Adventures in English Syntax

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Below are the color sections of text as they appear in the book. Page numbers relate to the printed version of the book.

Chapter 1

Page number	Section	Colour text
1		(a) One fish two fish red fish blue fish.
2		(b) #1 #2 #3 #4 │ │ │ │ [One fish] [two fish] [red fish] [blue fish]
2		(c) [One fish] [two **fish**] [red fish] [blue fish]

2	1.1	(d) 1. [red fish] [blue fish]
		           2. [red fish] [blue **fish**]
		           3. [red **fish**] [blue fish]
		           4. [red **fish**] [blue **fish**]

3	1.1	(e) [One fish] [two **fish**] [red fish] [blue fish] (f) [One fish] [two **fish**] [red fish] [blue fish] If the 4 syntactic units in these representations of the title are interpreted as distinct, this yields 5 fish: $1 + 2 + 1 + 1$ (2 red fish + 3 blue fish) in (e) and $1 + 2 + 1 + 1$ (3 red fish + 2 blue fish) in (f).
3	1.1	(g) [One fish $]_a$ [two **fish** $]_b$ [red fish $]_a$ [blue **fish** $]_b$ Thus $1 + 2 = 3$ fish. And similarly for *two red fish* and *one blue fish* in (f), yielding $2 + 1 = 3$ fish.
3	1.1	(h) [One fish] [two **fish** $]_b$ [red fish] [blue **fish** $]_b$ (h) represents one 4-fish interpretation: 2 red fish and 2 blue fish ($1 + 2 + 1$). The same unlinking strategy applies to *two fish* and *blue fish* in (g), yielding (i). (i) [One fish $]_a$ [two **fish**] [red fish $]_a$ [blue fish] (i) represents a different situation where there is only 1 red fish and 3 blue fish ($1 + 2 + 1$). Two additional 4-fish interpretations result from flipping the colors of *one fish* and *two fish* in (h) and (i), yielding (j.1) and (j.2) where there are again 2 blue fish and 2 red fish ($1 + 2 + 1$), but in a different configuration.
4	1.1	(j) 1. [One fish] [two **fish** $]_b$ [red **fish** $]_b$ [blue fish] 2. [One fish $]_a$ [two **fish**] [red **fish**] [blue fish $]_a$ (j.1) represents the interpretation of two red fish and two blue fish ($1 + 2 + 1$), whereas (j.2) yields one blue fish and three red fish ($1 + 2 + 1$). In each of these
4	1.1	(k) syntactic units: 1 2 3 4 fish: R_a $(R_a + B)$ R B The subscript a on the first fish functions essentially like a name tag. Without the identical subscript, R and R_a designate different fish, as do the two instances of B in (k). (k) represents two red fish and two blue fish. Because the color of the

4	1.1	(l) syntactic units: 1 2 3 4 fish: R_a (R_a + B) R_a B Now there is only 1 red fish along with 2 blue fish ($1 + 1 + 1 = 3$).
4	1.1	(m) syntactic units: 1 2 3 4 fish: R_a (R_a + B_b) R_a B_b
5	1.1	(e) [One fish] [two **fish**] [red fish] [blue fish]
5	1.1	(n) [One fish] [two **fish**] [red **fish**] [blue fish] (o) [One fish] [two **fish**] [red fish] [blue **fish**] (n) represents the situation where there are at least 3 red fish and 3 blue fish ($1 + 2 + 2 + 1 = 6$), while (o) represents 2 red fish and at least 4 blue fish ($1 + 2 + 1 + 2 = 6$). And if *fish* in both *red fish* and *blue fish* is plural, as in (p), then the title would represent at least 7 fish. (p) [One fish] [two **fish**] [red **fish**] [blue **fish**]

Chapter 2

15	2.1	(e) 1. *exceptional students and teachers* 2. ***exceptional** students and teachers*
16	2.1	(f) 1. *students and teachers from Romania* 2. *students and teachers **from Romania***
16	2.1	With one modifier in front of the coordinated nouns and another following them (as in *exceptional students and teachers from Romania*), a four-way ambiguity results because all four interpretations (2 x 2) are possible, as illustrated in (h).

17	2.1	(h) 1. *exceptional students and teachers from Romania* N–N
		         2. ***exceptional** students and teachers from Romania* W–N
		         3. *exceptional students and teachers **from Romania*** N–W
		         4. ***exceptional** students and teachers **from Romania*** W–W

17	2.1	While all four readings are possible given that four distinct hierarchical structures can be assigned to the same linear string of words, it may actually be easier to process the modifiers as having the same scope (either W–W or N–N) than as having different scopes. This illustrates how natural language syntax produces some structures that are difficult to process, a point that will come up again at the end of this chapter and in the discussion of relative clauses in Chapter 4.

18	2.1	(j) 1. a. *exceptional Romanian students and teachers* N–N
		                 b. *teachers and exceptional Romanian students*
		         2. a. ***exceptional** Romanian students and teachers* W–N
		                 b. *exceptional teachers and exceptional Romanian students*
		         3. a. ***exceptional Romanian** students and teachers* W–W
		                 b. *exceptional Romanian students and exceptional Romanian teachers*

18	2.1	(k) **exceptional **Romanian** students and teachers* N–W

Chapter 3

25	3.1	(a) 1. *Introduction to Language and Linguistics* 2. *Introduction to Language and Linguistics*

Chapter 4

53		(a)	1. *a review* of a *book* *by two philosophers* 2. *a review* of a *book* *by two philosophers*
72	4.3	(bb)	1. *He* **used** *A LUNCHTIME DEBATE* **last week to unleash a fierce attack**. 2. *He* **used** *A LUNCHTIME DEBATE LAST WEEK* **to unleash a fierce attack**. 3. *He* **used** *A LUNCHTIME DEBATE LAST WEEK TO UNLEASH A FIERCE ATTACK*.
73	4.3	(cc)	**He* **used** *A LUNCHTIME DEBATE* **last week** *TO UNLEASH A FIERCE ATTACK*. Note that in (bb), the infinitival clause has two distinct functions: **to unleash a fierce attack**, which modifies the verb *used*, functions as a purpose clause with the interpretation of 'in order to V-phrase', while *TO UNLEASH A FIERCE ATTACK*, which modifies the noun *debate*, functions as a relative clause (compare *a debate which unleashed a fierce attack*).
73	4.3	(dd)	*He* **used** *A LUNCHTIME DEBATE LAST WEEK TO LAUNCH HIS RIVAL'S BOOK* **to unleash a fierce attack**.

Chapter 5

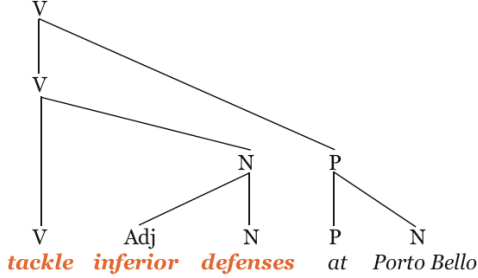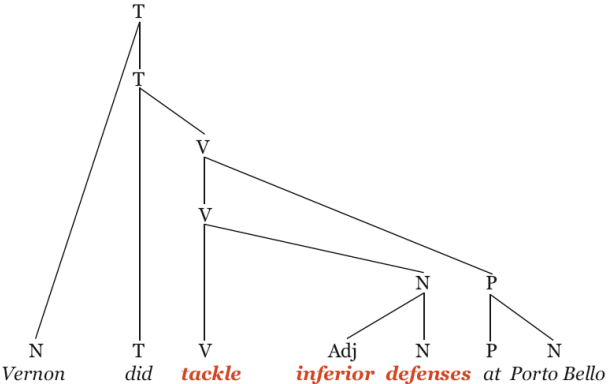| 129	5.6	*In the varied ups and downs, the thrills and spills in the life of an Old Bailey hack, one thing stands as stone. **YOUR EX-CUSTOMERS WILL NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN**. Even if you've seen them through the rocks of the prosecution case and brought them out to the calm waters of a not-guilty verdict, they won't plan further meetings, host reunion dinners or even send you a card on your birthday. If they catch a glimpse of you on the Underground, or across a crowded wine bar, they will bury their faces in their newspapers or look studiously in the opposite direction.*
129	5.6	*For about 30 years, the study of language – or more accurately, one substantial component of it – has been conducted within a framework that understands linguistics to be a part of psychology, ultimately human biology. This approach attempts to reintroduce into the study of language several concerns that have been central to Western thought for thousands of years, and that have deep roots in other traditions as well: questions about the nature and origin of knowledge in particular. **THIS APPROACH HAS ALSO BEEN CONCERNED TO ASSIMILATE THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE INTO THE MAIN BODY OF THE NATURAL SCIENCES.** This meant, in the first place, abandoning dogmas that are entirely foreign to the natural sciences and that have no place in rational inquiry, the dogmas of the several varieties of behaviorism, for example, which seek to impose a priori limits on possible theory construction, a conception that would properly be dismissed as entirely irrational in the natural sciences. It means a frank adherence to mentalism, where we can understand*
130	5.6	*talk about the mind to be talk about the brain at an abstract level at which, so we try to demonstrate, principles can be formulated that enter into successful and insightful explanation of linguistic (and other) phenomena that are provided by observation and experiment. Mentalism, in this sense, has no taint of mysticism and carries no dubious ontological burden. Rather, mentalism falls strictly within the standard practice of the natural sciences and in fact, is nothing other than the approach of the natural sciences applied to this particular domain. This conclusion, which is the opposite of what is often assumed, becomes understandable and clear if we consider specific topics in the natural sciences: for example, 19th century chemistry, which sought to explain phenomena in terms of such abstract notions as elements, the periodic table, valence, benzene rings, and so on – that is, in terms of abstract properties of then unknown, perhaps still unknown physical mechanisms. This abstract inquiry served as an essential preliminary and guide for the subsequent inquiry into physical mechanisms. Mentalistic inquiry in the brain sciences is quite similar in approach and character to the abstract inquiry into properties of the chemical elements, and we may expect that this abstract inquiry too will serve as an essential preliminary and guide for the emerging brain sciences today; the logic is quite similar.*

130	5.6	*Brainworms are usually stereotyped and invariant in character. They tend to have a certain life expectancy, going full blast for hours or days and then dying away, apart from occasional afterspurts. But even when they have apparently faded, they tend to lie in wait; a heightened sensitivity remains, so that a noise, an association, a reference to them is apt to set them off again, sometimes years later. And they are nearly always fragmentary.* **THESE ARE THE QUALITIES THAT EPILEPTOLOGISTS MIGHT FIND FAMILIAR, FOR THEY ARE STRONGLY REMINISCENT OF THE BEHAVIOR OF A SMALL, SUDDEN-ONSET FOCUS, ERUPTING AND CONVULSING, THEN SUBSIDING, BUT ALWAYS READY TO IGNITE.**

Chapter 7

149	7.1	(b)	1. *Every politician who* **cheats instinctively** *lies*. 2. *Every politician who* **cheats** *instinctively lies*.
149	7.1	(c)	1. *Every politician who* **instinctively cheats** *lies*. 2. *Every politician who* **cheats** *lies instinctively*.
150	7.1	(g)	1. *strategically* lie **repeatedly** 2. lie *strategically* **repeatedly** 3. **repeatedly** lie *strategically* 4. **repeatedly** *strategically* lie
150	7.1	(h)	1. *Every politician who repeatedly cheats strategically lies*. 2. *Every politician who repeatedly cheats* **strategically lies**. 3. *Every politician who repeatedly* **cheats strategically** *lies*.
151	7.1	(i)	1. *Every politician who* [**repeatedly** *cheats strategically*] *lies*.　　**W – N** 2. *Every politician who* [*repeatedly cheats* **strategically**] *lies*.　　**N – W**
151	7.1	Table B |	repeatedly	strategically
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(h.2)	*cheats*	*lies*
(i.1)	*cheats –* **W**	*cheats –* **N**
(i.2)	*cheats –* **N**	*cheats –* **W**	
151	7.1	(k)	1. **Instinctively**, *every politician who cheats* **lies**. 2. ***Instinctively**, *every politician who* **cheats** *lies*.
152	7.1	(l)	1. [*Instinctively,* **[**[*every politician who cheats*] [~~*instinctively*~~ *lies*]]]. 2. [*Instinctively,* **[**[*every politician* **[***who* **[***cheats* ~~*instinctively*~~]]] *lies*]].
152	7.1	(o)	1. [*Instinctively,* **[**[*some politicians who lie*] [~~*instinctively*~~ *happen to be happy*]]]. 2. [*Instinctively,* **[**[*some politicians* **[***who* **[***lie* ~~*instinctively*~~]]] *happen to be happy*]].

Chapter 8

176	8.1	(c)	1. *Inferior defenses could then, as now, be tackled, as they were* ~~*tackled*~~ **[** *by Vernon at Porto Bello* **]**,**[** *by Exmouth at Algiers* **]***, &* **[** *by Seymour at Alexandria* **]**. 2. *Inferior defenses could then, as now, be tackled, as they* **[** *were* ~~*tackled*~~ *by Vernon at Porto Bello* **]**, **[** ~~*were tackled*~~ *by Exmouth at Algiers* **]***, &* **[** ~~*were tackled*~~ *by Seymour at Alexandria* **]**. 3. *Inferior defenses could then, as now, be tackled, as they were* ~~*tackled*~~ *by* **[** *Vernon at Porto Bello* **]**,**[** *Exmouth at Algiers* **]***, &* **[** *Seymour at Alexandria* **]**.

177	8.1	(1)	[[*tackled* [*by Vernon*]] [*at Porto Bello*]].
178	8.2	(f)	*Inferior defenses could then, as now, be tackled, as Vernon **did** at Porto Bello, Exmouth ~~did~~ at Algiers, & Seymour ~~did~~ at Alexandria.*
179	8.2	(i)	*Inferior defenses could then, as now, be tackled {~~inferior defenses~~}, as Vernon did ~~tackle inferior defenses~~ at Porto Bello.*
179	8.2	(j)	
180	8.2	(k)	
180	8.2	(l)	1. *Inferior defenses could then, as now, be tackled, as Vernon had at Porto Bello.* 2. *Inferior defenses could then, as now, be tackled {~~inferior defenses~~}, as Vernon had ~~tackled inferior defenses~~ at Porto Bello.*
181	8.2	(m)	1. *Admirals could then, as now, have tackled inferior defenses, as Vernon had at Porto Bello.* 2. *Admirals could then, as now, have tackled inferior defenses, as Vernon had ~~tackled inferior defenses~~ at Porto Bello.*
181	8.2	(n)	1. *Inferior defenses could then, as now, be tackled, as Vernon had at Porto Bello, Exmouth had at Algiers, & Seymour had at Alexandria.* 2. *Inferior defenses could then, as now, be tackled {~~inferior defenses~~}, as Vernon had ~~tackled inferior defenses~~ at Porto Bello, Exmouth had ~~tackled inferior defenses~~ at Algiers, & Seymour had ~~tackled inferior defenses~~ at Alexandria.*
181	8.2		and then color-coding the numbers, where **red** indicates ellipsis and blue no ellipsis. Of the 8 possible variants, 4 are perfectly ordinary **1 2 3** [maximum ellipsis] 1 **2 3** 1 2 **3** 1 2 3 [no ellipsis] but the other 4 **1 2** 3 **1** 2 3
182	8.2		1 **2** 3 **1** 2 **3**

183	8.2	(r)	1. *Inferior defenses could then, as now, be tackled, as Vernon had at Porto Bello, Exmouth had at Algiers, & Seymour had at Alexandria.*
			2. *Inferior defenses could then, as now, be tackled, as Vernon **had** at Porto Bello, Exmouth ~~had~~ at Algiers, & Seymour ~~had~~ at Alexandria.*
			3. *Inferior defenses could then, as now, be tackled, as Vernon had at Porto Bello, Exmouth at Algiers, & Seymour at Alexandria.*

183	8.2	Each conjunct in (r.1) is already an instance of verb phrase ellipsis, where *tackled inferior defenses* has been deleted from the predicate of each conjunct. Because ellipsis of the finite auxiliary is an option for the 2nd and 3rd conjuncts, the pattern of ellipsis **1–2–3** above (where all three conjuncts show verb phrase ellipsis) has 3 additional variants. The full pattern is given below with the deletion of the finite auxiliary indicated by an asterisk.
		1 2 3 **1 2 3*** **1 2* 3*** [maximum ellipsis] **1 2* 3**
		The 4th possibility **1 – 2* – 3**, spelled out in (s), is stylistically odd – again because a conjunct with ellipsis is followed by one without the same ellipsis, in contrast to (r).

183	8.2	The pattern of maximum ellipsis **1 – 2* – 3*** involves the deletion of both the finite auxiliary *had* and the verb phrase *tackled inferior defenses* in the 2nd and 3rd conjuncts. In addition, there are corresponding legitimate sentences with verb phrase ellipsis only (**1 – 2 – 3**) or with no ellipsis (1 – 2 – 3), variants spelled out in (t).

184	8.2	(t)	1. *Inferior defenses could then, as now, be tackled, as Vernon had tackled inferior defenses at Porto Bello, Exmouth had tackled them at Algiers, & Seymour had tackled them at Alexandria.* (1 – 2 – 3 = no ellipsis)
			2. *Inferior defenses could then, as now, be tackled, as Vernon had at Porto Bello, Exmouth had at Algiers, & Seymour had at Alexandria.* (**1 – 2 – 3** = verb phrase ellipsis only)
			3. *Inferior defenses could then, as now, be tackled, as Vernon had at Porto Bello, Exmouth at Algiers, & Seymour at Alexandria.* (**1 – 2* – 3*** = maximum ellipsis)

184	8.2	(u)	1. *Bill should buy a used car, and Mary should lease a new one.*
			2. *Bill **should** buy a used car, and Mary, ~~should~~ lease a new one.*
			3. *Bill should buy a used car, and Mary, lease a new one.*

184	8.2	(v)	1. *Bill should buy a new car and Mary should buy a new bicycle.*
			2. *Bill **should buy** a new car and Mary ~~should buy~~ a new bicycle.*
			3. *Bill should buy a new car and Mary, a new bicycle.*

184	8.2	(w)	1. *Bill bought a new car and Mary bought a new bicycle.*
			2. *Bill **bought** a new car and Mary ~~bought~~ a new bicycle.*
			3. *Bill bought a new car and Mary, a new bicycle.*

185	8.2	(n)	1. *Inferior defenses could then, as now, be tackled, as Vernon had at Porto Bello, Exmouth had at Algiers, & Seymour had at Alexandria.*
			2. *Inferior defenses could then, as now, be <u>tackled</u> ~~inferior defenses~~, as*

186	8.2	*Vernon had ~~tackled inferior defenses~~ at Porto Bello, Exmouth had ~~tackled inferior defenses~~ at Algiers, & Seymour had ~~tackled inferior defenses~~ at Alexandria.*

186	8.2	(y) 1. *Bill should buy a new car and Susan said that Mary should buy a new bicycle.* 2. *Bill **should buy** a new car and Susan said that Mary ~~should buy~~ a new bicycle.* 3. **Bill should buy a new car and Susan said that Mary, a new bicycle.* (z) 1. *Fred said that Bill should buy a new car and Susan said that Mary should buy a new bicycle.* 2. *Fred said that Bill **should buy** a new car and Susan said that Mary ~~should buy~~ a new bicycle.* 3. **Fred said that Bill should buy a new car and Susan said that Mary, a new bicycle.*
186	8.2	(aa) 1. *Bill should buy a new car and Mary should buy a new car too.* 2. *Bill should **buy a new car** and Mary should ~~buy a new car~~ too.* 3. *Bill should buy a new car and Mary should too.* (bb) 1. *Bill should buy a new car and Susan said that Mary should buy a new car too.* 2. *Bill should **buy a new car** and Susan said that Mary should ~~buy a new car~~ too.* 3. *Bill should buy a new car and Susan said that Mary should too.* (cc) 1. *Fred said that Bill should buy a new car and Susan said that Mary should buy a new car too.* 2. *Fred said that Bill should **buy a new car** and Susan said that Mary should ~~buy a new car~~ too.* 3. *Fred said that Bill should buy a new car and Susan said that Mary should too.*
187	8.2	(ee) 1. *. . . as Vernon had tackled inferior defenses at Porto Bello, Exmouth had tackled inferior defenses at Algiers, & Seymour has tackled inferior defenses at Alexandria.* 2. *. . . as Vernon **had tackled** inferior defenses at Porto Bello, Exmouth ~~had tackled~~ inferior defenses at Algiers, & Seymour ~~had tackled~~ inferior defenses at Alexandria.* 3. *. . . as Vernon had tackled inferior defenses at Porto Bello, Exmouth, inferior defenses at Algiers, & Seymour, inferior defenses at Alexandria.* If verb phrase ellipsis applies first, then (ff) results. (ff) 1. *. . . as Vernon had tackled inferior defenses at Porto Bello, Exmouth had tackled inferior defenses at Algiers, & Seymour has tackled inferior defenses at Alexandria.* 2. *. . . as Vernon had **tackled inferior defenses** at Porto Bello, Exmouth had ~~tackled inferior defenses~~ at Algiers, & Seymour had ~~tackled inferior defenses~~ at Algiers.*
188	8.2	(gg) 1. *Exmouth ~~HAD TACKLED~~ inferior defenses at Algiers* 2. *Exmouth had ~~tackled inferior defenses~~ at Algiers* Overlaying (gg.1) and (gg.2) would yield (hh), where ~~tackled~~ shows up in both boldface italics (via verb phrase ellipsis) and small caps (via T+V ellipsis). (hh) *Exmouth ~~HAD~~ ~~**TACKLED inferior defenses**~~ at Algiers*