

Complements of the verb

- Some verbs require other elements to appear with them inside the Verb Phrase. These constituents are termed **complements**. Verbs can be sub-categorized according to the kinds of complements they take.
- **(Mono)transitive Vgrps:** take **one NP** complement, functioning as its **Direct Object**
- [Sam] [inspected [the property]]
 Subject *Predicate*

Transitive verbs

- The relationship between the Verb Group and the Direct Object is one of **complementation** (two way dependency).
- The **head** (*inspected*) cannot occur without a sister NP and the **complement** (*the property*) requires a preceding verb – it cannot occur alone in a Verb Phrase.
- **Sam inspected*
- **Sam the property*

Intransitive verbs

- Intransitive verbs do not require any sister constituents to be inside the VP
- [Sam] [sneezed]
Subject Predicate
- *Sneezed* is an intransitive verb and does not take a Noun Phrase complement:
- **Sam sneezed the property*
- **Sam sneezed the cake*



TASK

- What do you notice about the following verbs?
- Are they transitive or intransitive?
- PLAY
- SMOKE

Ditransitive verbs

- Ditransitive verbs require **two NP** complements, functioning as the **Indirect Object (IO)** and the **Direct Object (DO)**
- [Sam] [is giving Susan a book]
Subject Predicate
- *Susan* is the Indirect Object and *a book* is the Direct Object.
- The Indirect Object NP always comes before the Direct Object, so we get the pattern:
Subject--Verb--Indirect Object--Direct Object

Ditransitive verbs

- These Verb Phrases (involving two NP complements) are systematically related to VPs in which the Indirect Object NP corresponds to a Prepositional Phrase (PP):
- [Sam] [is giving **a book** to Susan]
Subject Predicate
- *A book* is the Direct Object and *to Susan* is a Prepositional Phrase.
- The Prepositional Phrase that corresponds to the Indirect Object occurs in a position *following* the Direct Object.



Ditransitive verbs

- The corresponding PP is a **complement** of the Verb and so occurs as a sister to the verb group within the verb phrase.

TASK

- Is the verb TELL monotransitive or ditransitive?

Intensive verbs

- Intensive verbs require **one** complement, which can be a **Noun Phrase**, an **Adjective Phrase** or a **Prepositional Phrase**:
 - *John **is** a doctor (NP)*
 - *John **is** unreliable (AP)*
 - *John should **be** in the emergency room (PP)*
- Other intensive verbs include: *become, seem, appear, turn, look and feel*

TASK

Problem:

- Both transitive and intensive verb groups can take a single Noun Phrase complement.
- What is the difference and how can we tell them apart?
- (a) *John is a doctor (intensive)*
- (b) *John spotted a doctor (transitive)*
- The complement of an intensive verb group functions as a **Subject Predicative** while the complement of a transitive verb group is its **Direct Object**.

Complex transitives

- Complex transitive verbs take **two** complements: a **Direct Object (NP)** and an **Object Predicative (AP, NP, PP)**
- *Sam found **Diane's diary** extremely amusing (AP)*
- *They are making **Sam** their leader (NP)*
- *Sam is putting **his car** in the garage (PP)*
- Object predicatives differ from subject predicatives because they attribute a property to the direct object rather than to the subject.

TASK

Solution:

- In (b) the direct object *a doctor* identifies an individual distinct from *John*. Sentences with transitive verbs express a relation between two individuals.
- In (a) only one individual is mentioned (*John*). The rest of the sentence is used to characterize the subject. Subject predicates are used to attribute **properties** to the subject.

The sequence of verbs

- “...a grammatical English sentence can contain up to five verbs” (Duran Eppler, E. and G. Ozón 2013, p.107)
- The lexical verb is obligatory and always appears last in the sequence; it can be modified by up to four auxiliary verbs.
- **Simple finite verb sequences**
 - Every sentence must contain one *finite* verb sequence (which indicates *tense*). When this consists of just a single lexical verb, that verb is tensed (present or past).

Complex transitives

- The semantic relationship between the direct object and the object predicative is the same as that between the subject and the subject predicative. The predicatives attribute a property.
- *Intensive examples:*
 - *Diane's diary is extremely amusing*
 - *Sam is their leader*
 - *His car is in the garage*

Prepositional verbs

- Prepositional verbs require a **Prepositional Phrase** complement: *Sam glanced at the computer screen*
- *At the computer screen* is a Prepositional Phrase consisting of a Preposition (*at*) and a Noun Phrase (*the computer screen*).
- As a **complement** of the verb, the Prepositional Phrase is a sister to the verb group and occurs within the Verb Phrase. Prepositional verb groups require a prepositional complement:
 - **Sam glanced*

Prepositional verbs

- How can we distinguish a prepositional verb from an intensive verb?
- If we can replace the preposition with an Adjective Phrase or a Noun Phrase, we know that we are dealing with an intensive verb. Prepositional verb groups can only take prepositional complements.
- *Sam glanced at the computer screen (Prepositional)*
- **Sam glanced unreliable*
- *Sam is in the emergency room (Intensive)*
- *Sam is unreliable*

Complementation patterns

<i>Intransitive</i>	subject--verb group
<i>Monotransitive</i>	subject--verb group--direct object
<i>Ditransitive</i>	subject--verb group--indirect object--direct object
<i>Intensive</i>	subject--verb group--subject predicative
<i>Complex transitive</i>	subject--verb group--direct object--object predicative
<i>Prepositional</i>	subject--verb group--prepositional complement

Complements: A Summary

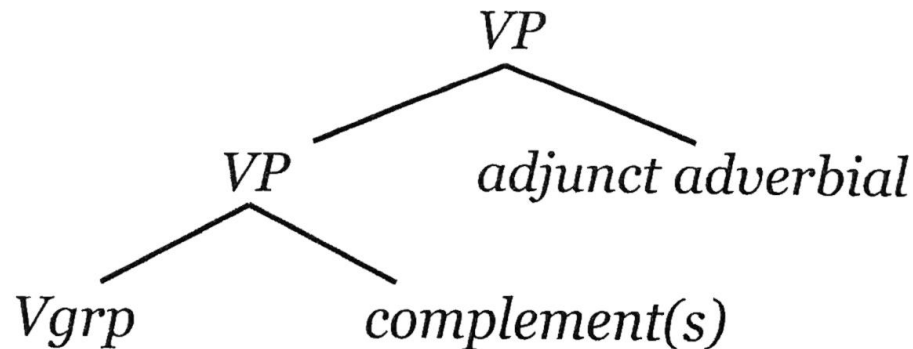
- Some verbs (or verb groups) require additional elements to appear with them inside the Verb Phrase. These constituents are termed **complements**.
- Complements are required by certain verb groups to complete their meaning and to make a full and grammatical Verb Phrase.

Adjunct Adverbials in the VP

- While complements are obligatory (or required) constituents in the Verb Phrase, adjuncts (or modifiers) are not required or obligatory. They provide additional information, but are not essential to complete the meaning of the verb.
- *Sam snoozed under a tree*
- *Snoozed* is an intransitive verb and does not require additional complementation. The Prepositional Phrase *under a tree* is an adjunct adverbial.

Adjunct Adverbials in the VP

- Adjunct adverbials modify (and are sisters of) complete Verb Phrases.



(see Burton-Roberts 1997, p.104)