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1 Previously, in Syntax

Here's where we are, basically:

CP → C'	V' → V (DP)	<i>believe</i> , V, [+ __ CP _[+decl]]
C' → C TP	V' → V CP	<i>ask</i> , V, [+ __ CP _[+q]]
TP → DP T'	V' → V DP CP	<i>know</i> , V, [+ __ CP _[+q]], [+ __ CP _[+decl]]
T' → T VP	PP → P'	⋮
DP → D'	P' → P DP	<i>whether</i> , C, [+q]
D' → D (NP)	VP → V'	<i>if</i> , C, [+q]
NP → NP PP	VP → VP PP	<i>for</i> , C, [+decl], [+ __ TP _[-fin]]
NP → AdjP NP	VP → VP AdvP	<i>that</i> , C, [+decl], [+ __ TP _[+fin]]
NP → N'	VP → AdvP VP	\emptyset_{decl} , C, [+decl], [+ __ TP _[+fin]]
N' → N (PP)	AdvP → Adv'	<i>to</i> , T, [-fin]
	Adv' → Adv	<i>will</i> , T, [+fin, -past]
	AdjP → Adj'	<i>would</i> , T, [+fin, +past]
	Adj' → Adj	⋮
		<i>must</i> , T, [+fin, +past]
		\emptyset_{past} , T, [+fin, +past]
		$\emptyset_{nonpast}$, T, [+fin, -past]
		⋮

- (1) Pat left.
- (2) Pat will leave.
- (3) Pat leaves.

2 Silent elements

2.1 Imperatives

- (4) Leave.
- (5) Kick the ball.
- (6) Put the ball on the table.

These seem to have no subjects. But don't they? Who will have left, kicked the ball, put the book on the table. What does a verb like *kick* mean anyway?

- (7) a. John kicked himself.
- b. * John kicked myself.
- c. * I kicked himself.
- d. You kicked yourself.
- e. * You kicked myself.
- (8) a. Express yourself.
- b. * Express myself.
- c. Put yourself on the table
- d. * Put myself on the table

We have a similar issue with embedded infinitive clauses.

- (9) a. Marge expects to win the race.
- b. Marge expects for herself to win the race.
- c. Marge wants to win the race.
- d. Marge wants Bart to win the race.

Who is winning? Who is wanting/expecting? It seems like the winner is sometimes missing—or silent? It's simpler if it's just silent. The rest of the grammar can remain unchanged.

The silent subject is known as **PRO**. That's all capital letters.

PRO is not possible everywhere, but it is often possible as the subject of an infinitive clause (or imperative clause).

I expect to persuade you to adopt this analysis.

Much of what comes next depends on the **thematic structure** of different verbs.

We've talked about this informally somewhat, but a verb is generally either a **property** of something or a **relation** between things.

- (10) a. Bart slept. Bart was among those who sleep in the past.
- b. Bart kicked the ball. Bart is the agent, the ball is the theme, of a kicking.

Intransitive, transitive, ditransitive are terms describing how many participants are in a given verb-ing. (1, 2, and 3, respectively.)

So, our semantic knowledge of *expect* is something like this:

1. expect(X, Y)
2. X is the experiencer of the state (the "expecter")
3. Y is the theme of the state (the thing that is expected)

There are a few verbs that don't have any participants at all. *Weather verbs*.

- (11) a. It stole my lunch. [Pointing at a robot]
- b. It snowed.

In (11b), *it* is **pleonastic pronoun**. It doesn't refer to anything. It's actually there mainly because a tensed clause in English isn't allowed not to have a subject (and the silent **PRO** is not available in tensed clauses). *There* in *There is a fly in my soup* is similarly pleonastic.

Pleonastic Pronoun Principle: Pleonastic pronouns occur only in subject position.

- (12) a. Homer expected Marge to win the race.
- b. Homer persuaded Marge to win the race.
- (13) a. Homer expected it to rain.
- b. * Homer persuaded it to rain.

Why would (13b) be bad?

1. persuade(X, Y, Z)
2. X is the agent of the action (the “persuader”)
3. Y is the theme of the action (the individual that is persuaded)
4. Z is the goal of the action (what the theme is persuaded of)

What kind of thing can one expect? What kind of thing can one persuade someone of? Something like a “Proposition.” How is a proposition expressed in syntactic terms?

The clause in (12) that is being expected or that someone’s being persuaded of is the one that has *win* as its verb. And in (13a), it has *rain* as its verb. It’s an infinitive clause.

So in (12a), who is the winner? Is *Marge* a subject? In (12b), who is the winner? Who is being persuaded? Is *Marge* a subject?

Ah, but **PRO** is allowed to be the subject of an infinitive clause.

Thus:

- (14) a. Homer expected [Marge to win the race].
- b. Homer persuaded Marge [PRO to win the race].

cf.

- (15) a. Homer expected [that Marge would win the race].
- b. Homer persuaded Marge [that she would win the race].

2.2 Idioms

- (16) a. Bart tossed his cookies.
- b. Bart expected to toss his cookies.
- c. Lisa expected Bart to toss his cookies.
- d. Lisa persuaded Bart to toss his cookies.
- (17) a. The cat is out of the bag.
- b. Lisa expected the cat to be out of the bag.
- c. Lisa persuaded the cat to be out of the bag.
- d. The cat expected to be out of the bag.