

Constituency tests

Remember that if a constituency test fails, it does not necessarily mean that the string is not a constituent. Tests are not foolproof. To be on the safe side, do several constituency tests on the same string of words. Also, show that an alternative parsing is ruled out (again, by some constituency tests). A star below marks strings that are not constituents by the test.

1 Substitution

- The new [theories of matter] are more complicated than the old *ones*
- The TA understood [the new theories of matter] thoroughly, but Harv hardly grasped *them*
- Harv sat [on the table]. Harv sat *there*
- Harv drank [the soda] – Harv drank [the suspicious purple and green mixture that kept bubbling for minutes after Hortense was done with mixing it]

1.1 Elements you can use for substitution:

- *wh-words* (who, what, when, how, etc.)
- *pro-forms* (she, he, it, they; do so, be; there, then)

2 Ellipsis

- Harv [laughed] happily but Hortense *did so* menacingly
- Herb [refused to eat Hortense's sandwich], and Hugo *did too*
- Herb will [refuse to drink the cocktail] and Hugo will *do so too*

3 Answer fragment (and substitution)

- *Who* laughed menacingly? – [Hortense]
- *Where* did Harv sit? – [On the table]
- *Which theories of matter* are the most complicated? – [The new ones]
- *Where* did Harv sit? – *[On]
- *Who* ate the sandwich? – *[The]

4 Movement and topicalization

- [The new theories of matter], no one really grasped
- [Hortense's sandwiches], no one in their right mind would eat
- [Under the table], I don't think that's a very good place to hide
- *[Under the], I don't think that's a very good place to hide

5 Clefting

- It is [the new theories of matter] that no one really grasped
- It is [the TA] who understood the new theories of matter
- It was [under the table] that Harv tried to hide
- *It was [under the] that Harv tried to hide

6 Coordination

- Most [theories of matter] and [discussion of their analyses] are too complicated for high school students
- Corrupt [administrators] and [directors] can be destructive
- [Corrupt administrators] and [directors] can be destructive