

Constituency tests:

If one of the tests applies to a string of words, they form a constituent.

If a test fails to apply to a string of words, it **doesn't** show that they do not form a constituent.

MOVEMENT

1. Fronting / Topicalisation.

- a. He sneaks into people's houses at night for fun.
- b. For fun, he sneaks into people's houses at night _____.
- c. At night, he sneaks into people's houses _____ for fun.
- d. He sneaks into people's houses at night for fun.
- e. *Fun he sneaks into people's houses at night for ____.
- f. *Into he sneaks ____ people's houses at night for fun.

2. Clefting

- a. The girls should have taken a taxi.
- b. It was the girls who _____ should have taken a taxi.
- c. It was a taxi that the girls should have taken _____.
- d. *It was should have taken that the girls _____ a taxi.

3. Pseudo clefting.

- a. The girls should have taken a taxi.
- b. What the girls should have taken _____ was a taxi.
- c. What the girls should have done _____ was take a taxi.
- d. *What the girls should do _____ was have taken a taxi.

4. Passivisation

- a. The professor solved the problem with a hammer.
- b. The problem was solved _____ with a hammer (by the professor).
- c. *With a hammer was solved the problem _____ (by the professor).

5. Heavy NP-shift.

- a. They ate a gigantic burger with extra meat and chili sauce for breakfast.
- b. They ate ____ for breakfast a gigantic burger with extra meat and chili sauce.

SUBSTITUTION.**1. Substitution**

- If you can substitute a string of words with a single word (e.g. a pronoun)...
- If you can substitute this with that...
- If you can do so...

...it's a constituent.

2.1. Question formation: substitution and movement.

- He sneaks into people's houses at night for fun.
- When does he sneak into people's houses _____ for fun?
- Why does he sneak into people's houses at night _____?
- Who sneaks into people's houses at night for fun?
- What does he sneak into _____ at night for fun?
- What does he do _____?

2.2. Substitution without movement: Echo-questions. (*Wh* in situ).

- He sneaks into people's houses at night for fun.
- He sneaks into people's houses at night why?
- He sneaks into people's houses when for fun?

2.3. Substitution without movement: multiple *wh*-elements. (*Wh*-in-situ).

If there is more than one *wh*-element, only one can move to the front.

- He sneaks into people's houses at night for fun.
- Why does he sneak into what _____ at night _____?
- *What why does he sneaks into _____ at night _____?

DELETION

- Yesterday afternoon I met a friend who likes dogs for lunch.
- Yesterday afternoon I met a friend _____ for lunch.
- _____ I met a friend who likes dogs for lunch.
- *Yesterday afternoon I met _____.
- *Yesterday afternoon _ met a friend who likes dogs for lunch.

And with a bit of morbid taste:

- Yesterday afternoon I met a friend _____.

More rightward movement:**Right Node Raising (RNR)**

- a. Some people love "Popstars" while I really hate "Popstars".
- b. Some people love _____ while I really hate _____ "Popstars".

- c. Jack knows the rules but he cannot explain the rules.
- d. Jack knows _____ but he cannot explain _____ the rules.

Extraposition (discontinuous constituents)

- a. I read a book about Jack the Ripper last week.
- b. I read a book _____ last week about Jack the Ripper.

- d. A man who claimed to be a vampire robbed the blood bank last night.
- e. A man _____ robbed the blood bank last night who claimed to be a vampire.

Sentences (b) and (e) involve an example of a "discontinuous constituent", where a constituent's constituting elements are separated.