

Verb Phrase Structure

VERB PHRASE

- **NP, VP** = immediate constituents of a **SENTENCE**
 ??? = immediate constituents of a VP
- **V** = the **central** element; VP: V, (NP, PP, ...)
- **V[lex., p/m aux.]**; open/closed word classes
- VP = lex. V (obligatory), aux (optional)

Mom prepares dinner.

Paul may have been preparing his lecture.

RELATIONS WITHIN A VERB PHRASE

- **Basic VP** = lex. V only; morphological possibilities (-s, -ing, -ed), present/past reference
- **Complex VP**: relations between lex. V and other VP constituents
- Sub-classification of lexical verbs based on what elements have to follow, i.e., what COMPLEMENTS have to be there.
- Apart from obligatory complements, VP may also include optional MODIFIERS.

Ex: S (??) >> NP, VP (>> V, ??)

1. Phil dreads affectionate cats.
2. Phil dreads.
3. Phil sunbathed affectionate cats.
4. Phil sunbathed beside a stream.
5. Phil sunbathed.
6. Phil gave Phillis some bleach.

Ex: S (??) >> NP, VP (>> V, ??)

1. Max died.

Max died Bill.

2. Max made.

Max made a noise.

3. The children played.

Max played the tuba.

4. Superman relaxed.

Superman relaxed his grip.