Deverbal nouns

• The structure inside the DP can be as complicated as inside a clause, as it turns out.
  1) Pat broke the vase.
  2) Pat’s breaking of the vase startled me.
  3) The bees startled me.

• It seems to be possible to convert the whole clause Pat broke the vase into a “noun” (a DP).

TPs and DPs

• One difference between clausal DPs and TPs is in the case realized by the arguments.
  1) I called him.
     • Agent is nom (from T), Theme is acc (from v)
  2) My calling of him was unplanned.
     • Agent is gen, Theme looks like a PP introduced by of.

• So, the case assigners within a DP are different from the case assigners within a clause.

Deverbal nouns

• What’s more, the relationship between break, Pat, and the vase seems to be the same inside the DP as it is in the clause.
  1) Pat broke the vase.
  2) Pat’s breaking of the vase made me angry.
     • Pat is an Agent, the vase is a Theme.
  3) Pat danced.
  4) Pat’s dancing startled me.

• Just as the verb break assigns θ-roles, it seems as if the nominalized breaking assigns the same θ-roles. The DP is in a way like a little clause.

Two kinds of N

• Not all N’s assign θ-roles. Some do, some don’t. Generally, the nouns related to a verb that assigns θ-roles will assign θ-roles. But something like lunch doesn’t.
  1) Pat’s lunch was enormous.
  2) Pat’s eating of lunch was shockingly rapid.

• So, we can either find a DP with a θ-role with genitive case, or we can find a possessor with genitive case, in SpecDP.

Ditransitive N

• Consider the ditransitive verb give and the related noun gift. Just as give is responsible for three θ-roles (Agent, Theme, Goal), so can gift be:
  1) Pat gave an apple to Chris.
  2) Pat’s gift of an apple to Chris was unexpected.

• The exact same problem arises with ditransitive nouns as arose with ditransitive verbs.

• Binary branching allows for just two arguments in NP. We need an additional projection for the third. Let’s try doing this just like we did for verbs…
Little n

```
TP
  DP
    T
      Pat
      NOM
    T'
    vP
      < DP >
      v'
        V+v
        gave
        DP
        books
        ACC
      < V >
      PP
      P
      to
      DP
      Chris
  DP
    D' 
    Pat's
    GEN
    nP
      < DP >
      n'
        N+n
        gift
        NP
        books
        OF
        < N >
        PP
        P
        to
        DP
        Chris
```