies to accept
[_{NP} the [_{AP} unpleasant] [_{NP} **fact** [_{CP} that they are responsible for
their fates]]].

- NPs with the **fact as head** and **clause as complement** are always definite: the clause identifies the fact

4.5. Complement of a noun or supplement

❖ *Postposed complements and supplements*

- *postposition*

The [NP possibility _] can't be ruled out [CP that she will call an early election]

- *supplement*

I'm inclined to favour your first **suggestion**, [CP that we shelve the proposal until after the election]

Avoiding one counsel of the Fabian **tract**, [CP that a few of the larger school boards might well be saved for limited purposes because of the superior efficiency, the government came out for their abolition].

- The supplements have the whole of the **preceding NP as anchor**, they must be semantically compatible with it (identifying its content)

4.5. Complement of a noun or supplement

❖ Multi-word licensing

There are some instances of the sequence **noun + content clause** where the clause is not licensed by the noun alone

- The clearest cases involve prepositional constructions like: ***to the effect, on the basis...***
- Certain constructions involving ***have/give*** or existential ***there + be*** are also of this kind:
 - We had no idea it would be so difficult*
 - The present system has the disadvantage that it is inordinately complicated.*
 - There's also the problem that two signatures are needed.*

4.5. Complement of a noun or supplement

➤ idea

We had [_{NP} no **idea** [_{CP} it would be so difficult]]

[_{NP} The idea [_{CP} that he might be wrong]] had simply never occurred to him.

– *idea* can certainly take a clausal complement

- the ***have no/any idea*** combinations can license an interrogative complement, which is certainly not possible with ***idea*** on its own:

He had no idea what to do.

**A good idea what to do was suggested by Terry.*

- *Have no idea* is semantically like *not know*, it appears to behave as in idiom with the same complementation as *know*

4.5. Complement of a noun or supplement

➤ ***Disadvantage*** and ***problem***

- The present system has the disadvantage that it is inordinately complicated.
- There's also the problem that two signatures are needed.
- both are hardly to take clausal complements on their own:
 - ?The disadvantage that it is inordinately complicated had been overlooked.
 - ?The problem that two signatures are needed is quite serious.
- therefore, it is arguable that the content clause is a complement in the structure of the VP or clause rather than of the NPs headed by these nouns

4.6. Content clauses licensed by “so” and “such”

❖ Delayed complements with **so** and **such**

the adverb **so** and the adjective **such** license declarative content clauses occurring at the end of the matrix clause:

- i. *The case was so heavy that I couldn't lift it.*
 - ii. *So many people enrolled for the course that we had to move to a larger room.*
 - iii. *It was such a miserable day that we decided to stay at home.*
- The content clause here is not adjacent to the **so** or **such** that licenses it, but is **delayed** to the end of the matrix clause
 - This position is **obligatory**
 - **It was so that I couldn't lift it heavy*
 - nor can we have a content clause at the end of the subject phrase
 - **So many people that we had to move to a larger room enrolled for the course.*

4.6. Content clauses licensed by “so” and “such”

- **Such** and **so** indicate **degree/extent** or **manner** and the content clause has a *resultative meaning* 'The result of the case being as heavy as it was was that I couldn't lift it'
 - **So** occurs **as modifier** to a wide range of heads: adjective, degree determinative, adverb, verb
 - i. *The case was so heavy that I couldn't lift it.* (adjective)
 - ii. *So many people enrolled for the course that we had to move to a larger room.* (degree determinative)
 - iii. *It happened so quickly that we were taken completely offguard.* (adverb)
 - iv. *He'd so arranged the programme, that we had lots of time to discuss the papers.* (verb)

4.6. Content clauses licensed by “so” and “such”

- ***such*** is **predeterminer modifier** in NP structure, but it can also occur **predicatively**

i. *It was such a miserable day that we decided to stay at home.* (predeterminer modifier)

- The subordinator **that** is omissible, under the condition that apply to content clauses generally

The case was so heavy I couldn't lift it.

4.6. Content clauses licensed by “so” and “such”

Such that

➤ *such that*

When the adjective **such** is used predicatively the content clause generally follows immediately, but it does not have to:

- i. His circumstances were such that he could rarely afford a restaurant meal.
- ii. [Such] is the mystique of planning [that people expect that fulfilment of the plan will follow automatically upon its announcement].

- ***such*** is **preposed**
- the content clause is again located at the end of the matrix clause
- in this predicative construction the subordinator **that** is not omissible

4.6. Content clauses licensed by “so” and “such” *so that*

- **so** occurs immediately before the content clause it licenses in three constructions; involving **manner**, **result**, and **purpose adjuncts**
 - **Manner**
 - i. *He'd arranged the programme so that we had lots of time to discuss the papers.*
 - ii. *I apply the hay so that only the tops of the plants show above it.*
 - The **so** here can be glossed as “**in such a way**”: it is a **manner adjunct** and licenses a **resultative** “with the result that” reading

4.6. Content clauses licensed by “so” and “such” *so that*

- **Result**

Most primary teachers are women [_{PP} so [that suitable ‘role models’, to use the trendy phrase, are more abundant for girls than for boys]]

- So is syntactically inseparable from the content clause which, moreover, cannot be omitted
- The content clause is best analysed as a complement of so, with the combination of so + content clause functioning as ***adjunct of result***
- The resultative meaning is attributable not to the content clause itself, but to the phrase consisting of so as head and clause as complement. This phrase we take to be a **PP**, with **so** a **preposition** with the **content clause as complement**

4.6. Content clauses licensed by “so” and “such” *so that*

- **Purpose**

I disconnected the phone [_{PP} so [that we could talk undisturbed]]

- The PP consisting of so + content clause functions as ***adjunct of purpose***, with so equivalent to *in order*

[_{PP} so [that his customers should not soil their hands]] Brecht issued white gloves _

- preposing of the content clause

4.7 Adjunct in clause structure

❖ *Adjunct in clause structure*

The declarative content clause functions as **adjunct** rather than complement

- **With subject + predicator order**

What has happened [_{CP} that you are looking so worried]

- **adjunct to interrogative clauses**
- semantically the adjunct can be regarded as **resultative**: the presupposition of the question can be glossed as “Something has happened with the result that you are looking worried”.

This is my party card’, he said, holding it high [_{CP} that all might see it]

- **purpose adjunct**; constructions is rare in Present-day English usually having *so that* rather than *that* alone

[_{CP} The more we talked] the more I liked her.

- *the more we talked* is the **subordinate clause** in the correlative comparative construction
- The initial element is always a comparative phrase modified by *the*

4.7 Adjunct in clause structure

➤ **Adjuncts with subject-auxiliary inversion**

[_{CP} Had they committed a similar crime**]** they would have got a jail sentence.

- conditional adjunct, equivalent to the PP *if they had committed a similar crime here*
- Only a subset of auxiliaries can occur in this constructions: the great majority of cases involve ***had***, ***were***, or ***should***
- The subordinate clause has the appearance of a main clause closed interrogative. This is one reflection of the significant semantic resemblances between conditions and questions. Compare:

i. *If your're free this afternoon, we can go and look at some houses.*

ii. *Are you free this afternoon? If so, we can go ...*

so is interpreted in terms of the positive answer preceding questions, for the negative answer we have *not*

If not, I'll look at the houses on my own

inversion can serve as a marker of a conditional

4.8 Complement of a preposition or adverb

❖ *Complement of a preposition or adverb*

➤ *prepositional governors*

▪ *non-expandable content clauses*

exclude **that**

- i. They left [_{pp} **before** [_{cp} the meeting ended]
- ii. We'll invite them [_{pp} **though** [_{cp} I don't think he'll come]]

*after, although, as, as if, if, in case, until, unless, when
where, whereas, ...*

■ **expandable**

allow **that**

- i. I'll come along [_{pp} [_p provided] (that) I can leave early]
- ii. I was lucky (in that the other candidates withdrew).

*but, considering, except, given, granted, in, notwithstanding, now,
provided, providing, save seeing, so, supposing*

4.8 Complement of a preposition or adverb

➤ **non-expandable construction**

the main prepositions/prepositional idioms: *after, although, as, as if, as long as, as soon as, because, before, for, for all, if, in case, lest, like, once, since, though, till/until, unless, when, where, whereas*,
adverbs: *directly, immediately*

➤ **expandable construction**

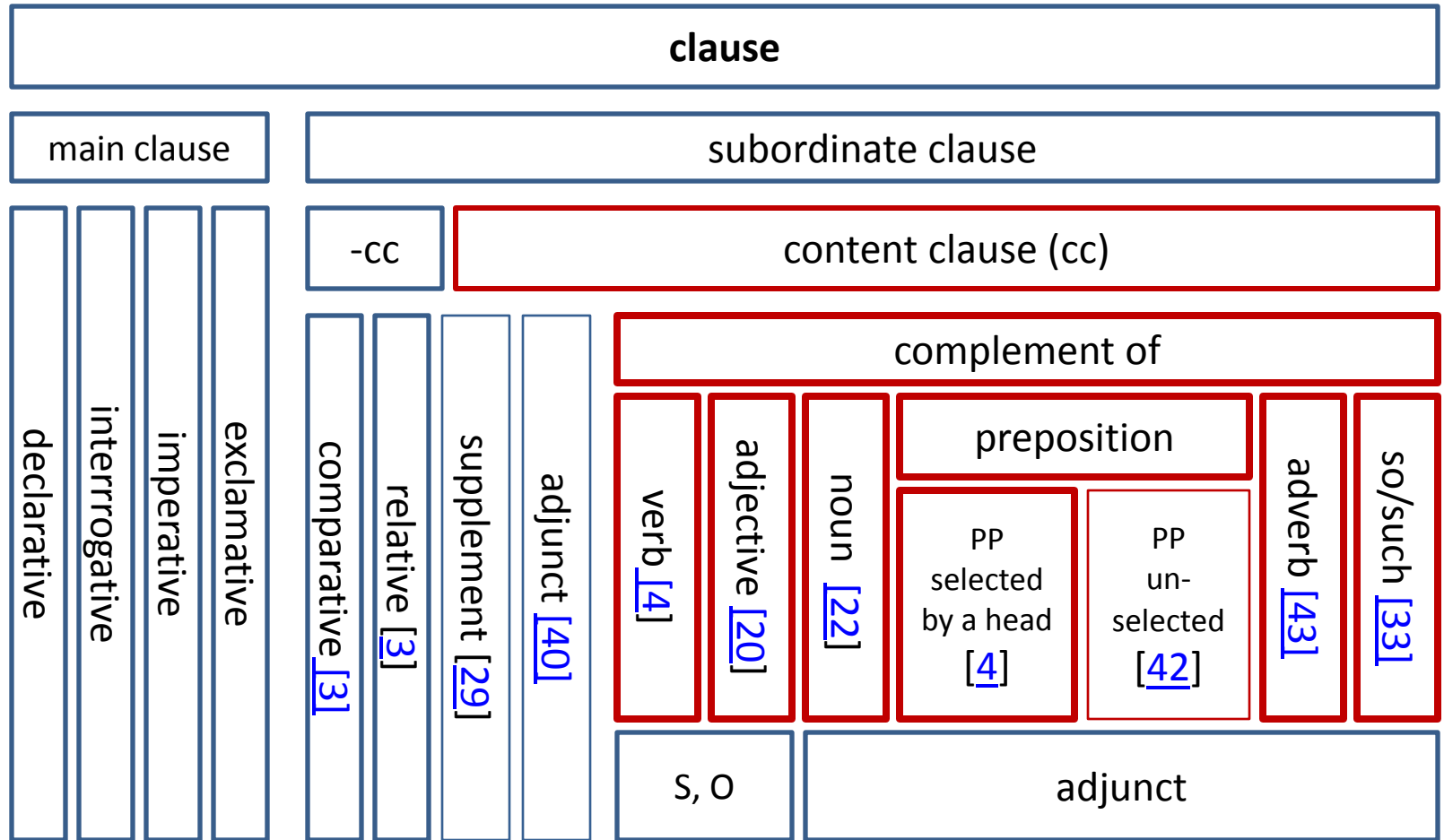
the main prepositions/prepositional idioms: *but, considering, except, given, granted, in, notwithstanding, now, provided, providing, save, seeing, so, supposing, in order, on condition, for fear*,

- **that** is obligatory with **in**, and effectively with **so** too, for **so** without **that** is construed as a connective adverb
- **But** occurs with a content clause complement in such constructions as:

4.8 Complement of a preposition or adverb

- i. I don't doubt [_{PP} **but** [_{CP} that she meant it]]
 - *doubt* in non-affirmative contexts
 - *but* is omissible, with the content clause then a complement of ***doubt***
- ii. I wouldn't have taken any notice [_{PP} **but** [_{CP} that I feared they might upset Angela]]
 - ***that*** is more or less obligatory
 - for without it ***but*** will generally be taken as a coordinator
- iii. There wasn't [a boy]_i among them [_{PP} **but** [_{CP} __i would have gladly taken my place]]
 - CP has a gap in subject position (anaphorically linked to *a boy among them*), with ***that*** obligatory omitted
 - archaic construction, restricted to non-affirmative contexts;
 - the “except” meaning of ***but*** gives an interpretation like that of an negative relative clause: “There wasn't a boy among them who would not gladly have taken my place”.

Summary



5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives

Classification of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives

❖ *Classification of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives*

	INFORMATION	DIRECTION
POLAR (CLOSED)	I don't know if it is possible	I don't know whether to tell them
ALTERNATIVE (CLOSED)	I don't know if it is possible or not	I don't know whether to go or not
VARIABLE (OPEN)	I don't know what he wants	I don't know what to do

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives

Licensing

❖ *Licensing verbs*

- | | | |
|-------|--------------|--|
| i. | Asking: | <i>ask, inquire, wonder, investigate, ...</i> |
| ii. | Knowing: | <i>know, find out, remember, certain, ...</i> |
| iii. | Guessing: | <i>guess, estimate, predict, judge, ...</i> |
| iv. | Telling: | <i>tell, inform, point out, show</i> |
| v. | Deciding: | <i>decide, determine, make up one's mind, agree, ...</i> |
| vi. | Dependence: | <i>depend, ha a bearing, influence, affect, ...</i> |
| vii. | Significance | <i>significant, important, matter, care, ...</i> |
| viii. | Concerning | <i>concern, about, as to, regarding, ...</i> |
| ix. | Surprise | <i>amaze, amazed, amazing, surprise, ...</i>
[open type only] |
| x. | Disbelief | <i>doubt, doubtful, question, questionable</i>
[closed only] |

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives

Complements

❖ *Complements*

➤ *Word type of licensors*

- **Verb *p*, ...**

bother, know, inform, ...

- **Adj *p*, ...**

important, relevant, ...

- **Noun *p*, ...**

matter, problem, ...

- **Prep *p***

- The PP is licensed by a matrix predicate, i.e. the content clause is an indirect complement of the matrix predicate

agree on, aware of, debate as to, knowledge of, ...

- The PP is free

as to, regard less, irrespective of, ...

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives Complements

➤ *interrogative subject clause*

[Whether we do it now or later] is immaterial

It_i is immaterial [whether we do it now or later] **extraposition**

- **Verb *p***

bother, concern, interest, matter, worry, ...

- **Adj *p***

arguable, certain, clear, crucial, debatable, immaterial, ...

- **Noun *p***

concern, issue, matter, problem, question, secret, ...

- **Verb *q, p***

affect, bear (on), depend, determine, influence,

[_p *Whether we win*] *depends on* [_q *how much effort we put in*]

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives

Complements

➤ *predicative complement*

The main question is [whether we have the test tomorrow]

- The question is identified by the predicative interrogative

The main question is: [Do we have the test tomorrow]

- The question is identified by the root interrogative which cites it.

➤ *DO of a complex-transitive construction*

Verb P, p, x

I | consider | [how he cheated us] | [_p very important]

S P IC (interrogative) PC (IC: internal complement)

- The clausal IC may intervene between the matrix verb and the predicative complement

*He | considered | that he cheated us | very offending

I | consider | **it** | very important | [how he cheated us] **extraposition**

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives Complements

➤ *internal complement (DO)*

- *verb p, x*

We investigated [whether the contract is valid]

We investigated [what caused the malfunction]

*We investigated that the contract is valid

**that*: ask, concern, inquire, investigate, ponder, wonder, ...

We discovered [what caused the malfunction]

We discovered that the lack of gas caused the malfunction

that: care, check, consider, decide, guess, know, mind, recall, think, ...

- *verb p, y, x*

**that*: ask, ...

that: inform, show, tell, ...

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives Complements

➤ *complement of a preposition*

- the interrogative complement is selected
by a ***prepositional verb***

He is preoccupied [_{pp} **with** [whether people find him socially acceptable]]
depend on, agree about, congratulate ...

- by a ***prepositional adjective***
certain about, anxious about, ...

- by a ***prepositional noun***
debate as to, argument over, ...

- by a ***preposition*** (i.e. it is not a complement of the matrix verb)
regardless of, irrespective of, ...

[_{pp}As **for/to** [what should be done next]], I think your own proposal is best
They were divided in their beliefs [_{pp} **as to** [whether the diet was effective]]

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives Complements

➤ *prepositional verbs*

▪ *optional prepositions*

They asked [_{pp} **about** [what changes they were planning]]

– gives the topic of the question

They asked [what changes they were planning]

– reports the content

<i>ask (about)</i>	<i>p,</i>	<i>x</i>	
	IC	C	IC = (internal) complement
<i>i.</i>	DO	S	DO = direct object
<i>ii.</i>	A	S	A = adjunct, here oblique

▪ *obligatory prepositions*

They were wrangling [_{pp} **over** [who should be secretary]]

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives Complements

➤ *complements of adjectives*

There are no two-place adjectives that take interrogatives as core complements but not as obliques (cf. *consider* that only licenses core complements)

▪ *optional prepositions*

He is **anxious** [whether he should accept their offer or not]

He is **anxious** [_{pp} **about** [whether he should accept their offer or not]]

aware about/of, careful about, certain about/of, sure about/of

▪ *obligatory prepositions*

interested in, dependent on, indicative of, ...

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives Complements

➤ *complements of nouns*

▪ *optional prepositions*

The minister has to solve the **question** [whether or not he is guilty]

This brings us to the **question** [_{pp} of [whether or not he is guilty]]

question (of), decision (as to), test (of), ...

▪ *obligatory prepositions*

argument over, belief as to, controversy over, debate as to, discussion of, opinion on, ...

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives Complements

➤ *interrogatives as supplements*

- the anchor is often a noun

Ch. 19 discusses **the converse question**, [whether aboriginal customary laws should themselves be imported into the general legal system in some way]

The question might be asked: [Isn't the management aware of these facts?]

- The interrogative is a main clause if it is not adjacent to its anchor
- the anchor does not license the interrogative

Their quarrels were always about **the same thing** – [whether she should give up her job and get married]

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives

Question orientation vs answer orientation

❖ *Question orientation vs answer orientation*

QUESTION ORIENTATION	ANSWER ORIENTATION	
She asked me where he lived	She told me where he lived	report of an illocutionary act
She wanted to know where he lived	She knew where he lived	report of the subject's attitude towards a statement

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives

Question orientation vs answer orientation

➤ *emotive modifiers*

QUESTION ORIENTATION	ANSWER ORIENTATION
Tell me how on earth you saved her	*I recall how on earth you saved her
I wonder who ever would do that	*I see who ever would do that

- Emotive modifiers are restricted to contexts with question orientation

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives

Restrictions on closed interrogatives

❖ *Restrictions on closed interrogatives*

There are contexts where open interrogatives are admissible but where closed interrogatives are at least questionable

- ***question orientation***

Did she say if the door was locked?

- ***weak answer-orientation***

?She said if the door was locked

- ***strong answer orientation***

*It's amazing whether he wrote it.

*He realised if she meant you

- ***open interrogative***

It's amazing what he wrote

He realised who she meant

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives

Subject-auxiliary inversion

❖ *SAI in subordinate interrogatives*

It occurs in some varieties of English (quite widespread in the USA)

She asked what **had she** done wrong SAI

She asked what **she had** done wrong

He wanted to know **was she** ill SAI

He wanted to know if **she was** ill

- strong question-orientation (emotive modifiers are possible)
- reported speech

*He didn't know **was she** ill. SAI

He didn't know if **she was** ill

- weak question-orientation/answer orientation (emotive modifiers are impossible)

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives

Dubitatives

❖ *Dubitatives*

- They only allow closed interrogatives but not open ones

I doubt whether he wrote it

*I doubt who wrote it

*I doubt whether he wrote it or not

*I doubt whether they'll appoint a man or a woman

– Semantically the interrogative corresponds to a declarative

I doubt that he wrote it

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives

Dubitatives

- ***doubt***

- i. F doubts that M wrote it
F doubts that M wrote it or F doubts that M didn't write it
- ii. F doubts whether M wrote it
F doubts whether M wrote it or F doubts whether M didn't write it
 - The conjunct is selected that contains the statement F is inclined not to believe
 - *F doubts that M wrote it but F doubts that M didn't write it too
 - i. and ii. seem to be equivalent, i.e. the interrogative in ii. is rather a declarative (syntax-semantic mismatch)
- iii. F doesn't doubt that M wrote it
- iv. *F doesn't doubt whether M wrote it

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives attributive complex clauses

❖ *attributive complex clauses*

- a. He made I don't know how many mistakes
- b. He made some mistakes, and I don't know how many

proposals for an analysis:

- i. He made [_{DP} many mistakes]
 - ii. He made [_{DP} [_{CP} I don't know [_{CP} [how many mistakes]_i he made __i]] mistakes]
 - iii. He made [_{DP} [_{CP} I don't know [_{CP} [how many mistakes]_i ~~he made __i~~]] mistakes]
-
- b. He made some mistakes and I don't know [_{CP} [how many mistakes]_i ~~he made __i~~]

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives infinitival interrogatives

❖ *Infinitival interrogatives*

- i. I was **considering** [whether **to** get my jacket from the car]
I was considering [whether I **should** get my jacket from the car]
- ii. Frequently readers request **advice on** [how **to** establish a good lawn]
Frequently readers request advice on [how they **can** establish a good lawn]

verb classes: *know, ask, tell, decide, concern* (cf. slide 2)

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives conditionals

❖ *interrogatives as adjunct: the exhaustive conditional construction*

- *ungoverned*

- i. You got paid [_{CP} whether business was good or bad]

- *governed*

- ii. You got paid [_{AdjP} regardless [_{PP} of [_{CP} whether business was good or bad]]]
 - iii. You got paid [_{AdjP} no matter [_{CP} whether business was good or bad]]]
 - without preposition
- I and ii do not differ in meaning

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives conditionals

➤ *meaning of the exhaustive conditional construction*

- i. You got paid [_{CP} whether business was good or bad]
whether business was good or bad \Leftrightarrow
[business was good] or [business was not good]
 - Each conjunct (answer to the question) defines a case.
 - The conjuncts form an ***exhaustive set of possibilities***
 - I is true in either of these cases
- ii. You got paid if business was good and (you got paid) if business was bad

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives conditionals

➤ *Open and closed exhaustive conditionals*

- *open*

I'm going with them, [_{CP} **whatever** the consequences may be]

- *closed*

I'm going with them [_{CP} **whether** you like it or not]

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives conditionals

➤ *open interrogative construction*

They require interrogative words in *-ever* in the ungoverned version

UNGOVERNED	GOVERNED
*[Who we recommend], they will appoint Jones.	[Regardless of who we recommend], they will appoint Jones
[Whoever we recommend], they will appoint Jones.	*[Regardless of whoever we recommend], they will appoint Jones

- They will appoint Jones given any value in the open question 'the appoint x'
- *-ever* has a free choice meaning (is likewise found in fused relatives)

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives conditionals

- *open interrogatives compared with fused relatives*

- *open interrogative*

They will appoint Jones, [_{CP} whoever we recommend]

With whoever he works, we will agree

- The preposition may precede the wh-element
- They do not allow emotive modifiers

- *fused relative*

They will appoint whoever we recommend

They will [_{VP} **appoint** [_{NP} _i [_{CP} whoever_i we recommend]]]

He always antagonised [_{NP} _i [_{CP} whoever he worked **with**]]

*He always antagonised [_{NP} _i [_{CP} **with** whoever he worked]]

- The preposition must not precede the wh-element
- They allow emotive modifiers

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives conditionals

➤ *closed interrogative construction*

Both alternatives

- i. You got paid [_{CP} whether business was good or bad]
whether business was good or bad \Leftrightarrow
[business was good] or [business was bad]
- ii. You got paid [_{CP} whether business was good or not]
[business was good] or [business was not good]
 - The conjuncts form an exhaustive set of possibilities
 - Both conjuncts have to be expressed, i.e. polar questions are not allowed as exhaustive conditionals

5. 3 Survey of constructions containing subordinate interrogatives conditionals

➤ *reduced forms*

- i. Whether (we are) hunting or being hunted, the fox is renowned for its cunning
- ii. Whether (it has been) taken neat or with water, the mixture can be quite lethal.
- iii. Whether (it is) historically a fact or not, the legend has a certain symbolic value.
- iv. The UN may not interfere in the political affairs of any nation, whether (it is) to unify it, federalise it, or balkanise it.
- v. Whatever their faults (may be), they are not hypocrites.
- vi. However well-meaning (it is), the vary act of helping old people may reduce their ability to look after themselves.

7 Mood, tense, and factivity

Subjunctive construction

❖ *Subjunctive construction and specialised uses of modal auxiliaries*

The subjunctive is marked by the plain form of the verb.

i. mandative

We **insisted** that they **wear** stockings. (tense backshifting)

ii. complement of preposition

Nothing in English has been ridiculed as much as the ambiguous use of words, **unless** it **be** the ambiguous use of sentences

iii. exhaustive conditional interrogative

Our thanks are due to all our staff, whether they **be** in the offices, the warehouses, or the branches, for their help during this difficult time

- The subjunctive is not obligatory
- Alternatives are the indicative and the ***specialised-modal construction***
 - We insist that she should be kept informed
 - We insist that they be kept informed

7 Mood, tense, and factivity

Subjunctive construction

➤ ***mandative construction***

i. subjunctive mandative

They demand(ed) that the park remain open

ii. should-mandative

They demand(ed) that the park should remain open

iii. covert mandative

They demand(ed) that the park should remain open

They demand(ed) that the park remained open

- The mandative meaning derives entirely by the governing verb.
 - predicates with obligatory mandatory interpretation:
require, stipulate, essential, necessary, ...
 - predicates with optional mandatory interpretation:
insist, suggest, important, ...

7 Mood, tense, and factivity

Subjunctive construction

- ***semantic contrast between mandatives and non-mandatives***
mandative

- i. She insisted [that he tell her the whole story]
- ii. I suggest [you go and see a doctor]
- iii. It's important [that he should take us into his confidence]
- The situation expressed in the content clause is a matter of bringing about (*She insisted on compliance*)

- non-mandative***

- i. She insisted that he told her the whole story
- ii. I suggest [she doesn't like us very much]
- iii. It's not important [that the gift won't be a surprise]
- The situation expressed in the content clause is a matter of truth.

7 Mood, tense, and factivity

Subjunctive construction

- ***Mandatives and modality***
 - ***dimensions of modality***

		STRENGTH		
		WEAK	MEDIUM	STRONG
KIND	DEONTIC	You (may) leave at noon <i>?permit, *let</i>	<div>mandatives</div> You (ought) leave at noon <i>advise, recommend,</i>	You (must) leave at noon <i>insist, necessary, ...</i>
	EPISTEMIC	He may have missed the train		He must have missed the train

7 Mood, tense, and factivity

Subjunctive construction

➤ ***Content clauses governed by prepositions***

- ***Adversatives***

He was bathed in perspiration, trembling [_{pp} **lest** [his authorship **become** known]]

lest (no expanded form with *that*), *for fear*

- ***Conditionals***

He struggles in vain against the proposition that [_{pp} **if** [the mind **be** immaterial,] its functions ought to be unaffected by the condition of the body.
if , *in case*, *though*, *unless* (all with no expanded form with *that*), *on condition*, *provided*, *providing*

- ***Purposives***

Extraordinary precautions were taken [_{pp} **so** that no stranger **be** allowed in the city]

so, *in order*

7 Mood, tense, and factivity

Subjunctive construction

➤ *Content clauses functioning as exhaustive conditional adjunct*

- i. It meets with continuing hostility from those who see themselves as fostering and guarding serious art, [whether it **be** in the theatre, in fiction, or on television]
- ii. Achieving the optimum blast design for a particular rock mass type, [**be** it in mining or quarrying,] can be an expensive and time-consuming procedure.
- iii. They realize that East-West friction, [wherever it **take** place around the globe], is in essence the general conflict between two entirely different societies.

7 Mood, tense, and factivity

Subjunctive construction

➤ *Other modal constructions*

- *attitudinal should*

expresses subjunctive attitude or evaluation

- We felt **incensed** [that he **should** have been treated so leniently].
- It is **wrong** [that a judge **should** sit while his conduct is under investigation].
- what held his **interest** was the fact [that these two **should** have been there at all].

a good idea, can't imagine, a pity, impossible, right, appropriate, improper, suitable, puzzling, ...

7 Mood, tense, and factivity

Subjunctive construction

- *may*

The matrix predicate relates to the actualisation of the state of affairs expressed by the content clause.

- i. We *hope* [that he *may* make a complete recovery].
- ii. She had *dreaded* still more [that he *might* return to England].

notation convention:

A verb (that) σ

A verb if/whether σ

7 Mood, tense, and factivity

Factivity

❖ *Factivity*

The semantic properties of the governing item determine whether or not σ is ***entailed***, and whether or not, in the default case, it is ***presupposed***.

➤ *entailment*

A verb (that) $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma$

(semantic notion, truth implication/truth entailment)

- i. It ***happened*** [that Kim had left the country]
- ii. Jill ***managed*** [that Kim left the country]
- iii. It is ***true*** [that Kim had left the country]

7 Mood, tense, and factivity

Factivity

➤ *presupposition*

Speaker says: A verb (that) $\sigma \rightarrow$ speaker takes the truth of σ for granted, in the absence of indications to the contrary.

- pragmatic notion, i.e. implicature of truth
- linguistic items triggering this presuppositions are called to be **factive**

i. Bill **knows** [that Jill had lent Ed her key].

ii. Does Bill know [that Jill had lent Ed her key]?

2 pieces of information differing in their pragmatic status

Jill had lent Ed her key (= σ)

backgrounded
(presupposed)

Jill knows σ

foregrounded
(asserted)

7 Mood, tense, and factivity

Factivity

➤ *negative entailment*

A verb (that) $\sigma \rightarrow \neg \sigma$

- i. [That we intended to defraud you] is simply **false**
- ii. Jill **refuted** [that Bill was right]

➤ *negative presupposition*

- i. Jill **pretended** [that she was seriously ill]
- ii. Ed wished [that her parents were still alive]

7 Mood, tense, and factivity

Factivity

➤ *truth and non-truth presupposing contexts*

▪ *truth entailing contexts*

- i. Bill **knows** [that Jill had lent Ed her key].
- ii. It **happened** [that Kim had left the country]
- iii. Jill **managed** [that Kim left the country]
- iv. It is **true** [that Kim had left the country]

▪ *truth presupposing contexts*

- i. Does Bill **know** [that Jill had lent Ed her key]?
- ii. Bill does not **know** [that Jill had lent Ed her key].

▪ *non truth presupposing contexts*

- i. Did Jill **manage** [that Kim had left the country]
- ii. Did it **happen** [that Kim had left the country]
- iii. Is it **true** that [that Kim had left the country]

7 Mood, tense, and factivity

Factivity

- *truth presupposing contexts*

- *predicates*

- i. Ed ***regretted*** [that he offended his parents]
 - ii. Ed ***confessed*** that [he murdered her husband]

- *adverbial clauses*

- i. Ed went out [***before*** [his parents came home]]
 - ii. Mozart died [***before*** [he finished his Requiem]]

7 Mood, tense, and factivity

Factivity

	ENTAILING	NON-ENTAILING
FACTIVE	a. find out, forget, know, point out, remember, because, since , ... b. amuse, bother, matter, important, surprising, ...	a. admit, confess, regret, resent, angry, sad, sorry, before
NON-FACTIVE	a. happen, prove, show,, turn out b. evident, inevitable, obvious, true, ...	a. announce, appear, assume, believe, conclude, conjecture, hope, tell, cetain, idea, if, lest, provided b. likely, possible, pobable

a: post head

b: subject

7 Mood, tense, and factivity

Factivity

➤ *syntactic relevance of factivity*

- ***prohibition of gaps*** found only with factive verbs and adjectives allowing the insertion of *the fact*
 - i. the errors which I ***think*** [I saw _]
 - ii. *the errors which I ***regret*** [I saw _]
 - iii. the errors which I ***know*** [I saw _]
 - iv. Who is ***likely*** [she'll invite _]
 - v. *Who is it ***strange*** [that she'll invite _]
 - vi. Who do I ***know*** [she'll invite _]
- allows ***non-exhaustive wh-forms***
 - i. I regret (it) who has failed the examen
 - ii. I know (it) who has failed the examen

8 Some issues of syntactic analysis

Subordinators

❖ ***Subordinators and prepositions***

Subordinate clauses are introduced by

- ***subordinators*** (S-class)
that, whether, if₁ ("whether")
- ***prepositions*** which head them (P-class)
after, if₂ (conditional), *since, though, unless, ...*

8 Some issues of syntactic analysis

Subordinators

➤ *P-class subordinating conjunctions are*

- *heads*

Please bring the washing in [before/if it rains]

His behaviour [after you left] was atrocious

– because they have evident semantic content

- *prepositions*

the complements of which can be of different parts of speech

I won't do it [unless _{CP} you pay me]	*I won't do it [unless _{NP} payment]
We complained _{CP} that they didn't consult with the staff]	*We complained _{NP} the lack of consultation with the staff]
just/shortly before _{CP} it ended]	just/shortly before _{NP} the end]

8 Some issues of syntactic analysis

Content clauses and traditional grammar

❖ *content clauses and traditional grammar*

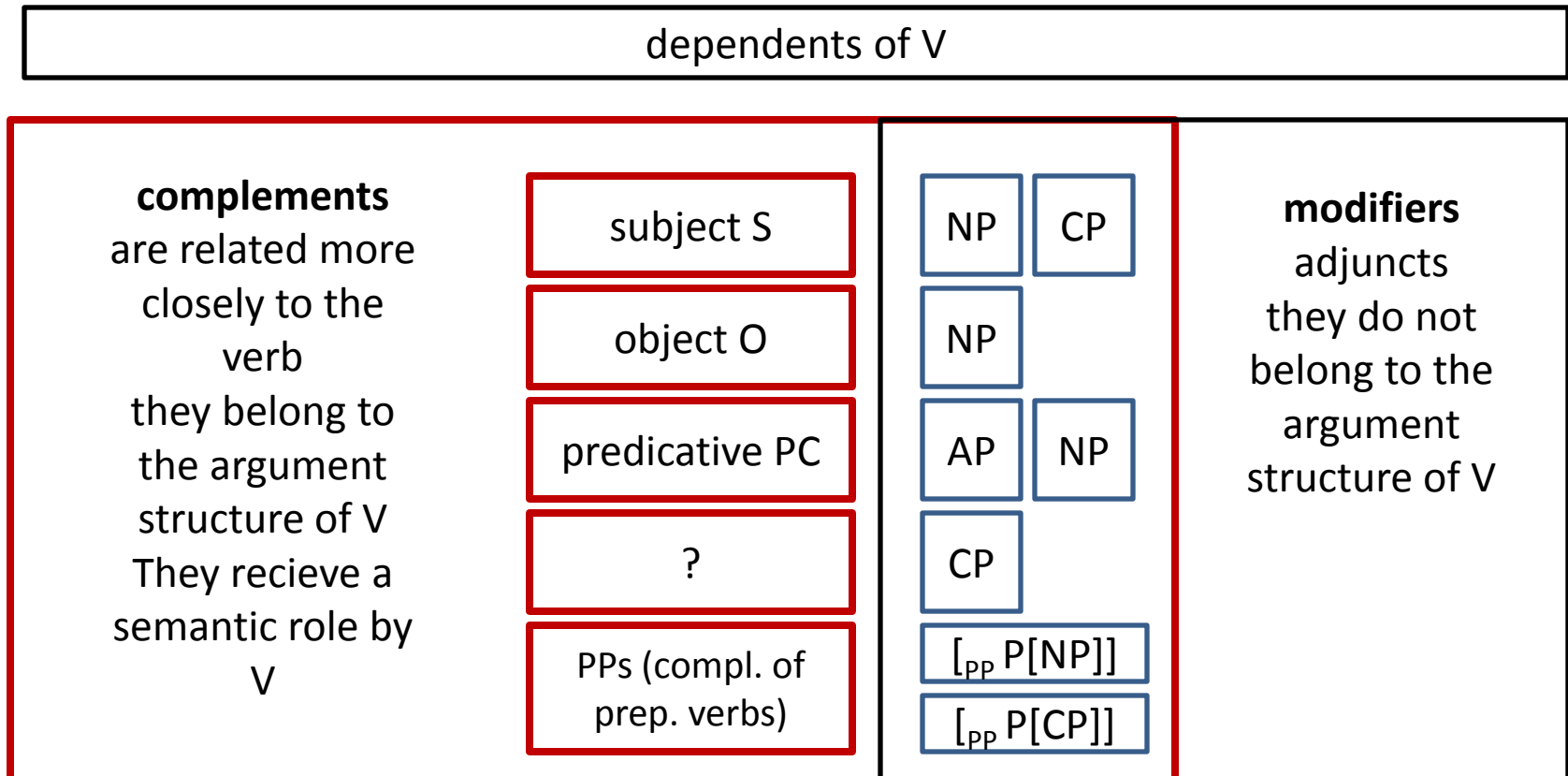
traditional grammar	H & P	
nominal	[That he must be guilty] must be obvious to everyone	content clause
adjectival	They have all the equipment [they need]	
adverbial	The weather was so bad [that they cancelled the concert]	

- classification of traditional G is functional and not determined by the form

8 Some issues of syntactic analysis

Content clauses and the function object

❖ *Content clauses and the function object*



8 Some issues of syntactic analysis

Content clauses and the function object

❖ *Content clauses and the function object*

FORM	SYN.-SEM. STATUS		SYNT.FUNCTION
content clause	headed by V	external comp.	subject
		internal comp.	?non-object
	headed by P (PP headed by V)	internal comp. only interrog.	?
			adverbial
	not headed	modifier/ adjunct	adverbial
	headed by not headed P		

8 Some issues of syntactic analysis

Content clauses and the function object

➤ *Differences between content clause complements and NP-objects*

- *linear position not just after the verb*

*He opened **slowly** the door

He denied **categorically** that he had spoken to her

- *verbs which do not license NPs*

I often **marvel** that intelligent people can at times be so petty

- *no contrast between 'pure' CP and CP oblique complements*

He rejoiced [_{PP} at [_{NP} her decisive victory]]

*He rejoiced [_{PP} at [_{CP} that she had won so decisively]]

He rejoiced that she had won so decisively