LX 321/521/621 Syntax	Final
Fall 2017 (Fall 2020 version)	KEY

1 Not English

[5 points] Observe the following example from Basque.

(1) Jon eskola -ra joan bide da.Jon school -to gone probably is'Jon has probably gone to school.'

1.1 Headedness

Based on the evidence you can see in (1), do heads seem to precede or follow their complements in Basque? Explain your answer.

Heads seem to follow their complements. The PP has *ra* after *eskola*, and the verb follows its complement (assuming as below that *eskola-ra* is a complement), and the auxiliary (probably T or a higher V) follows the VP (to which we assume *bide* is attached). So: there are a number of assumptions to make here, but this is nevertheless more consistent with the view that Basque is head-final than it is with the reverse view.

1.2 Basque

In (1), is the Basque phrase that means 'to school' a complement or an adjunct? Explain your reasoning. (Here, you will likely need to make assumptions, based on analogy to English, since you don't have data from Basque about optionality, lexical sensitivity, etc.) It seems like a complement (based on how it seems to be in English). The English verb needs a path of some kind. You can't say **Pat went to school to the store* and to the extent you can say *Pat went* it seems to have an implicit path. This is enough to motivate looking at it as a complement, particularly if we assume that complement/adjunct status is tied into the semantics (in terms of required participants in, or specifications for, a going-denoting verb). To make the case for it being an adjunct instead (which similarly requires assumptions), you'd want to give reasons to think it is optional or iterable. The arguments you make are what is important here, not so much the result.

1.3 Tree

Bringing together your answers for parts 1.1 and 1.2, draw a tree structure for the example in (1). Be sure that your tree conforms to X-bar theory, and that it explains the word order in Basque, rather than the word order in the English translation!

This is about the structure, it's not important to give subscripts to the \emptyset morphemes, etc., though of course it's fine if you wrote \emptyset_{decl} or \emptyset_{proper} , etc. Heads should be final. The rationale for moving *da* here is that it follows *bide*, and *bide* is most likely adjoined to VP.



2 Trees

[20 points (4 per tree)] Draw trees for the following sentences, like the model below. Draw the S-structure, with arrows showing the movement, and with $\langle \rangle$ around the position from which something moves. For a double movement (like $V \rightarrow T \rightarrow C$), you can draw it as in this tree, with the arrow for the first movement leading to the "trace" of the second movement. Complex heads (like C in the example) should be drawn out. Label silent heads with subscripts (e.g., \emptyset_{Qwh} , \emptyset_Q , \emptyset_{proper} , \emptyset_{mass} , \emptyset_{pl} , \emptyset_{decl}) or as \emptyset_{past} , $\emptyset_{nonpast}$, \emptyset_{inf} (for T).





(2) Pat wants me to buy a new sled.



(3) Who should I introduce to Pat's parents?



(4) I will not be joining Tracy and Chris at the boss' picnic.



(5) The snow is gently falling on the icy streets.

Note: This is one that, if you look back on it from the perspective of a future syntax course, you'll see is somewhat inaccurate. This is what we learned here, and this is the tree I expected you would draw. A note for future you if you refer back to this someday is that *fall* is unaccusative and probably *the snow* would not have started where it is shown here. (And if you happened to draw it in the unaccusative way, I'd have taken that.)



(6) Can you convince them to cook a pizza for me?

3 Inventing examples

[5 points] For each description below, provide a sentence matching the description.

- (7) A yes-no question with an embedded infinitive sentence
- (8) A declarative sentence with an embedded *wh*-question

- (9) A sentence with a modal and an embedded sentence with a PRO in it
- (10) A sentence with a PP adjunct
- (11) A sentence containing a ditransitive verb and a possessive DP
 - Did we want the break to begin?
 - I wonder what Pat bought.
 - I should persuade Pat to buy cheese.
 - It snowed on the mountain.
 - I put my foot on the table.