Fundamentals of Grammar

Adjuncts

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adjuncts vs arguments

Not all phrases which co-occur with a head are selected. Some are optional.

- *You resemble
- You resemble your father.
- You resemble your father when I look closely.

While arguments are selected constituents of a phrase, adjuncts are never selected and may freely occur.
Adjuncts can be any syntactic constituent:

- Kim believed Chris, *with some trepidation*. (PP adjunct)
- Kim talked to Chris, *upset and distracted*. (AP adjunct)
- *Fortunately*, Kim things that Chris is intelligent. (AdvP adjunct)
- Kim laughed, *pretending she was happy*.
- Kim talked to Chris, *his eyes spakling with anger*. (participial clause adjunct)
- Kim talked to Chris, *to hear his side of the story*. (infinitival clause adjunct)
adjuncts can iterate

Unlike combination with selected complements, adjunction can apply again and again.

- Kim watered the plants. (NP comp)
- *Kim watered the plants the garden. (string of NP comps)
- Kim watered the plants joyously (AdvP adjunct)
- Kim watered the plants joyously on Tuesday (string of adjuncts)
- Kim watered the plants with Mary joyously on Tuesday. (even longer string)
adjuncts are unrestricted in ordering

Unlike selected complements, adjuncts can usually occur in any order.

- The people elected [$NP$ Kim] [$NP$ president of the nation].
- *The people elected [$NP$ president of the nation] [$NP$ Kim].
- The people elected Kim president of the nation [$PP$ in a landslide victory] [$PP$ on Tuesday].
- The people elected Kim president of the nation [$PP$ on Tuesday] [$PP$ in a landslide victory].
Adjuncts cannot intervene

Adjuncts can never occur between a head and its complements.

▶ The people elected Kim president of the nation \([_{pp \ on \ Tuesday}]\).
▶ *The people elected \([_{pp \ on \ Tuesday}]\) Kim president of the nation.
▶ *The people elected Kim \([_{pp \ on \ Tuesday}]\) president of the nation.
adjuncts summary so far

- are not selected (are optional)
- can occur in any order
- can reapply (iterate)
- cannot intervene between a head and its arguments
Because adjuncts can occur with any phrase (any phrase can be an adjunct), we can propose a generalized adjunction rule:

\[
XP \rightarrow XP \ YP
\]

Which phrase projects the head-path in this rule?
example

VP
  
  VP
  
  V
  elected

  NP

  Kim

  NP

  president of the nation

  PP
  
  P
  on

  NP

  Tuesday