

CAS LX 522 Syntax I

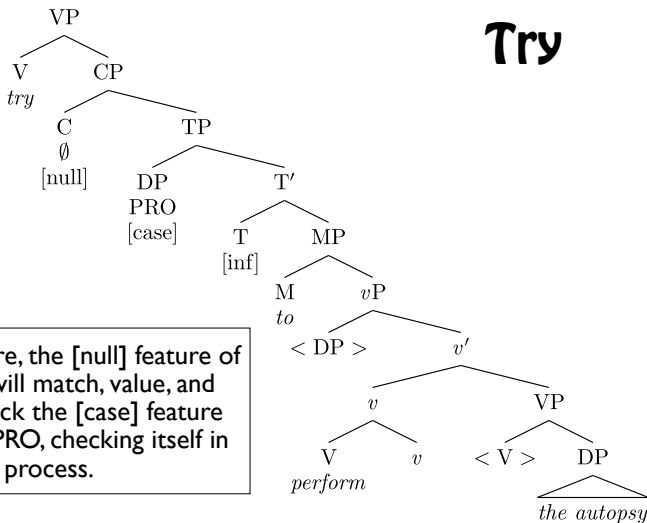
Raising, etc.
(8.2.6-8.4)

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Reminder: Try

- *Try* embeds a nonfinite CP, headed by the special null C with the [null] case feature.
- In turn, the subject must be PRO, in order to successfully check that feature of C.
- If the [case] feature of any other DP is valued and checked as [null], the derivation crashes: only PRO can have null case.
- The embedded clause must be nonfinite (T can't itself have a [nom] feature).
- If the [nom] feature of T checks the [case] feature of the subject, nothing is left to check C's [null] feature.

Try



Here, the [null] feature of C will match, value, and check the [case] feature of PRO, checking itself in the process.

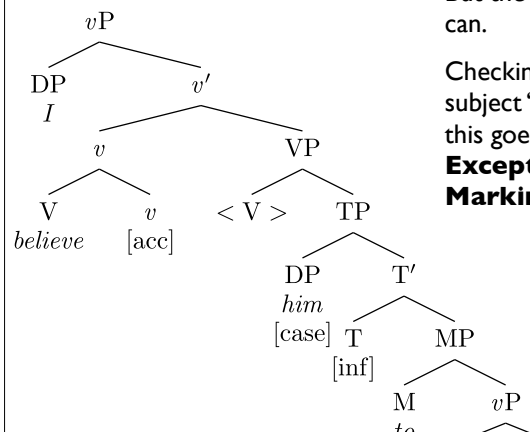
Believe

- Another place where nonfinite clauses can be embedded is under the verb *believe*.
1) I believe [him to be innocent].
- Here, we have an accusative subject, and a nonfinite T that is not capable of checking case.
- How is the (accusative) case of *him* checked?
- This relates to the fact that *believe* can also simply take a DP object:
2) I believe him.
- So, how is the accusative case of *him* checked here?

ECM

- The idea is that *believe* (actually the *v* that combines with the V *believe*) has an [acc] feature that can check the case of *him* in *I believe him*.
- Suppose that *believe* can either have a DP **or** a TP as its complement.
- What do we expect?

ECM



Nonfinite T cannot check the case feature of *him*. But the higher *v* of *believe* can.

Checking the case of a subject "from above" like this goes by the name **Exceptional Case Marking (ECM)**.

Arranging to leave

- A somewhat similar phenomenon occurs with verbs like *arrange*.
 - 1) Harry arranged for Tom to leave MI-5.
- Here, we have:
 - Nonfinite T, which cannot check case.
 - An overt subject (*Tom*) in the accusative.
 - The word *for*, which we classify as C.
- *For*, as a P, checks accusative case (*He baked a cake for her*). If the C *for* also has an [acc] feature, it could check the [case] feature on *Tom*.

Arranging to leave

- *Arrange*-type verbs can take a CP complement.
 - 1) Harry arranged for Tom to leave MI-5.
 - 2) Tom arranged PRO to leave MI-5.
- But this is expected.
 - Nonfinite T, cannot check case.
 - The null C with [null] case can check the case of PRO.
 - An overt subject can't get null case:
*Harry arranged Tom to leave MI-5.
 - PRO cannot get anything but null case:
*Tom arranged for to leave MI-5.

Summary

- Complementizers indicate clause type (*that/∅* for declaratives, *if/whether* for interrogatives).
- Some verbs embed clauses. Finite clauses are always CPs.
- Some verbs can embed nonfinite clauses, some embedding TP and others embedding CP.
 - *Believe* (*expect*, ...) embed TP and check accusative case (ECM verbs).
 - *Try* (*want*, ...) embed CP. This can either be:
 - C[null], checking null case on PRO.
 - *for*[acc], checking acc case on an overt subject. Not all verbs allow this option (*want* does, *try* doesn't).

Sentences inside sentences

- So, to recap: **embedded sentences**.
- Embedded sentences can be finite:
 - 1) Shannon claimed [that she could catch a fish].
- Or nonfinite:
 - 2) Michael wants [PRO to leave].
 - 3) Jin wants [Michael to return the watch].
 - 4) Sun arranged [for him to return the watch].

Embedded clauses

- Embedded finite clauses are CPs, with a complementizer (*that* or \emptyset).
 - 1) Shannon claimed [_{CP} that she could catch a fish].
 - 2) Shannon claimed [_{CP} \emptyset she could catch a fish].
- Embedded nonfinite clauses have *to* as T, and can be CPs or bare TPs—the distinction is determined by case properties of the verb.
 - 3) Michael wants [_{CP} \emptyset _{NULL} PRO_{NULL} to leave]
 - 4) Jin wants_{ACC} [_{TP} Michael_{ACC} to return the watch].
 - 5) Sun arranged [_{CP} for_{ACC} him_{ACC} to return the watch].
- Nonfinite T does not assign case, so the subject must get case (have its [case] feature checked) in some other way.

Seems

- Now, we'll turn to another kind of embedded nonfinite clause.
 - Charlie seems [to dislike bees].
- This looks a little bit like:
 - Charlie tried [to sneak away].
- Which is really:
 - Charlie tried [PRO to sneak away].
 - *Charlie* is the Agent of *try*.
 - PRO (=Charlie) is the Agent of *sneak*.
- So, what about *Charlie seems to dislike bees*?
What θ -roles go to *Charlie*?

Charlie seems to receive (just) one θ -role

- Seems can also embed a finite clause, so consider the pair:
 - Charlie seems to dislike bees.
 - It seems that Charlie dislikes bees.
- The *it* in the second sentence is the same *it* we find in *It rained*. *It* does not get a θ -role, because *rain* doesn't have any θ -roles. We only have *it* there because sentences need subjects (EPP: T has a [uD^*] feature).
- So what θ -roles does *seem* assign?

Seem seems to assign (just) one θ -role.

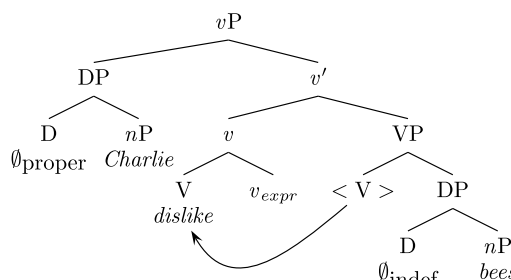
- What *seem* (and *appear*) mean when paired with an embedded sentence is that the proposition expressed by the embedded sentence appears true.
- There's only one participant in a seeming, the Proposition.
 - It seems [that *seem* assigns one θ -role].
- So, *seem* assigns a Proposition θ -role (structurally, to its sister, the CP daughter of V'), and nothing else (hence, *it* is needed to check the EPP feature).

Back to Charlie

- It seems [that Charlie dislikes bees].
 - Charlie seems [to dislike bees].
- These two sentences mean basically the same thing.
 - Dislike* assigns two θ -roles, we might say Experiencer and Theme.
 - It's the same verb *dislike* in both sentences. So, we presume that the bottom of both trees will look the same...

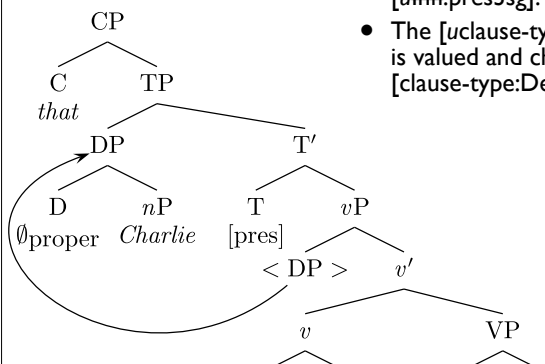
Disliking bees

- Starting with *It seems that Charlie dislikes bees*, we would build a vP that looks like this:
 - V (*dislike*) assigns a Theme θ -role to the DP *bees*.
 - $v_{\text{EXPERIENCER}}$ assigns an Experiencer θ -role to the DP *Charlie*.



Disliking bees

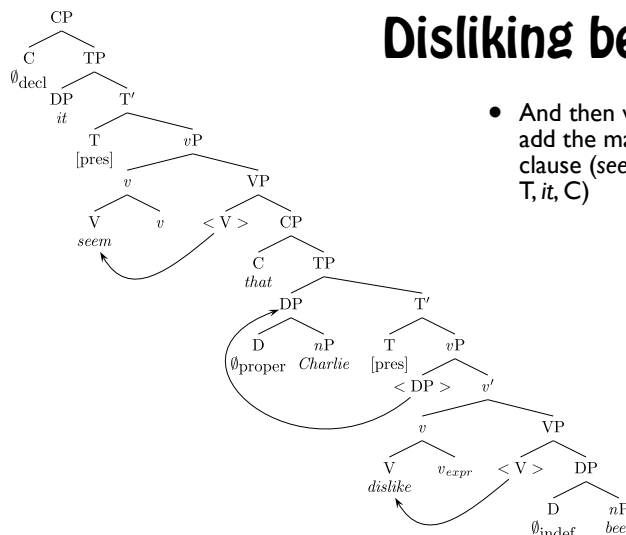
- And then we add T and C to get *that Charlie dislikes bees*...



- The [*case*] feature of *Charlie* is valued and checked by the [*nom*] feature of T.
- The [*uInfl*:] feature of *v* is valued and checked by T: [*uInfl*:pres3sg].
- The [*uclause-type*:] feature of T is valued and checked by the [*clause-type:Decl*] feature of C.

Disliking bees

- And then we add the main clause (*seem*, *v*, T, *it*, C)



- Does *Charlie* get a θ -role from *seem*?
- Well, no. *Seem* only assigns the one θ -role.
- So, unlike in *Charlie tried [PRO to elude the bees]*, we have as many DPs as we have θ -roles.

Disliking bees

- So, what θ -role does *Charlie* get?
- Still *seem* to be the Experiencer of *dislike*.
- So, suppose that *Charlie* starts out in the same place, SpecvP.
- But now, after building vP, we add a nonfinite T...

Disliking bees

- The [*uInfl*:] feature of *v* is valued and checked by T: [*uInfl*:none].
- **Nonfinite T has no [*uclause-type*:] feature.**
- The [*case*] feature of *Charlie* is **still unchecked**, since nonfinite T has no case feature.

Disliking bees

- Can we add a C to this?
- Let's assume **not**, by the following reasoning:
- The only C that is compatible with a nonfinite T is \emptyset_{NULL} , that assigns null case to PRO. *Charlie* is not PRO, so it can't get null case. So, this is just a TP, not a CP.

Disliking bees

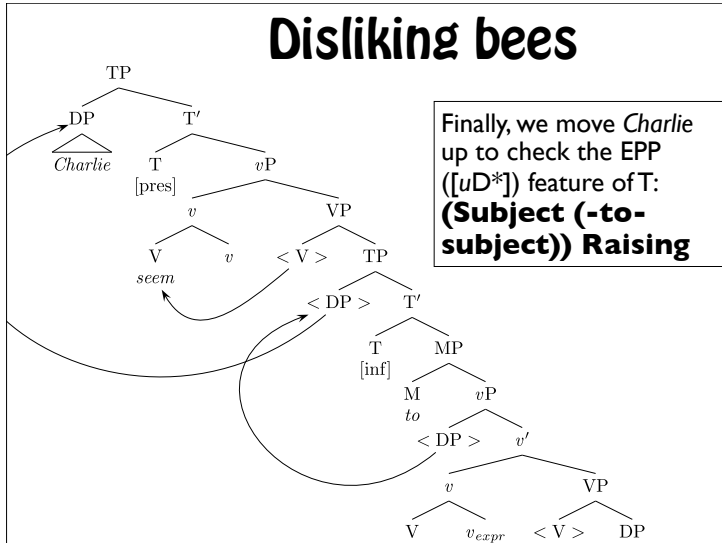
- So, we add *seem*, taking our TP (*Charlie to dislike bees*) as its Proposition complement.

Disliking bees

- We add T...
- *Charlie* has [*case*] to check.
- Checked ($[\text{nom}]$) by T
- T has [*nom*], [*uD**], and [*u ϕ* :] features to check.
- [$[\text{nom}]$] checked valuing case on *Charlie*. [*u ϕ* :3sg] matches [*ϕ* :3sg] feature on *Charlie*. [*uD**] remains.
- *seem* (*v*) has [*uInfl*:] to check
- [*uInfl*:pres3sg], valued by [*tense*:pres] and [*u ϕ* :3sg] on T.

Disliking bees

Disliking bees



Idioms

- Recall our idea about idioms: For something to have an idiomatic interpretation (an interpretation not literally derivable from its component words), the pieces need to be very close together when initially Merged.

1) Ortega took a dive.

- Now, we have idiomatic interpretations here:

2) It seems that the jig is up.

3) It seems that the cat is out of the bag.

4) It seems that the cat has your tongue.

Idioms

- If pieces of the idiom move away after the original Merge, we can still get the idiomatic interpretation:
 - [The cat]_i seems _{t_i} to have your tongue.
 - [The cat]_i seems _{t_i} to be out of the bag.
 - [The jig]_i seems _{t_i} to be up.
- The important thing is that they be originally Merged together (the θ -role needs to be assigned by the predicate to the noun). Compare:
 - [The cat] tried to have your tongue.
 - [The cat] arranged to be out of the bag.
- (What's different? Why no idiomatic meaning?)

Other raising verbs

- So far, we've only talked about *seem*, but there are a couple of other raising verbs as well.
 - [The cat]_i is likely [_{TP} _{t_i} to be out of the bag].
 - [The cat]_i appears [_{TP} _{t_i} to have his tongue].
 - [The jig]_i proved [_{TP} _{t_i} to be up].
 - [The cat]_i began [_{TP} _{t_i} to get his tongue].
- What these verbs (in this use, anyway) have in common is that they have no external θ -role and an internal Proposition θ -role.

Object control

- One last type of nonfinite complement, those that appear with verbs like *persuade*.
 - Sayid persuaded Kate to stay.
- Once again, we think through the "participants" to get a handle on whether we have enough DPs for the θ -roles.
 - Stay* has only one participant, *Kate*.
 - Persuade* has three—the one doing the persuading (*Sayid*), the one being persuaded (*Kate*), and the proposition in question ([_{TP} *Kate* to stay]).
 - So we *don't* have enough DPs for the job—*Kate* appears to be playing two roles (one from *stay*, one from *persuade*). This sounds like a job for PRO.

Object control

- Sayid persuaded Kate to stay.
- Sayid persuaded Kate [_{CP} \emptyset_{NULL} PRO_{NULL} to stay]
- Again we have PRO, as we do in
 - Kate tried [_{CP} \emptyset_{NULL} PRO_{NULL} to see]
- But in *Sayid persuaded Kate to stay*, what "controls" PRO?

Persuasion and promises

- Not all ditransitive control verbs are *object control verbs*.
 - Though all object control verbs are ditransitives.
 - 1) David persuaded Sherry [PRO to leave]
 - 2) David promised Sherry [PRO to run for office]
 - 3) Chase asked Jack [PRO to be allowed to continue]
 - 4) Chase asked Jack [PRO to get off his case]
 - Whether a verb is a subject control verb or an object control verb is an individual property of the verb. *Promise* is recorded in our lexicon as a subject control verb, *persuade* as an object control verb.

ECM verbs

- ECM verbs also take infinitive complements, but with an overt subject (that checks accusative case with the ECM verb).
 - Tony found [Michelle to be charming]
 - Tony found [that Michelle was charming]
 - Jack expected [Tony to take the day off]
 - Jack expected [that Tony would take the day off]

Raising verbs

- Raising verbs have no Agent/Experiencer in SpecvP, and take a nonfinite complement. The subject of the embedded complement moves into their subject position:
 - Jack seems [<Jack> to be tired]
 - It seems [that Jack is tired]
 - The time appears [<the time> to have expired]
 - It appears [that the time has expired]
 - The President happened [<the P.> to have a pen]
 - It happened [that the President had a pen]

Verb classes in summary

- ECM verbs, e.g., *believe, find*
 - I believe [_{TP} him to have told the truth].
 - We find [_{TP} these truths to be self-evident]. (or *hold*)
- Subject control verbs, e.g., *attempt, promise*
 - Kim_k promised Jack [_{CP} \emptyset _{NULL} PRO_k to avoid kidnappers].
 - Kim_k will try [_{CP} \emptyset _{NULL} PRO_k to avoid kidnappers].
- Object control verbs, e.g., *convince, ask*
 - I convinced her_k [_{CP} \emptyset _{NULL} PRO_k to drive to work].
 - Jack asked Kim_k [_{CP} \emptyset _{NULL} PRO_k to avoid kidnappers].
- Raising verbs, e.g., *appear, seem*
 - I appear [_{TP} <I> to have missed the bus].
 - Jack seems [_{TP} <Jack> to need a nap].

One more argument for PRO

- **Principle A:** An anaphor must be bound in its binding domain.
 - Jack hoped [that Kim would explain herself]
 - Jack wanted [Kim to explain herself]
 - *Jack hoped [that Kim would call himself]
 - *Jack wanted [Kim to call himself]
 - Jack hoped [PRO to see Kim]
 - Jack hoped [PRO to exonerate himself]
- **Principle B:** A pronoun must be free in its binding domain.
 - Jack hoped [that Chase would exonerate him]
 - Jack wanted [Chase to exonerate him]
 - Jack hoped [PRO to exonerate him]

Before we finish embedded clauses...

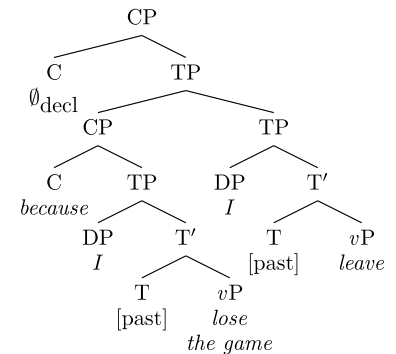
- Embedded clauses can also be modificational adjuncts.
 - Pat ate lunch [_{PP} on the hill]
[_{PP} by the tree] [_{PP} in the rain].
- To express reasons and times, we also find whole CPs adjoined to our clause:
 - We discussed adjuncts [_{CP} before we finished our discussion of embedded clauses]
 - There's nothing really new here, except the observation that *before* can have category C.
 - Just like *after, while, during, etc.*

Adjunct clauses: where do they go?

- Pat cleaned poorly yesterday.
- #Pat cleaned yesterday poorly.
- Pat cleaned poorly [before Chris arrived].
- #Pat cleaned [before Chris arrived] poorly.
- Pat cleaned [before Chris arrived] yesterday.
- Pat cleaned yesterday [before Chris arrived].
- Pat heard that [before Chris arrived] [Tracy cleaned the sink].
- Pat heard [before Chris arrived] that [Tracy cleaned the sink].

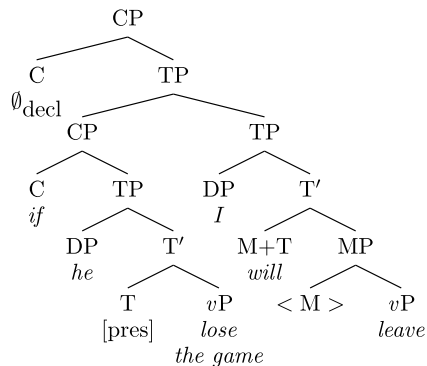
because clauses

- Reason clauses are also clausal adjuncts.
- *Because I lost the game, I left.*
- *I left because I lost the game.*



if clauses

- *If* clauses are like *because* clauses.
- *If he loses the game, I will leave.*
- *I will leave if he loses the game.*



While thinking about syntax

- Before finishing his homework, Ike watched TV.
- *Finish*: transitive (Agent, Theme)
 - Agent: ?
 - Theme: *his homework*
- *Watch*: transitive (Agent, Theme)
 - Agent: *Ike*
 - Theme: *TV*
- *Ike watched TV* is the main clause.
- *Before finishing his homework* is a modifier.

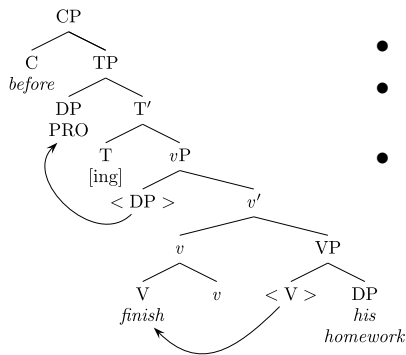
While thinking about syntax

- Before finishing his homework, Ike watched TV.
- Intuitively, it is Ike who was (at least at risk of) finishing his homework.
 - We are not going to have any particular explanation for exactly *how* the interpretation tied to the subject comes about, but it seems to be.
 - Before he finished his homework, Ike watched TV.

While PRO thinking about syntax

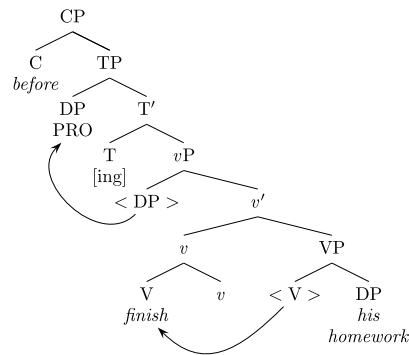
- Before PRO finishing his homework, ...
- This PRO does seem to be controlled by the subject somehow (**While raining, Ike dashed to the store*).
- The form *finishing* is not the progressive, it is the present participle, a nonfinite form.

Before PRO finishing...



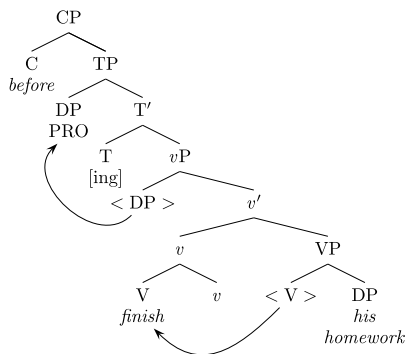
- T is not finite, so no [tense] feature.
- It is not the *infinitive* either.
- We'll say this form has the [ing] feature.
- The [**uInfl:**] feature of v is matched, valued, and checked by the [ing] feature, resulting in *finishing*.

Before PRO finishing...



- How does PRO get its case feature checked?
- Some relevant sentences:
- **Before he finished his homework, Ike watched TV.**
- **Before Ike's finishing of his homework, tension was high.**

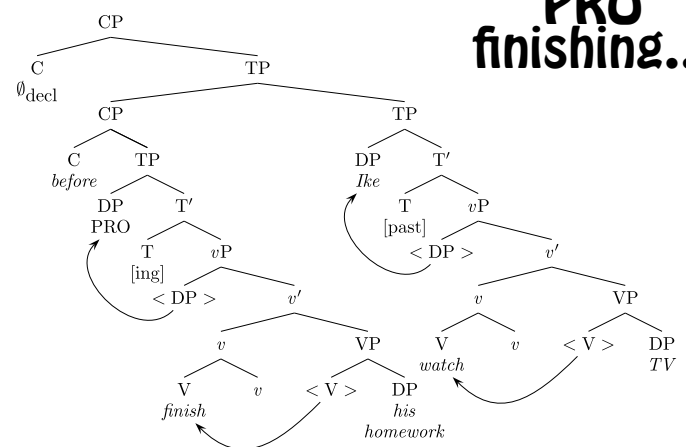
Before PRO finishing...



- Given this, the best hypothesis seems to be that the [ing] T also has a [**null**] feature, checking case with PRO just like finite T checks nominative case with other subjects.
- [**null**] = [**ucase:null**]

The only thing left is to attach the modifier into the main clause...

Before PRO finishing...



On gerunds

- There is yet another form of the verb that shows up with *-ing* on the end of it in English: the **gerund**.
- A gerund is basically a verb acting as a noun—we've been looking at this kind of deverbal noun already. One way to tell whether you are looking at a gerund (noun) or not (a verb) is to see whether it is modified by adjectives or adverbs:
 - Before his quick(*ly) cooking of the t(of)urkey...
 - Before quick-*(ly) finishing his homework...