

1 Complements versus adjuncts

- **Complement:** a phrasal category that may occur next to a head, and only there, and which elaborates on the meaning of the head.
- **Adjunct:** a phrasal category that is a sister to an X' (X-bar) and a daughter of a higher X'

2 Nouns

Complements of nouns are primarily prepositional phrases that begin with *of*:

- the mother *of the bride*
- the destruction *of the city*
- the fear *of loud noises*

Adjuncts to nouns are all other kinds of prepositional phrases, as well as adjectives:

- the *blue* book
- the *large, heavy* box *on the floor*
- the lecture *about syntax*

3 Verbs

The **complement** of the verb is always the direct object of the verb:

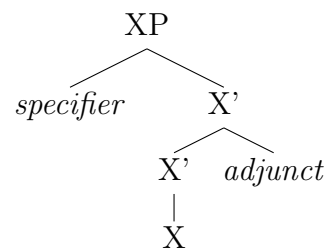
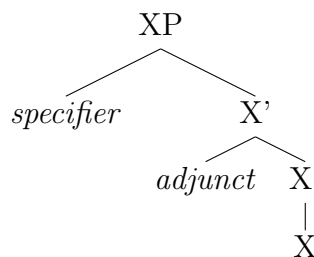
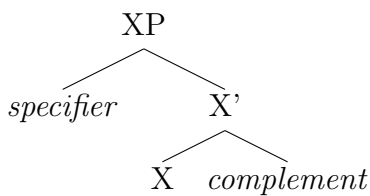
- ate *the pizza*
- skipped *class*
- studied *linguistics*

Adjuncts to the verb are PPs, adverbs, and temporal nouns/adverbs:

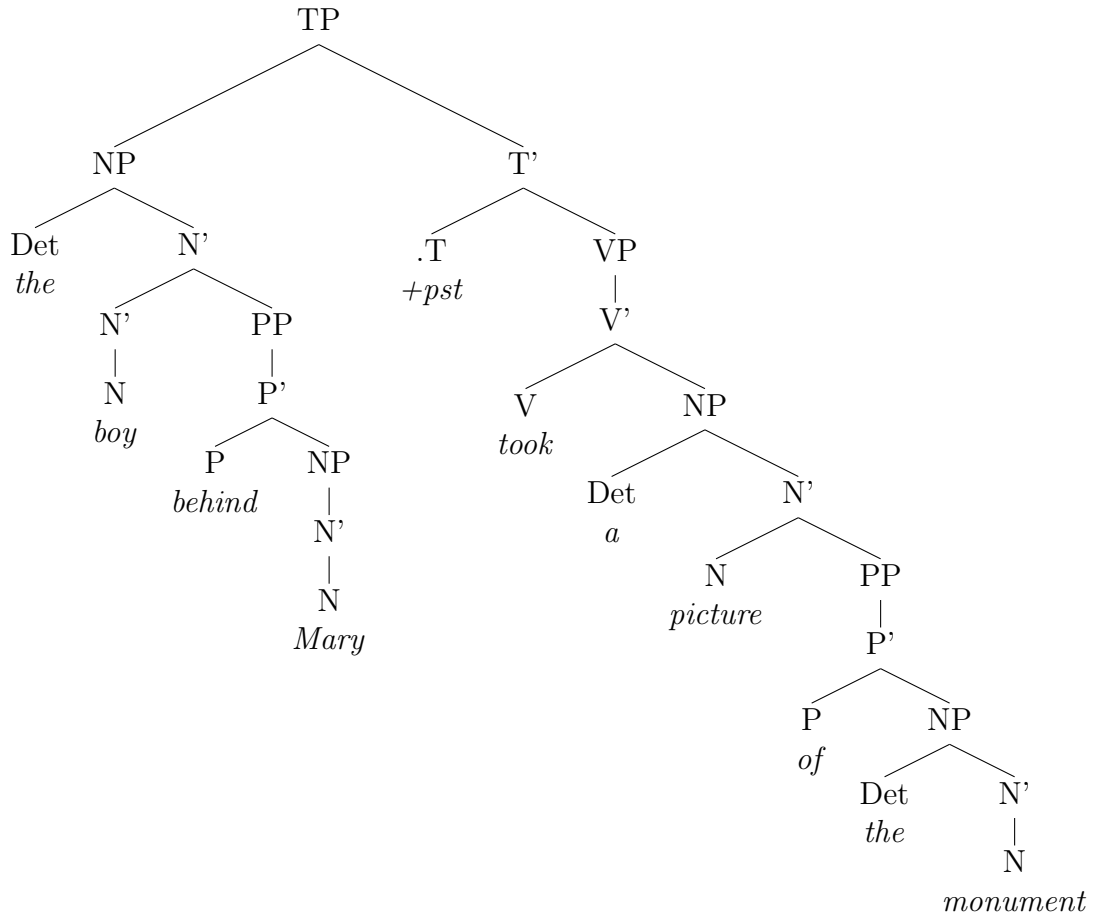
- Harry ate the sandwich *during lunch*
- Hermione ran *through the library*
- Ron *nervously* talked *about rats*

4 Structure

Examples of structures with a complement or adjunct. Note that you can have an adjunct and a complement in a given XP, and you can have more than one adjunct!



The boy behind Mary took a picture of the monument.



The professor with a cat from Spain teaches linguistics.

