

# Chapter 17

Morphology and Syntax

Engl 423

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# Modification

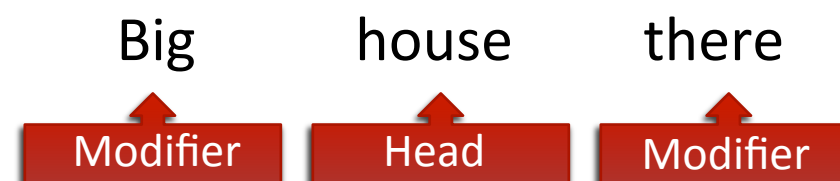


## What do we mean by modifier?

A modifier is a subordinate element in an endocentric structure. It is a word or word group that affects the meaning of a headword in that it describes, limits, intensifies, and/or adds to the meaning of the head.

Modifiers can come before or after the heads they modify, and sometimes they are separated from the head by intervening words.

E.g.



# Modification



The modifier is usually identified either by the position, the meaning, or a formal cue. When none of these reveal the modification there will be an ambiguity.

## **Position → adjectival**

E.g. The big house (adj), The family house (n), The gathering house (v).

## **Meaning**

E.g. A house where we gather every weekend is a very big house.

## **Formal cues**

E.g. The house which is in that area / The houses which are in that area

## **AMBIGUITY**

E.g. The house in that area which is big is our house



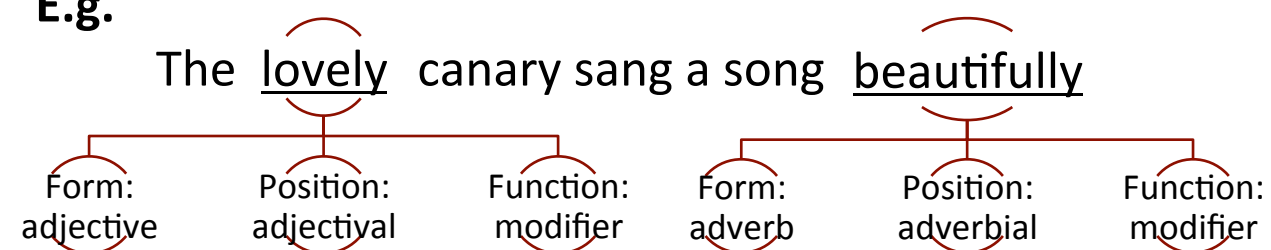
# Modification

Modification is a function, and a word or word group that performs this function is a modifier. So modifiers belong to the function classes, neither form classes nor position classes.

## Function classes:

Subject, subjective complement, direct object, indirect object, objective complement, object of preposition, and **modifier**.

E.g.



# Sentence Modifiers

A sentence modifier is an adverbial that modifies all the sentence, so its head is the whole sentence.

E.g. Basically, this part is important in your exam

## Seven structures that are commonly used as sentences modifiers

Single –word adverbial	Unfortunately, I didn't have the chance to see her
Clause adverbial	Since it's too late, we're gonna go back
Prepositional phrase	In contrast, this is not what happened
Absolute structure	The vacation having ended, we went back home
Infinitive phrase	To keep your car safe, you should put it inside the garage.
Participle phrase in -ing	Regarding that email, I will reply to you next week
Relative in -ever	Whenever you leave, give ma a call.

Sentence modifiers can occur in initial, middle, and final positions.

# The Noun Phrase: Prenominal Modifiers

Those modifiers that precede the noun head are known as prenominal modifiers.

E.g. The house

## **Positions and forms of prenominal modifiers:**

Between the determiner and the noun head

E.g. The big house (adj), The family house (n)

When an adjective and noun both precede the noun head, the adjective precedes the modifying noun.

E.g. The big family house

In this case, when we have two components before the noun head, there is an ambiguity.

# The Noun Phrase: Prenominal Modifiers

There are another set that precedes the determiners and called **predeterminers**. This group consists of:

all, both, half, double, and others

**E.g.** All the old books are sold

	All	the	old	books	are	sold
	↑	↑	↑	↑		
	Predeterminer	Determiner	Modifier	Head noun		

**All the fourteen determiners can be preceded by the predeterminers. But there is another set that cannot be preceded by the predeterminers. These are:**

Another, either, neither, what, any, enough, no, which, each, much, some, whose.

# The Noun Phrase: Prenominal Modifiers

**There are words that follow the determiners and precedes adjectives and are called postdeterminers. These are:**

1- Ordinal numbers: first, second, third, .....last.

2- Cardinal numbers: one, two, three, .....

3- Every, most, few, other, less, same, little, several, many, single, more, such

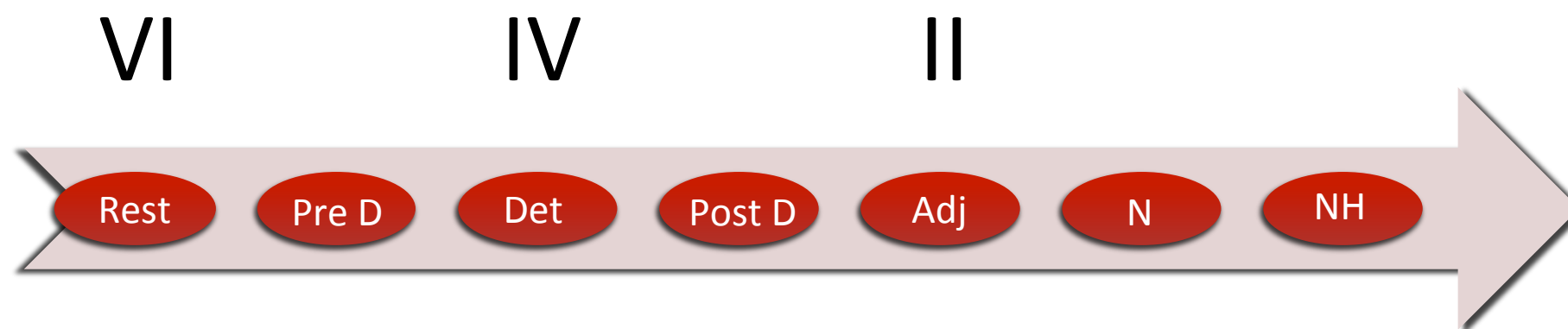
**The final class of prenominal is the restricters which precede the predeterminers. These are:**

Just, only, even, especially, merely.



# The Noun Phrase: Prenominal Modifiers

So the order of the prenominal modifiers is:



E.g.

Just                      half                      the                      third                      medical                      school                      level  
passed the exam

[Look at p. 289 to have a summary of the prenominal modifiers.](#)

# The Noun Phrase: Postnominal Modifiers

Those modifiers that follow the noun head are known as postnominal modifiers.

E.g. The bus, overthere

## Forms of postnominal modifiers:

1- **Modified adjective**: usually adjectives that modify nouns and follow these nouns are modified by qualifiers.

E.g. She never had a friend, more supporting.

2- **Compounded adjectives**: when two or more adjectives modify a noun

E.g. A girl young and beautiful brought these flowers

# The Noun Phrase: Postnominal Modifiers

## Forms of postnominal modifiers:

### 3- Non-suffixing word

E.g. The ladies inside are our guests.

### 4- Adverbs

E.g. I am talking about this issue specifically.

### 5- Noun phrase adjectival

E.g. The conference last night was very informative

### 6- Prepositional phrase adjectival

E.g. The ladies in that room are waiting.

# The Noun Phrase: Postnominal Modifiers

## Forms of postnominal modifiers:

7- **Participle or participial phrase**, -ing adjectival

**E.g.** That man carrying a bag is my brother.

8- **Participle or participial phrase**, -ed adjectival

**E.g.** She brought all the documents required.

9- **Infinitive phrase adjectival**, to-

**E.g.** I have an train to catch

# The Noun Phrase: Postnominal Modifiers

## Forms of postnominal modifiers:

10- **Relative clause adjectival:** They are divided into two kinds; restrictive and nonrestrictive clauses.

**E.g.** I bought it from the shop which he likes most. → restrictive

I bought it from the shop which is near to our house → nonrestrictive

A) Restrictive: one among many

B) Nonrestrictive: only one

Relative clauses may also begin with when, where, why, after, before, and similar words.

**E.g.** The city where we lived was so crowded.

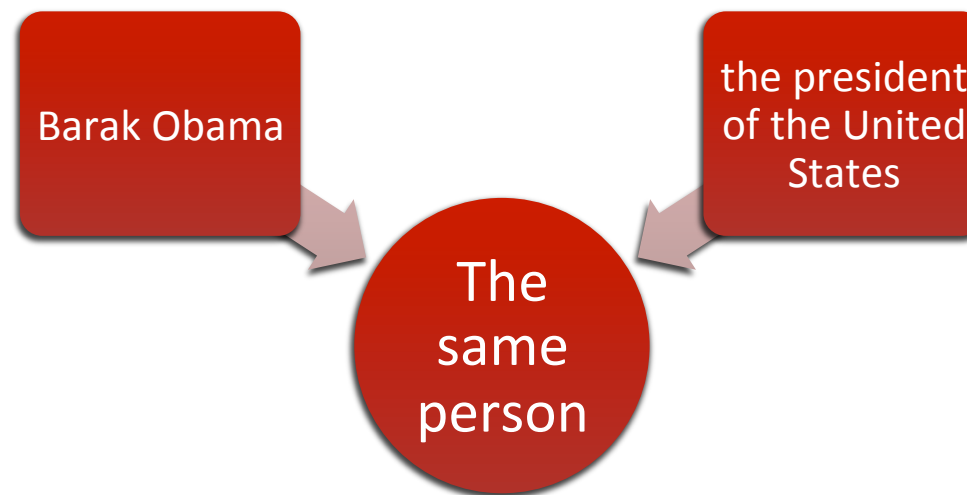
These relatives function as adverbials within the relative clauses.

# The Noun Phrase: Postnominal Modifiers

## Forms of postnominal modifiers:

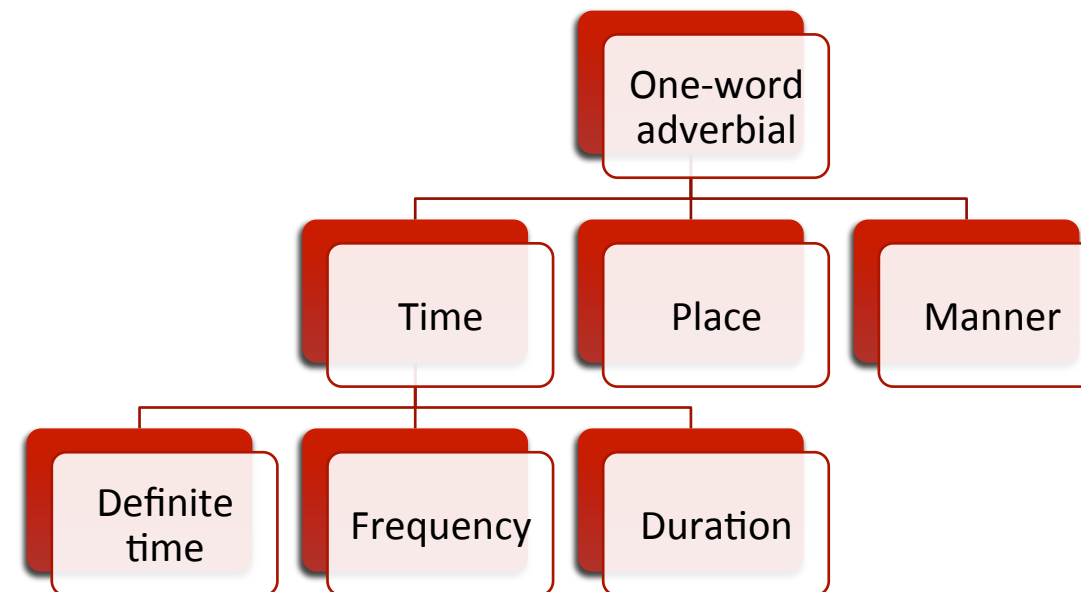
11- **Appositive adjectival**: it is a noun phrase that follow a noun phrase and both of these noun phrases have the same referent.

**E.g.** Barak Obama, the president of the United States, did a good speech.



# The Verb Phrase: One-word Adverbials

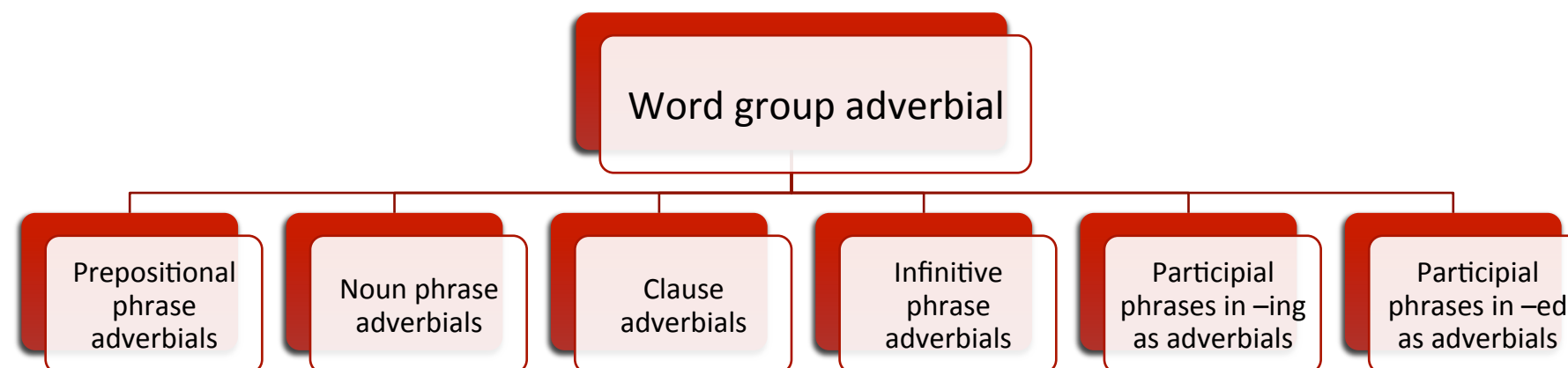
All adverbials in these positions are part of the verb phrase, except those that serve the function of sentence modifiers.



There are also others that are outside these classes. Such as; perhaps, anyway, instead

# The Verb Phrase: Word group Adverbials

In the verb phrase we find various kinds of word groups operating to modify the verb headword.





# The Verb Phrase: Word group Adverbials

1- **Prepositional phrase adverbials:** They often come right after the verb

**E.g.** The boy falls on the floor.

The verb might be modified by two prepositional phrases

**E.g.** The boy falls on the floor with his legs folded.

It can also come before the verb and within the auxiliary-verb combination

**E.g.** I was at that time studying my master in England

I at that time was studying my master in England

In addition, it can come after the direct object

**E.g.** She cleaned the window with a machine

# The Verb Phrase: Word group Adverbials

## 2- Noun phrase adverbials

E.g. He will stay here next time

3- **Clause adverbials:** Clause adverbials are those word groups that have a subject and a predicate and begin with one of these words: after, although, as, as if, as soon as, because, before, if, once, since, that, unless, until, when, where, in case, in order that. These words are called **subordinating conjunctions**. These subordinating conjunctions have no functions in the sentence. They just set a relationship, such as cause, time, condition, and connection.

E.g. He stayed that until the match ended.

You will fail unless you study hard

# The Verb Phrase: Word group Adverbials

## 4- Infinitive phrase adverbials

E.g. He studied hard to succeed.

## 5/6- Participial phrases in –ing and in –ed as adverbials

E.g. I spent two hours reading this article.

He cancelled his trip forced by his father.

# Beyond Modification

## Coordination

There is a small structure class consisting of eight structure words called coordinating conjunctions. These are: and, but, for, nor, or, so, yet.

These conjunctions connect grammatical equivalents; form classes, position classes, structure words, grammatical structure, or sentences.

**E.g.** I went to the university and the hospital → (n) and (n) → form classes

I met my business and academic friends → adjectival and adjectival → position class

You can and should study hard → auxiliaries → structure words

Spend your vacation at home or with your friends → prepositional phrases → grammatical structure

He stayed for one night. But he did not enjoy it → sentences

# Beyond Modification

## Coordination

Since coordinating conjunctions function as connectors, they belong to the function class, as do prepositions, relatives, and subordinating conjunctions.

There is a second set of coordinating conjunctions in addition to the set of eight coordinating conjunctions. These ones occurs in pairs:

either.... or

both.... and

neither.... nor

not (only).... but (also)

whether.... or

These are a subclass of coordinating conjunctions known as correlative conjunctions.

This is all for today

That's all folks😊