

**Short assignment #1**  
due Monday July 10 at noon

*Question 1:* Modeling yourself on the trees on my slides and on the class summary, draw a structure for the sentences in (1)-(2). If a sentence does not have a separate word bearing Tense (e.g. *will, have*), include a Tense or I node that is phonologically null (just as I suggested for complementizers in response to a class question) — you can write it as "ø".

This is a slightly risky question for me to pose, since it requires you to read the final page of the posted class summary, which includes material we did not get to in class yet — but I am crossing my fingers that this won't be a problem in this particular case.

Please use the posted optional textbook reading (first 17 pages) as a resource as well, especially if this is really truly your first encounter with syntax.

(1) The tall reporter has claimed that a dog will depend on an old computer.

(2) Sue attends the Institute.

*Question 2:* Examples of the following sort were on my slides for Tuesday, but I barely discussed them. They raise a problem for Merge as stated in the class summary. What is it? Your answer can and should be short and simple — and yes, I did sort of give the answer in class

(3) a. Sue handed the book to Mary.  
b. \*Sue handed the book.  
c. \*Sue handed to Mary.  
d. \*Sue handed.

(4) a. Sue sent an email to Mary.  
b. Sue sent an email.  
c. \*Sue sent to Mary.  
d. \*Sue sent.

(5) a. Sue wrote a letter to Mary,  
b. Sue wrote a letter.  
c. Sue wrote to Mary.  
d. Sue wrote.

Preparing you for disappointment: in this short course, we will finesse this issue and not deal with it in any. In a full-semester version of the class, I have a great problem set on the topic...

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**Note to all:** It is the nature of an LSA Institute that some of you will find this and other problems challenging, while others will have the exact opposite impression — and still others of you will be somewhere in between. No matter where you fall on this spectrum, please do the best you can and do not worry if the problem takes you six minutes or sixty. If, however, you find yourself struggling, contact the TAs and me for help. No assignment for this class should take more than an hour (certainly not this one!).