CAS LX 522
Syntax I

Raising, etc.
(8.2.6-8.4)

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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 [$_{CP}$ Ø$_{NULL}$ PRO$_k$ to avoid kidnappers].
- Kim$_k$ will try [$_{CP}$ Ø$_{NULL}$ PRO$_k$ to avoid kidnappers].

Object control verbs, *e.g.*, *convince, ask*

- I convinced her$_k$ [$_{CP}$ Ø$_{NULL}$ PRO$_k$ to drive to work].
- Jack asked Kim$_k$ [$_{CP}$ Ø$_{NULL}$ 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].

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.

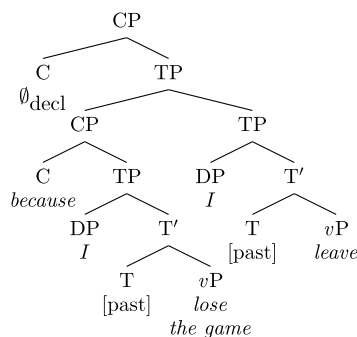   Just like *after*, *while*, *during*, etc.

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].

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because clauses
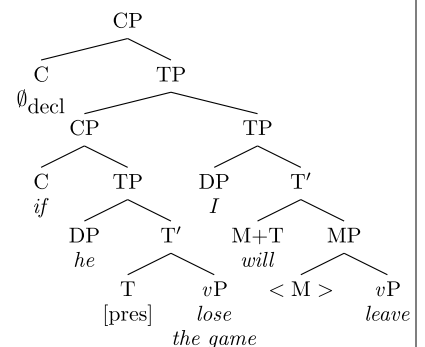
Reason clauses are also clausal adjuncts.

- *Because I lost the game, I left.*
- *I left because I lost the game.*

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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.
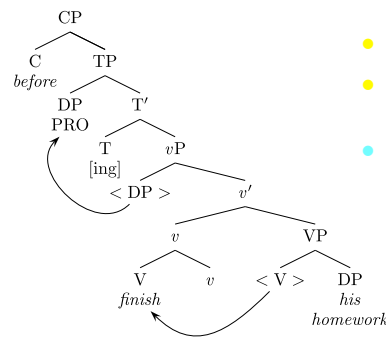 - Before he finished his homework, Ike watched TV.

While PRO thinking about syntax

- Before PRO finishing his homework, …

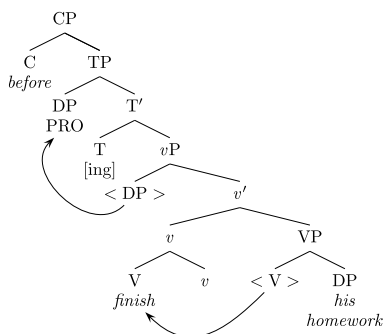This PRO does seem to be controlled by the subject somehow (*While raining, Ike dashed to the store*).

The form *finishing* is not the progressive, it is the present participle, a nonfinite form.
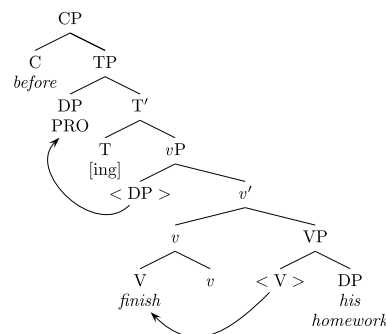
Before PRO finishing…

- 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.**
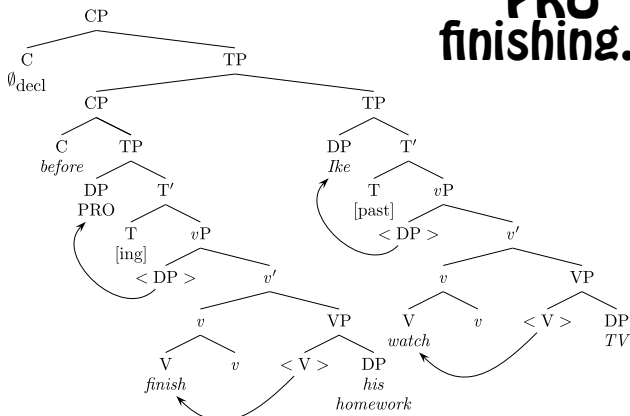
Before PRO finishing…

- 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] = [*u*case:null]**

Before PRO finishing…

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

CP
- C ∅$_{decl}$
- TP
  - CP
    - C *before*
    - TP
      - DP PRO
      - T′
        - T [ing]
        - vP
          - < DP >
          - v′
            - v
              - V *finish*
              - v
            - VP
              - < V >
              - DP *his homework*
  - TP
    - DP *Ike*
    - T′
      - T [past]
      - vP
        - < DP >
        - v′
          - v
            - V *watch*
            - v
          - VP
            - < V >
            - DP *TV*

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…