

# LEL2A Syntax

Semester 1, 2025-26

## Research Skills

- M1 State a hypothesis clearly
- M2 Present data in support of a hypothesis
- M3 Define the conditions under which a hypothesis would be refuted
- M4 Present data to refute a hypothesis
- M5 Consider the limitations of a diagnostic test when interpreting the results

## Syntax Skills

### **Topic 1 – What is Syntax?**

- (1) a. Use a hierarchical structure to represent constituency

### **Topic 2 – Constituent Structure and Constituency Tests**

- (2) a. Perform an appropriate constituency test for an NP
- b. Perform an appropriate constituency test for a VP
- c. Perform an appropriate constituency test for PP/AP/AdvP

### **Topic 3 – Predicates and arguments: syntactic and semantic arguments**

- (3) a. Identify divergences in the mapping between semantic and syntactic predicates & arguments
- b. Identify arguments that bear semantic roles (such as agent, theme/patient, goal, & location) and any arguments that do not

### **Topic 4 – Predicates and arguments: arguments and modifiers, subjects**

- (4) a. Relate differences in types of verbal complements to c-selection properties of verbs
- b. Perform an appropriate diagnostic to distinguish a verbal complement from an adjunct

### **Topic 5 – X-bar and the clause: X-bar schema**

- (5) a. Represent heads and phrases, identified via constituency tests, in a manner consistent with the *projection principle*
- b. Use X' representations to distinguish adjunction from complementation

### **Topic 6 – X-bar and the clause: IP, modals, V and I, VPISH, CP**

- (6) a. Use constituency tests to identify and justify projection of different functional heads in a representation, such as I, C, and NEG
- b. Implement a *VP-internal subject hypothesis* analysis

**Topic 7 – Nonverbal XP’s Part 1: Arguments of N & the DP Hypothesis**

- (7)    a. Implement an analysis of complex noun phrases that is consistent with the framework developed
- b. Identify elements as complements or adjuncts of a noun in a principled way

**Topic 8 – Passives**

- (8)    a. Account for the behaviour of passive movement, including any relevant restrictions, within the framework developed

**Topic 9 – Non-finite clauses Part 1: To-infinitives, Raising & Control**

- (9)    a. Identify non-finite clauses headed by infinitival *to* in a principled way
- b. Distinguish raising structures from control structures on the basis of  $\theta$ -role assignment

**Topic 10 – Non-finite clauses Part 2: Why raise & Object Control**

- (10)   a. Motivate raising to subject position (A-movement) in terms of either CASE or the EPP

**Topic 11 – Wh-questions (guest lecture, bonus skill)**

- (11)   a. Implement a movement based analysis of wh-movement