

In Search of Phrases

SYNTACTIC STRUCTURE – SYNTACTIC TREES

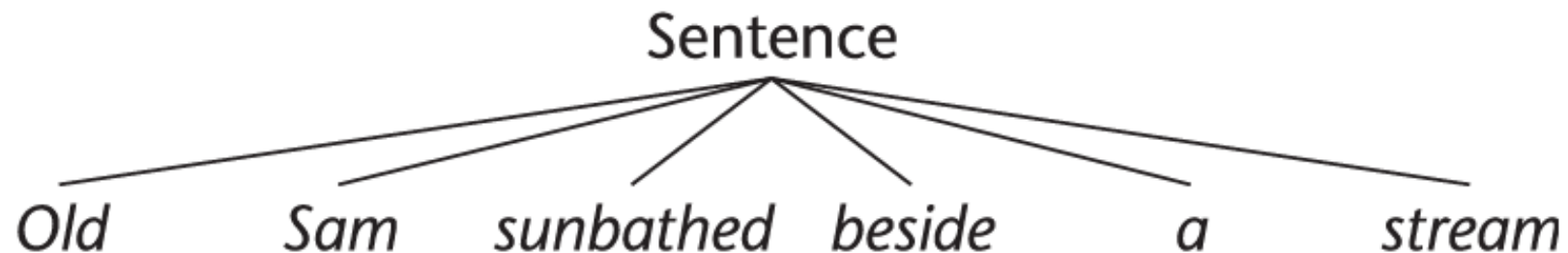
Q: What are sentences?

division into **constituents** >> **parts, arrangement, function**

Old Sam sunbathed beside a stream.

*Sunbathed old beside stream a Sam

Old Sam sunbathed.



SENTENCES

Rules of **arrangement** (not just collection of words), **meaning**, un/grammatical, completeness

*Old Sam sunbathed beside a laughing.

Martha smiled.

Martha smiled invitingly.

PHRASES – RULE OF OMISSION

Phrase = intermediate between sentence and words

Hierarchical structure, (immediate) constituents, obligatory vs. optional

The **very talkative** gentleman **next to me** lit a cigar.

The (...) gentleman next to me lit a cigar.

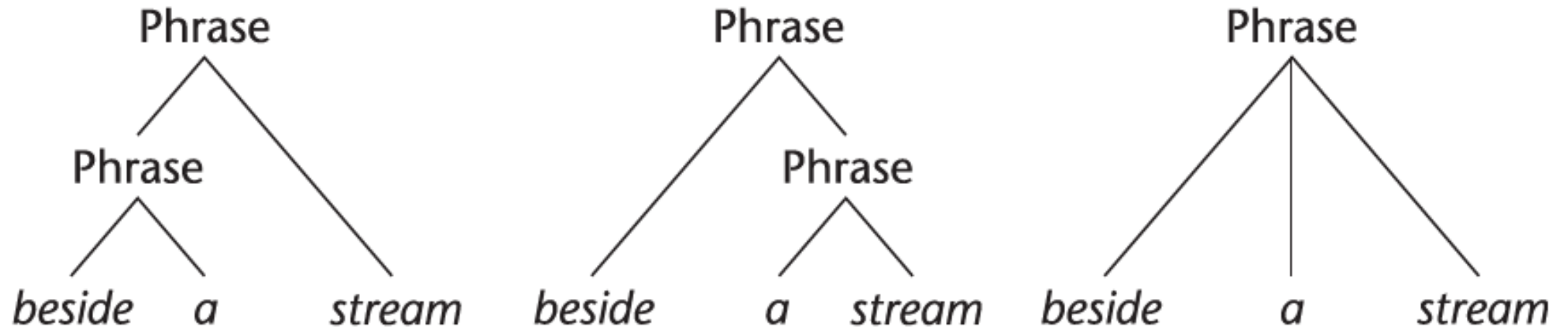
The very talkative gentleman (...) lit a cigar.

The (...) gentleman (...) lit a cigar.

QUESTION RULE; EMBEDDED PHRASES

Old Sam sunbathed WHERE?

Old Sam sunbathed beside a stream.



The middle tree correctly describes the internal structure of this phrase.

ALTERNATIVE PHRASES

Old Sam sunbathed WHERE? (WHERE did Old Sam sunbathe?)

Old Sam sunbathed _____ .

Whenever you can think of an alternative answer to the question than the original phrase ("beside a stream"), then you know that the original is indeed a phrase.

WHAT did old Sam sunbathe BESIDE?

Old Sam sunbathed beside _____ .

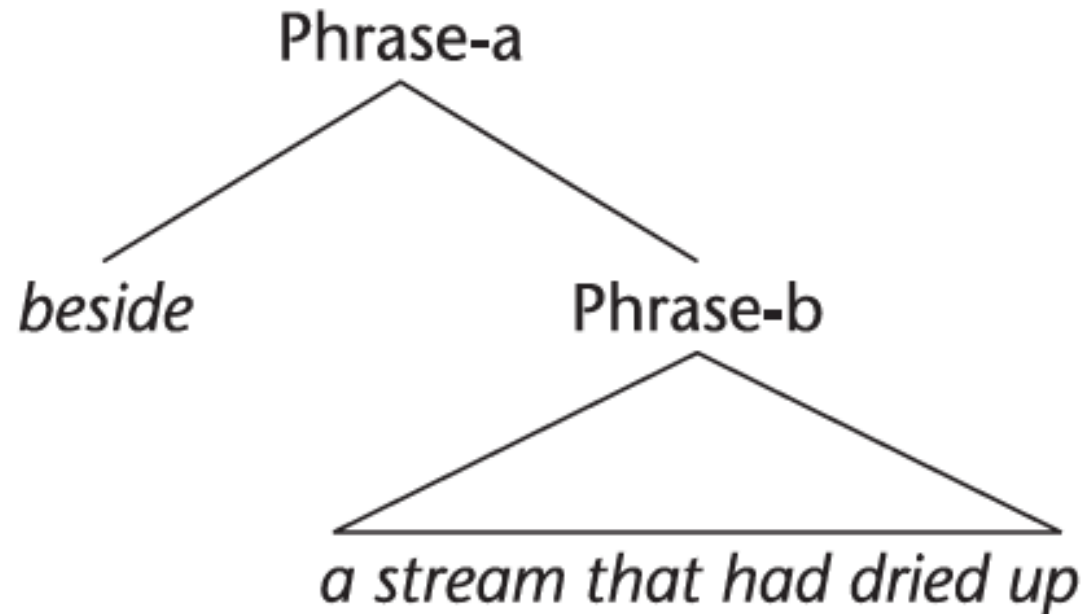
This second question confirms that "a stream" is a phrase embedded within "beside a stream."

MOVEMENT TEST; NODE

Beside a stream, old Sam sunbathed.

Sam sunbathed [beside [a stream that had dried up]]

Node = Any point in a phrase marker that could branch and bear a label



PHRASES - SYNTACTIC / SEMANTIC UNITS

Q: Is Old Sam a constituent in both samples?

Old Sam sunbathed there.

Though he was old Sam did regular press-ups.

In the second example "old" and "Sam" do not form a constituent (phrase).
"old" is a constituent in the first clause and "Sam" in the second clause.

STRUCTURAL AMBIGUITY

Q: What did Susan ask?

Susan asked how old Sam was.

Sam managed to touch the man with the umbrella.

STRUCTURAL AMBIGUITY

Q: What did Susan ask?

Susan asked how old Sam was.

- a. How is **[old Sam]**? (Jak se daří starému Samovi?)
- b. **[How old]** is Sam? (Kolik je starému Samovi?)

Sam managed to touch the man with the umbrella.

Sam managed to touch [the man with the umbrella].

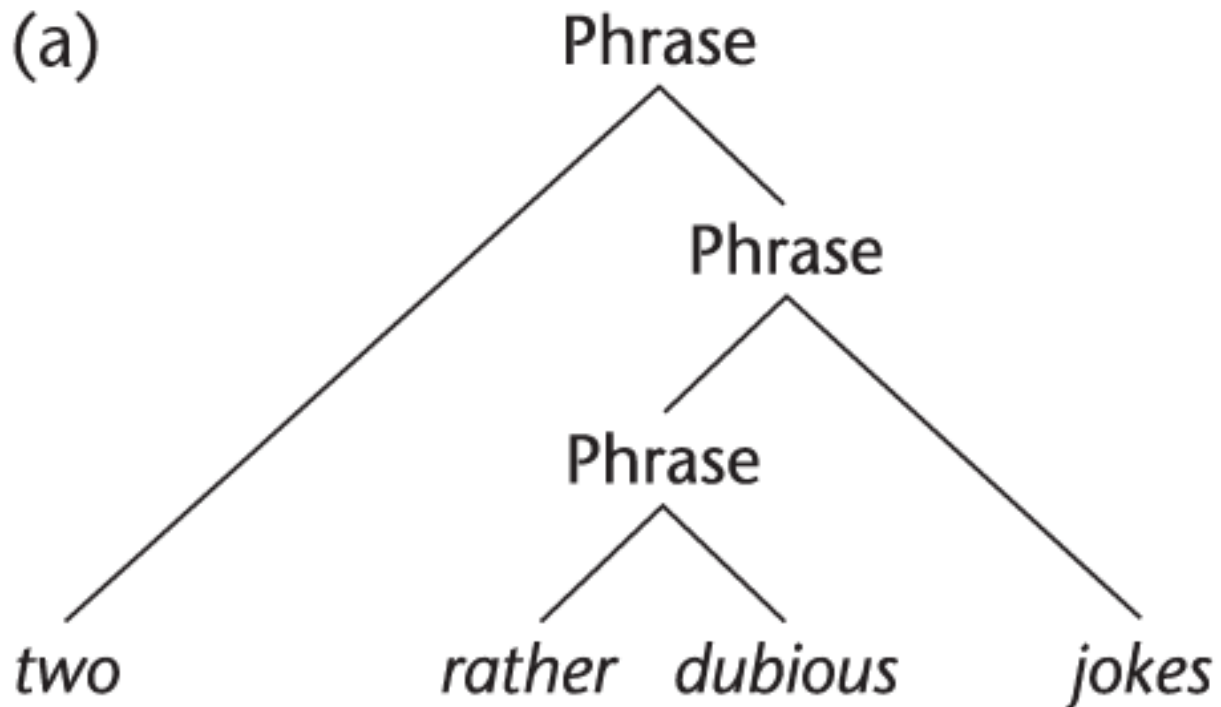
Sam managed to touch [the man] [with the umbrella].

TREE DIAGRAM PRACTICE

a. two rather dubious jokes

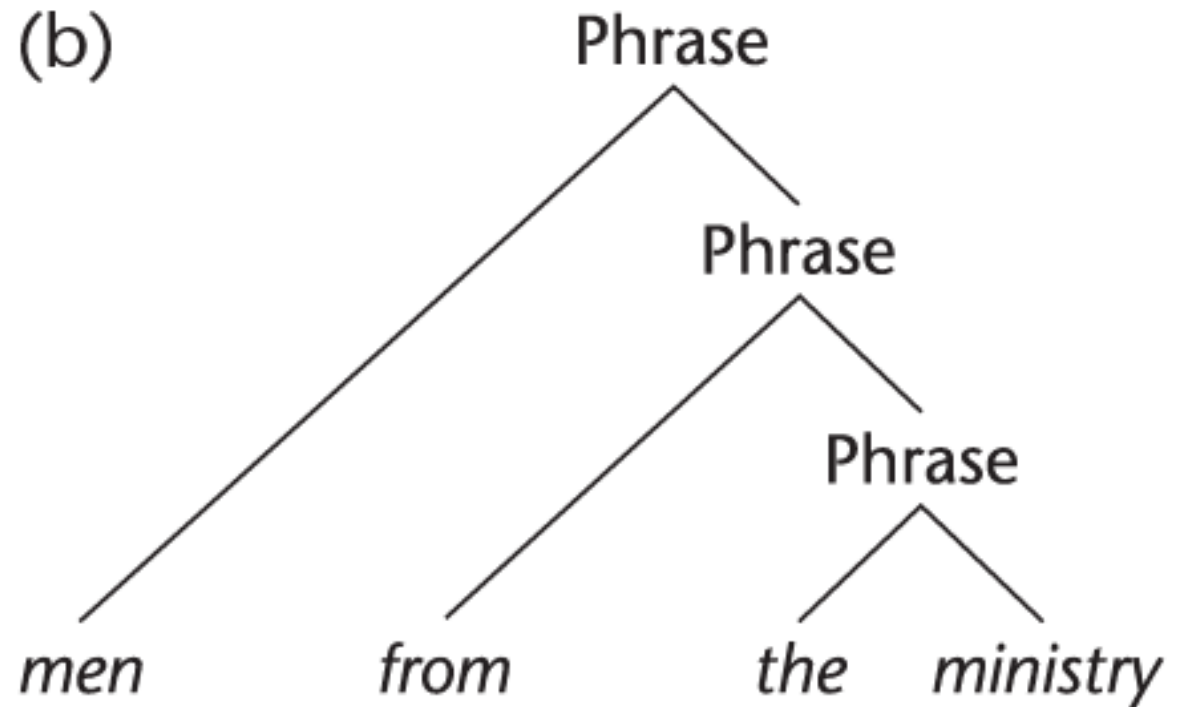
b. men from the ministry

(a)

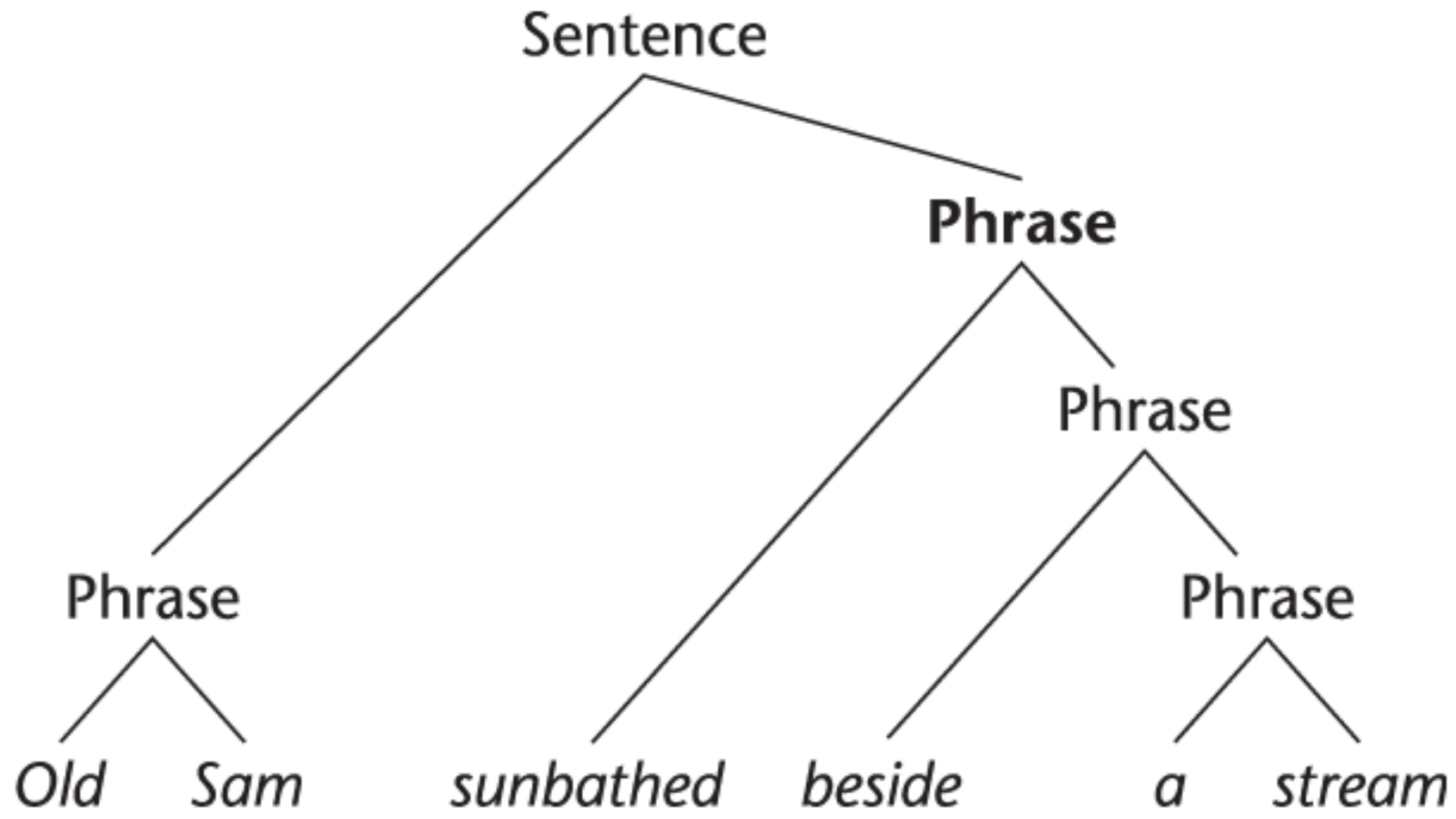


[two [[rather dubious] jokes]

(b)



[men [from [the ministry]]]



[Old Sam] [sunbathed [beside [a stream]]].