

Linguistics module

Topic 8 Syntax

Topic Overview: In this topic, students are introduced to syntax. Students learn to determine the internal structure of phrases and sentences.

Key Skills	Working in pairs Pattern recognition Problem solving Data analysis	
Expected time	Two hours (not including extra resources)	
Self-assessment (check with students at the end of the topic)	I understand that sentences have a hierarchical structure. I understand that sentences can be represented in the form of a tree to show their internal structure. I understand how Pro-form replacement tests can be used to work out the internal structure of phrases. I understand the terminology used in syntax such as head, node. I understand how to write Phrase Structure rules.	✓ / X

Task 8.1 Description: Students determine the internal structure of phrases and sentences morphemes

Learning Intentions	Students can apply Pro-form Replacement tests to determine the internal structure of phrases and sentences. They can assign a simple tree structure to a sentence.
Resources	PPT slides Introduction to Syntax Worksheet 8.1 on Pro-form Replacement
Task Outline	This activity is largely teacher-led. The teacher presents the PPT slides which show a gradual analysis of the internal structure of the sentence 'The cat chased the mice' and builds up a syntactic tree structure. Worksheet 8.1 has two problem sets. The first set practices the Pro-form Replacement test. After students complete the first problem set, the PPT provides feedback. For Problem Set 2, students need to assign a tree diagram to a sentence. Feedback is provided on the PPT, but this should only be given after the students have attempted the problem set.

Linguistics module

Task 8.2 Description: Students are familiar with the terminology used in syntax

Learning Intentions	Students understand the terminology used in syntax. They can assign a tree diagram to a sentence and label the tree diagram using the appropriate terminology.
Resources	<p>PPT slides on Terminology</p> <p>Worksheet 8.2: Match up terminology, Identify relations in tree diagram</p> <p>Syntax Puzzle: Dogs and Cats on Trees and Solution</p> <p>All puzzles mentioned in this module are at: https://ailo.adaptcentre.ie/tymodpuzzles/</p>
Task Outline	Teachers continue to guide students through the PPT. The terminology is explained in the PPT, and additional definitions/explanations are provided in the notes. Students complete Worksheet 8.2. Students complete the AILO puzzle 'Dogs and Cats on Trees' in pairs.

Task 8.3 Description: Students are familiar with Phrase Structure (PS) rules

Learning Intentions	Students understand that tree diagrams are visual representations of structures generated by rules known as Phrase Structure (PS) rules.
Resources	<p>PPT slides on Phrase Structure Rules</p> <p>Worksheet 8.3 on Phrase Structure Rules</p> <p>AILO Puzzle: Grammar Rules! and Solution</p> <p>All puzzles mentioned in this module are at: https://ailo.adaptcentre.ie/tymodpuzzles/</p>
Task Outline	Teachers continue to guide students through the PPT to understand how Phrase Structure rules work. Students complete Problem Set 3 on Worksheet 8.2. Feedback is provided on the PPT. Students complete the puzzle Grammar Rules! in pairs.

Linguistics module

Extra Resources

Extra Syntax Puzzles:

A Matter of Horn Clauses:

<https://nacloweb.org/resources/problems/2016/N2016-P.pdf>

Solution:

<https://nacloweb.org/resources/problems/2016/N2016-PS.pdf>

Intergalactic Grammars:

<https://nacloweb.org/resources/problems/2018/N2018-D.pdf>

Solution:

<https://nacloweb.org/resources/problems/2018/N2018-DS.pdf>

Orwellspeak:

<https://www.nacloweb.org/resources/problems/2009/N2009-M.pdf>

Solution (Orwellspeak):

<https://www.nacloweb.org/resources/problems/2009/N2009-MS.pdf>

Use the Force:

<https://nacloweb.org/resources/problems/2015/N2015-E.pdf>

Solution):

<https://nacloweb.org/resources/problems/2015/N2015-ES.pdf>

CCG:

<https://nacloweb.org/resources/problems/2014/N2014-O.pdf>

Solution:

<https://nacloweb.org/resources/problems/2014/N2014-OS.pdf>

Combining Categories in Tok Pisin:

<https://nacloweb.org/resources/problems/2014/N2014-P.pdf>

Solution:

<https://nacloweb.org/resources/problems/2014/N2014-PS.pdf>

More AILO puzzles

We encourage every school and student to take part in the 2022/23 [All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad \(AILO\)](#). The preliminary round is held in your own school at the end of January with the National Final in Dublin City University in March 2023.

Register at <https://ailo.adaptcentre.ie/enter/> and try other puzzles at <https://ailo.adaptcentre.ie/puzzles/>.