

# Valency Patterns

# VERB PHRASE: THE RELATIONS WITHIN

- **functional relations** between: lex. **verbs** and other **constituents**
- e.g. **V - NP**: Head - Complement rel. (2-way dependence)

**Test:** leave out any 1 element >> Sentence **no longer acceptable**

Phil [***dreads*** [affectionate cats]].

\*Phil dreads.

\*Phil affectionate cats.

# SUB-CATEGORIES OF LEX. VERBS

- based on what other **elements** (i.e. **COMPLEMENTS**) **must be** in the **VP**

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

Sam [*sunbathed*].

- **MODIFIER** modifies the sentence with optional information

Phil [*dreads* [affectionate cats] [in the hay-fever season]].

- Decide which verbs behave as 'dread':
  - *die, make, sleep, inspect, laugh, play, spot, throw*

# TRANSITIVE VERBS

- need **1 NP** to as a **COMPLEMENT**:  
*dread, make, spot, throw, inspect, ...*
- the NP functions as **DIRECT OBJECT** (if a pronoun >> objective case; the V governs the form of the pronoun)
- Node **V** marked [**trans**]

Phil [*dreads* [them]].

# INTRANSITIVE VERBS

- **does not need any further constituents** (sister) in the **VP**
- **intransitive = no complement**
  - *sleep, die, laugh, sigh*
- Node **V** marked [**intrans**]

Laura [***laughed*** [loudly]].

Simon [***sighed*** [silently]].

David [***died***].

# DITRANSITIVE VERBS

- need **2 NPs** as **COMPLEMENTS – INDIRECT OBJECT** and **DIRECT OBJECT**; both NPs are governed by the preceding V

Phil [***gave*** [Phillis] [some bleach]].

The staff [***sent*** [the general] [a message]].

Peter [***buys*** [his butler] [all necessary work-clothes]].

Max [***showed*** [Matilda] [his collection of razors]].

Tarzan [***offered*** [Jane] [his hairy arm]].

- Node **V** marked [**ditrans**]

# INTENSIVE VERBS

- need **1 COMPLEMENT** which is an **AP** or a **NP**; functionally a **(SUBJECT) PREDICATIVE**;
- **be + AP/NP >> COPULA**

Ed [*is* [rather extravagant]].

Peter [*was* [an auctioneer]].      compare: Peter [*spotted* [an auctioneer]].

- **PREDICATIVES** are used to attribute **properties** to things/people
- Careful:      NP within a VP can function as either a **PREDICATIVE** or an **OBJECT**

The hat [*became* [a very useful wastepaper basket]].

The captain sounds an absolute tyrant.      ??

The captain sounded the ship's horn.      ??

Oscar and the First Mate were in the engine room.      ??

# COMPLEX TRANSITIVE VERBS

- need **2 COMPLEMENTS**: a **DIRECT OBJECT** and an **OBJECT PREDICATIVE**

Jack [*finds* [his own jokes] [extremely funny]]. (AP)

They *made* Stella their spokesperson. (NP)

Liza *put* the liquor under her bed. (PP)

- the **predicative** in a complex transitive VP characterizes the **direct object**, not the subject, hence the name 'object-predicative'
- INTENSIVE relation between the direct object and object predicative

Max [*found* [Bill] [an amusing companion]].

??



# PREPOSITIONAL VERBS

- need **1 COMPLEMENT >> PREPOSITIONAL COMPLEMENT**
- may only be complemented by a **PP**
- *glance at, reply to, refer to, listen to, worry about, ...*

Max [***glanced*** [at the falling acrobat]].