

1 Constituents

- (1) I got a box of chocolates from Belgium.

Part 1. Show that *from Belgium* is a constituent by creating test sentences using the topicalization and clefting tests.

Part 2. Show that *a box of chocolates from Belgium* is a constituent by creating test sentences using the topicalization and clefting tests.

Part 3. Show that *a box of chocolates* is a constituent by creating test sentences using the topicalization and clefting tests.

Part 4. The sentence in (1) is ambiguous in a couple of different ways, having to do with what it is that is *from Belgium*. So, it might be that the *chocolates* are Belgian (from Belgium), or it might be that *box* is Belgian (from Belgium), even if what's inside are Mexican chocolates. And it might be that the *sending* was from Belgium—so I might have gotten a Dutch box filled with Mexican chocolates, but (1) could still be true if that box were sent to me from Belgium. Notice that the test sentences you create in parts 1–3 are not quite as ambiguous. Specifically, the sentences in parts 1 and 3 have to mean that the sending originated in Belgium (it can't be just the box or just the chocolates that are Belgian), but the sentence in part 2 has to mean that either the chocolate or the box is Belgian, regardless of where the sending originated. Speculate briefly about why that might be. Also: Note (just take my word for it, we don't know why yet) that the topicalization and clefting tests always yield an ungrammatical sentence if you ever try to test a constituent that is *inside* a noun phrase (so: *chocolates* is a constituent, but you can't say *Chocolates, I got a box of from Belgium* or *It is chocolates that I got a box of from Belgium*).