Subject Noun Phrases: The last Item

We have been checking to see if a noun phrase is a noun phrase, by replacing the suspect phrase with a pronoun—little words *like I, We, You, He, She, They, It* in the case of subject noun phrases, and *My, Our, Your, His, Her, Its, Their* in the case of the possessive noun phrase. The use of these pronouns provide us with a clue that helps explain the last item that we need to add to our noun phrase as it stands right now.

So what is the last item? Well, if you think about it, being able to replace something like:

Her small, rather beat-up little desk wasn't big enough for her books.

with

It wasn't big enough…

Suggest that this:

$$\left(\frac{Det}{NP}\right)(Quant)(AdjP)N\ (\mathrm{PP})$$

can be replaced with this:

Pro

…or to describe this in terms of our NP description:

$$NP \rightarrow \left\{ \frac{\left(\frac{Det}{NP}\right)(Quant)(AdjP)N(PP)}{\mathrm{Pr}\,o} \right\}$$

I know it's going to be pretty difficult to create sentence trees for sentences with a pronouns standing in for a noun phrases but I think you can do this….let's try a few out:

1. I find this difficult.

2. He ate some ice cream.

3. You may as well go to the store with them.

4. Pronouns are my friend!

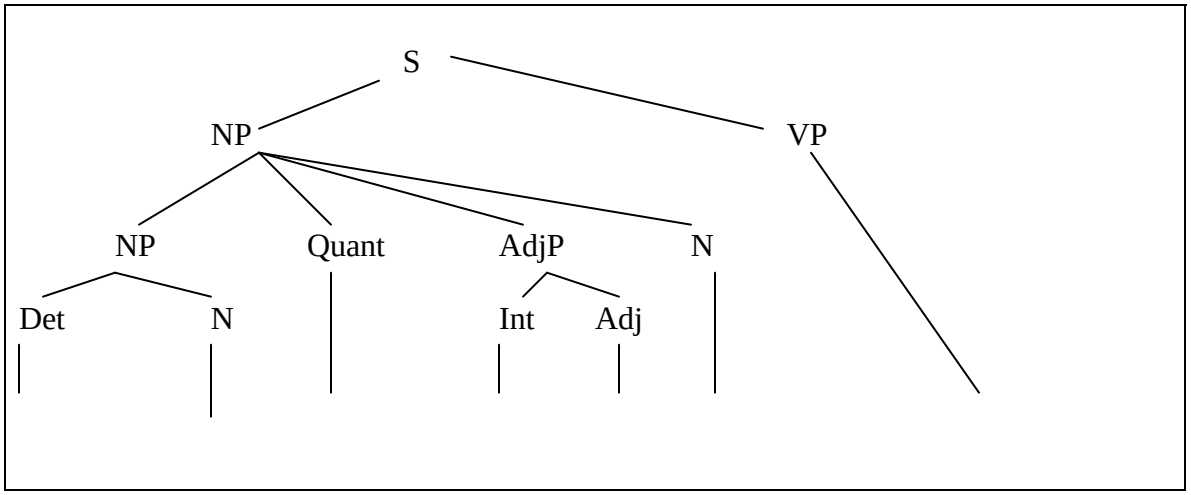
5. They diagram easily.

Lots of sentences to diagram!

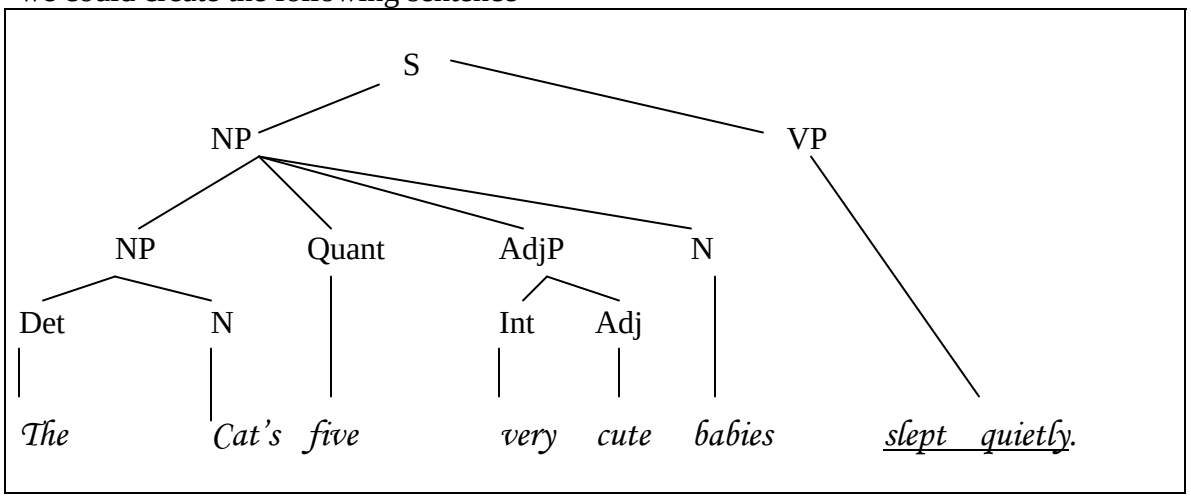
Test on _____!! Try to diagram the subject noun phrase for as many of these as you can. We'll take them up on _____, try out a few more and then prepare for the test on _____.

1. The drapes on the classroom's windows were falling apart.
2. My computer's small monitor is being replaced.
3. The bright, gorgeously beautiful day in the early part of December didn't last long.
4. The student's somewhat irritating ipod could be heard down the hall.
5. Robert's large rather obnoxious Doberman Pincer's disgusting drool dripped on me.
6. I did not complain.
7. Anther man in the elevator with me on that day did complain.
8. He is dead now.
9. The other students in the gym wrote for hours.
10. My rather rowdy, obnoxious friends did not.
11. I did not.
12. All of the students in the gym down the hall by the pop machine in the south end of the school wrote the test.
13. The very evil, conniving, immensely dastardly teacher sat at his computer devising difficult sentences.
14. He needs to get a life.
15. Richard's not-to-bright cat's brain cavity is for rent.
16. The cold white sand on the beach out my window looks very lonely right now.
17.
18. Go for it!!
    (trick sentence. Hint, who is the subject of this sentence? and also of sentences like (I'll try to keep it close to home for you): Go to your room. Finish up the dishes please. Eat the lasagna, not the cookies. Wear the blue shirt then, the red one is in the laundry)
19. I am getting close to the end.
20. The second-last sentence on this piece of paper in the exercises in the noun-phrase package has some recursion happening.
21. The last sentence in Mr. Jones' set of questions on the last exercise of our discussion of noun phrases should be a "pizza question."
22. A long, very beautiful day is about to happen.
23. The twenty five students in the classroom down the hall are working on computers
24. Several of the pens in the pocket of my shirt fell out on the floor.
25. The long, arduous drive to the home of my friend's favourite childhood experiences was mind-numbing.
26. The sentences on these sometimes irritating, nonetheless useful exercises are occasionally difficult

Here's something different. Instead of diagramming a sentence, here are some diagrams: your job is to develop a sentence that will fit the diagram. For instance, if we start with this particular tree

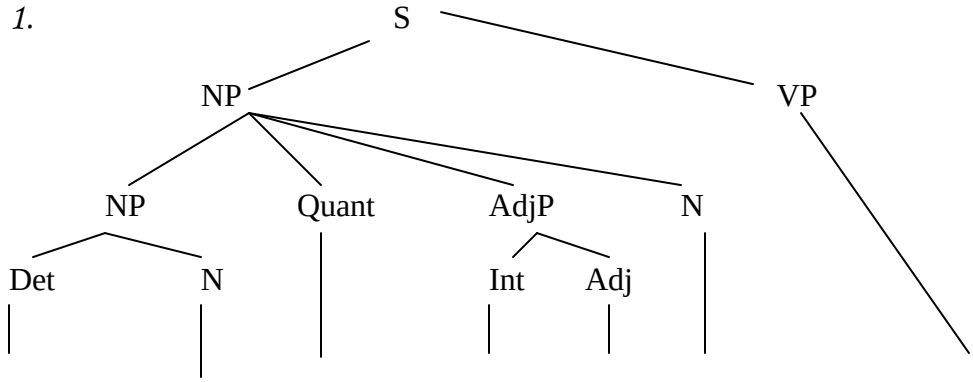


we could create the following sentence



Your turn:

1.



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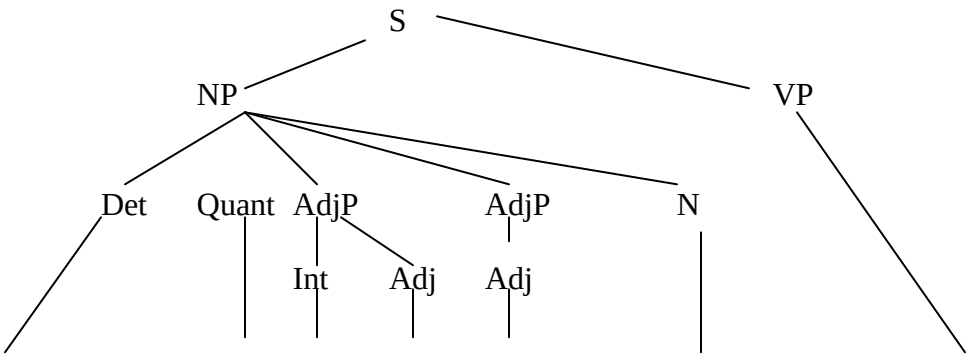

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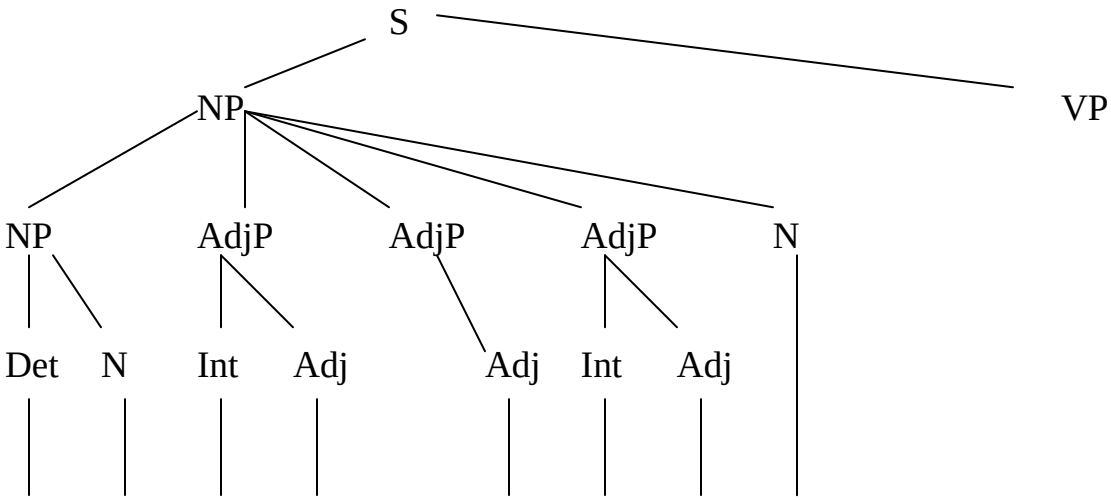

4.
Come up with one yourself that you think could be used to stump either your teacher or someone else in class.