

# Unit 1

## Theoretical Introduction and Overview of English grammar within the SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL model of language

Slides for the session of

*Exploring English Grammar — the world of groups and phrases*  
held on

02.v.2022

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## ① About grammar

Prescriptive vs descriptive grammar

Lexicogrammar

Functional vs formal grammar

Systemic vs structural grammar

## ② Some choices involved in producing a clause

Strata: semantics vs grammar vs phonology/orthography

‘Functional components’ a.k.a. ‘metafunctions’

Clause as interaction: MOOD

Clause as representation: TRANSITIVITY

Clause as message: THEME

## ③ Situating grammar

## ④ Resources

# The learning goals for today's session are:

- 1 To understand four choices we'll make about how to 'do' grammar:



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- ② To introduce some concepts useful in studying grammar



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- 1 Lay people often say grammar is about prescribing what is good, or proscribing what is bad.

# Descriptive vs prescriptive (and/or proscriptive) grammar

- ① Lay people often say grammar is about prescribing what is good, or proscribing what is bad.
- ② A modern grammarian just describes how people actually use language (rather than how they think they do, or claim to do)



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- ③ Grammatical “rules” therefore need to be reinterpreted as something like “laws of nature” (like gravity, or conservation of energy, or evolution by means of natural selection): generalized statements of observed fact.

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- 2 A modern grammarian just describes how people actually use language (rather than how they think they do, or claim to do)
- 3 Grammatical “rules” therefore need to be reinterpreted as something like “laws of nature” (like gravity, or conservation of energy, or evolution by means of natural selection): generalized statements of observed fact.
- 4 We’ll try to work with real examples taken from linguistic corpora; but sometimes, when trying to illustrate a particular grammatical point, it can be convenient to use (carefully) constructed examples.



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- 1 Some approaches treat lexis (vocabulary) separately from grammar

# Lexis + Grammar = Lexicogrammar

- ① Some approaches treat lexis (vocabulary) separately from grammar
- ② We will treat both together, as “lexicogrammar”



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- ③ Lexicogrammar covers all the knowledge in the dictionary plus all the knowledge in the grammar book
- ④ With this knowledge, you can produce and understand very many sentences
- ⑤ But you still need to know about the context before you can really use or understand lexis and grammar appropriately.

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S	P
Actor	Process
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- ⑤ From now on, we'll use initial capitals for function labels.
- ⑥ We'll also include information from formal grammar as well:

# Functional and formal grammar combined



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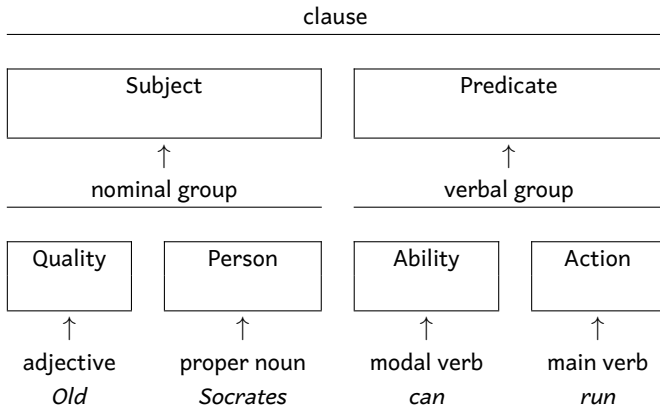
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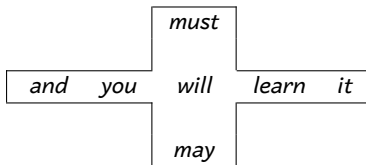
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# Systemic vs structural grammar



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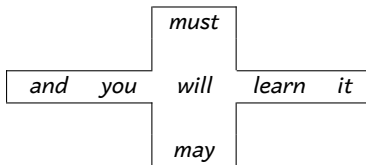
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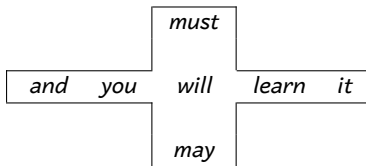
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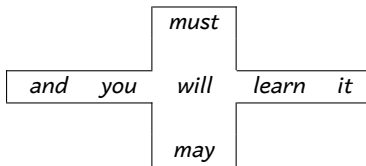
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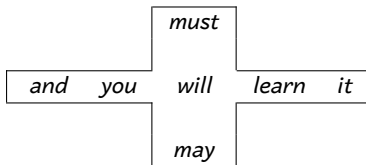
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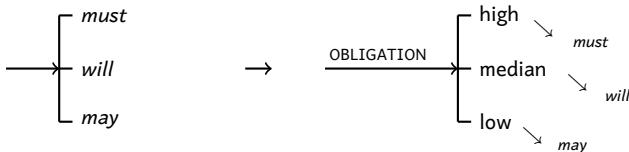
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- 3 Once the focus has been shifted from structure to system, the choices available can be stated in a more abstract way:

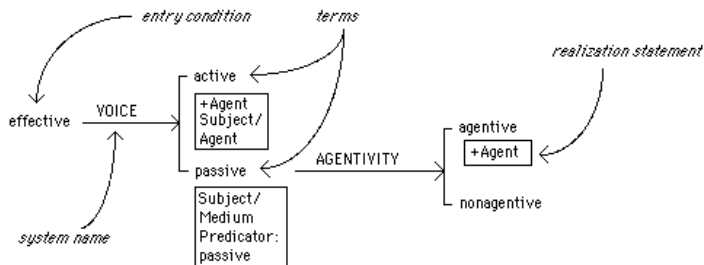


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## Some notational conventions



Oswald	shot	Kennedy
Subject/ Agent	Predicator	Medium

Kennedy	was shot	by Oswald
Subject/ Medium	Predicator: passive	Agent

Kennedy	was shot
Subject/ Medium	Predicator: passive

## Some choices involved in producing a clause

- 1 In winter semester you tried to guess a clause that I was thinking of; you asked 'closed' questions (e.g. 'yes/no' for binary choices, or 'wh-' questions for sets of choices with three or more terms).



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- 2 Some of the results from that experiment can be generalized.



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- “Is it a question?”



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- “Is it a question?”
- →

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- “Is it a question?”
- →
- “Does it function as a question?”

- “Is it a question?”
- →
- “Does it function as a question?”
- OR:

- “Is it a question?”
- →
- “Does it function as a question?”
- OR:
- “Does it have the grammatical structure of a question?”



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- OR:

- “Is it a question?”
- →
- “Does it function as a question?”
- OR:
- “Does it have the grammatical structure of a question?”
- OR:
- “Does it sound like ( / Is it written like ) a question?”

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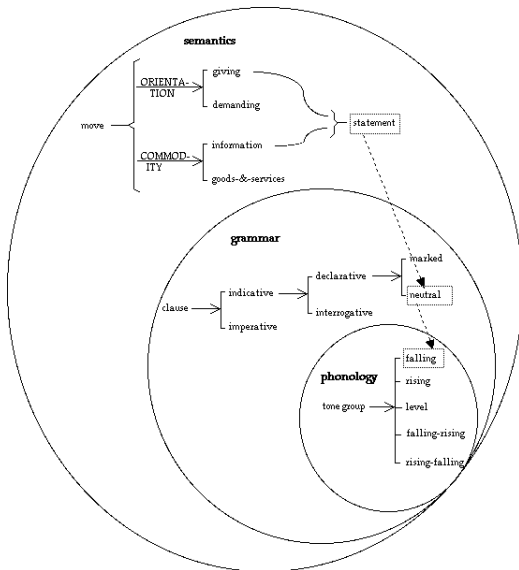
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- 1 Clause as interaction:  
grammatical systems of MOOD  
— enacting social relationships



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- 1 Clause as interaction:  
grammatical systems of MOOD  
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grammatical systems of TRANSITIVITY  
— construing a model of reality



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grammatical systems of THEME  
— creating relevance to context



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grammatical systems of THEME  
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- 4 These three sets of choices are simultaneous to and independent of each other (i.e. they are ‘in parallel’)



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# Metafunctions in the grammar of English (1): syntagmatic view



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# Metafunctions in the grammar of English (1): syntagmatic view

Do	cats	eat	bats?
----	------	-----	-------

Mood		Residue	
Finite	Subject	Predicator	Complement <sub>D.O.</sub>

MOOD

Pro-	Actor/ Agent	-cess: material	Goal/ Medium 'affected'
------	-----------------	--------------------	----------------------------

TRANSITIVITY

Theme	Rheme
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THEME

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TRANSITIVITY

Theme	Rheme
-------	-------

THEME

Who	shot		the sheriff?
Mood		Residue	
Subject/Wh-	(did) Finite	Predicator (shoot)	Complement <sub>D.O.</sub>
Actor/ Agent	Process: material		Goal/ Medium
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THEME

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Actor/ Agent	Process: material	Goal/ Medium
-----------------	----------------------	-----------------

Theme	Rheme
-------	-------

I	have	a dream.
---	------	----------

Mood		Residue	
Subject	(do) Finite	Predicator (have)	Complement <sub>D.O.</sub>

Carrier/ Medium	Process: relational: ascriptive/possessive	Attribute/ Range
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Theme	Rheme
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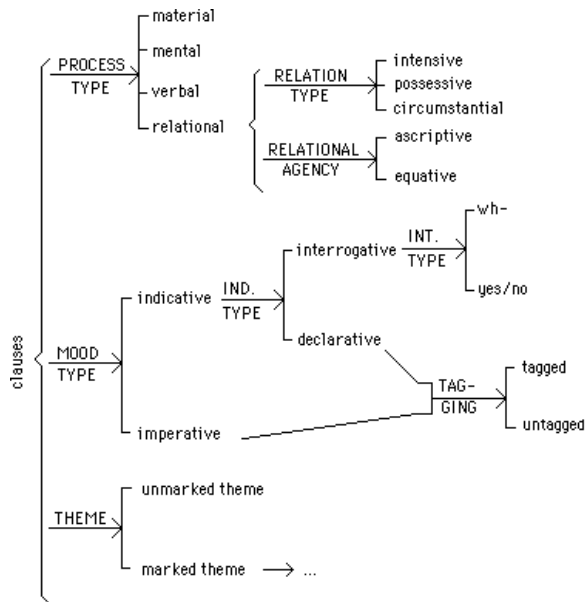
Clause as representation:  
TRANSITIVITY

Clause as message: THEME

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## Metafunctions in the grammar of English (2): paradigmatic view



ideational:  
TRANSITIVITY

interpersonal:  
MOOD

textual:  
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# Clause as interaction: MOOD (1)



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## Clause as interaction: MOOD (1)

MOOD TYPE:



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## Clause as interaction: MOOD (1)

MOOD TYPE:

- either ‘imperative’ or ‘indicative’,

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Clause as representation:

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### MOOD TYPE:

- either 'imperative' or 'indicative',
  - if 'indicative', then either 'declarative' or 'interrogative',



### MOOD TYPE:

- either 'imperative' or 'indicative',
  - if 'indicative', then either 'declarative' or 'interrogative',
    - if 'interrogative', then 'yes/no' or 'WH-',

### MOOD TYPE:

- either 'imperative' or 'indicative',
  - if 'indicative', then either 'declarative' or 'interrogative',
    - if 'interrogative', then 'yes/no' or 'WH-',

### MOOD TYPE:

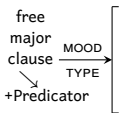
- either 'imperative' or 'indicative',
  - if 'indicative', then either 'declarative' or 'interrogative',
    - if 'interrogative', then 'yes/no' or 'WH-',  
if 'WH-', then 'WH-subject' or 'WH-other'.

clause

major  
clause  
↘  
+Predicator

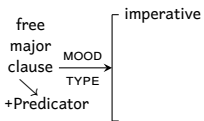
Close

↑  
Pred



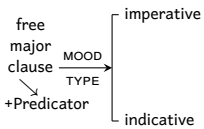
Close

↑  
Pred



Close

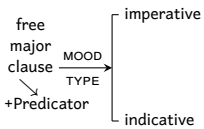
↑  
Pred



Close

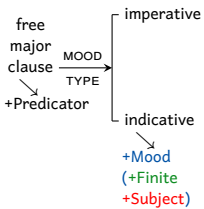
↑  
Pred



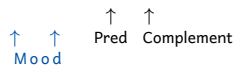


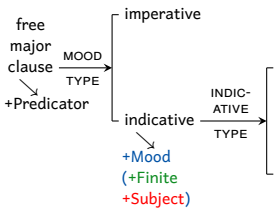
Close the window!

↑    ↑  
Pred Complement

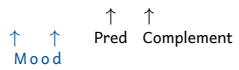


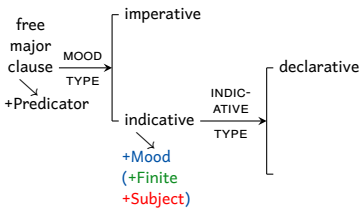
Close the window!



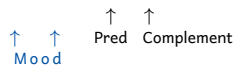


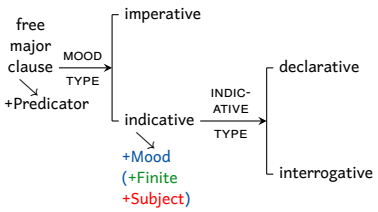
Close the window!



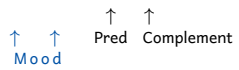


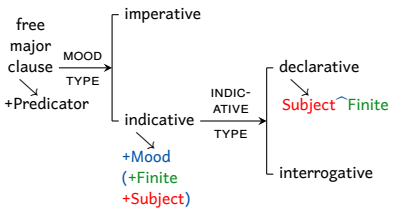
Close the window!





Close the window!

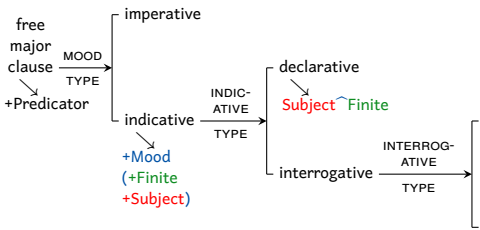




Close the window!

He is closing the window.

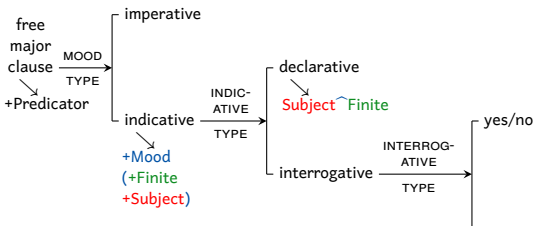
↑   ↑   ↑   ↑  
 Mood   Pred   Complement



Close the window!

He is closing the window.

↑   ↑   ↑   ↑  
 Mood   Pred   Complement

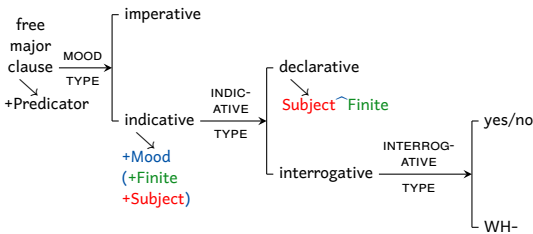


Close the window!

He is closing the window.

↑    ↑    ↑    ↑  
 Mood    Pred    Complement

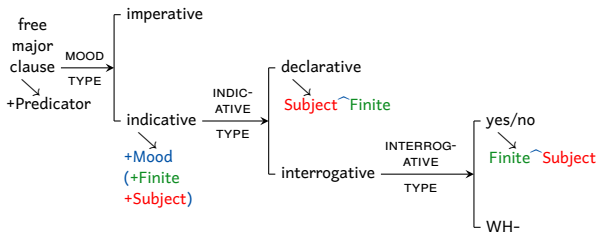




Close the window!

He is closing the window.

↑    ↑            ↑    ↑  
 Mood            Pred Complement

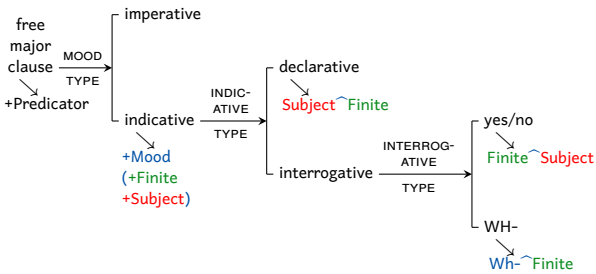


Close the window!

He is closing the window.

Is he closing the window?

↑    ↑    ↑    ↑  
 Mood    Pred    Complement



Close the window!

He is closing the window.

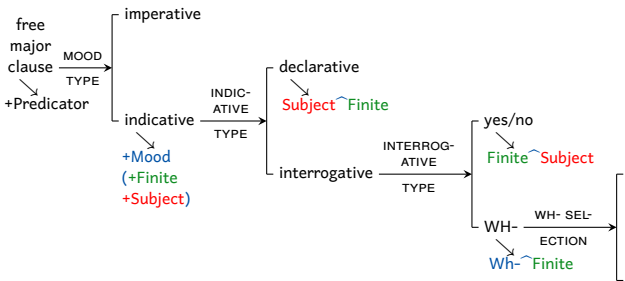
Is he closing the window?

Wh is

Wh is  
is

Wh

↑ ↑  
Mood Pred Complement



Close the window!

He is closing the window.

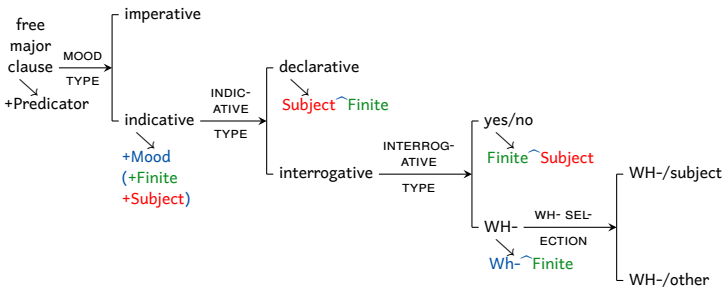
Is he closing the window?

Wh is

Wh is  
is

Wh

↑ ↑  
Mood Pred Complement



Close the window!

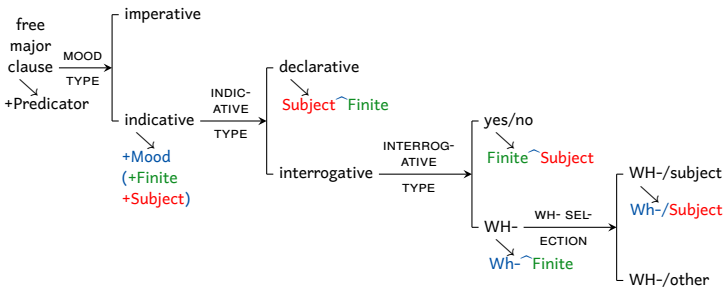
He is closing the window.

Is he closing the window?

Wh is

Wh is

↑ ↑  
Mood Pred Complement



Close the window!

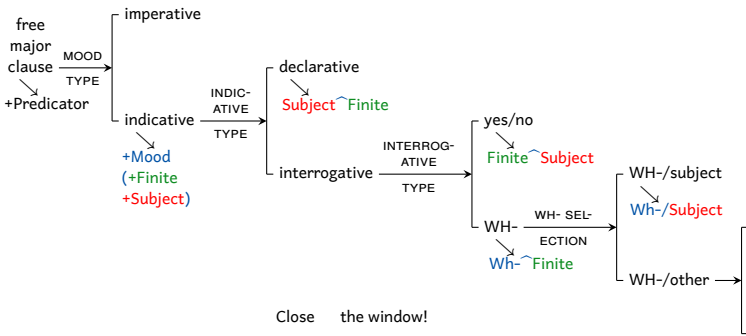
He is closing the window.

Is he closing the window?

Who is closing the window?

Wh is is

↑   ↑  
 Mood   Pred   Complement



Close the window!

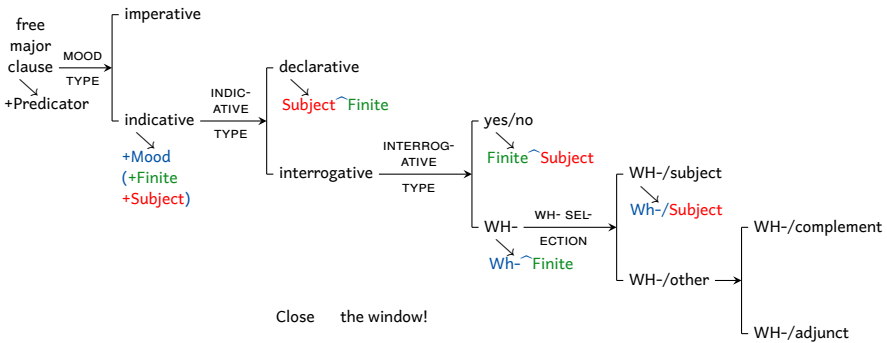
He is closing the window.

Is he closing the window?

Who is closing the window?

Wh is is

↑   ↑  
 Mood   Pred   Complement



Close the window!

He is closing the window.

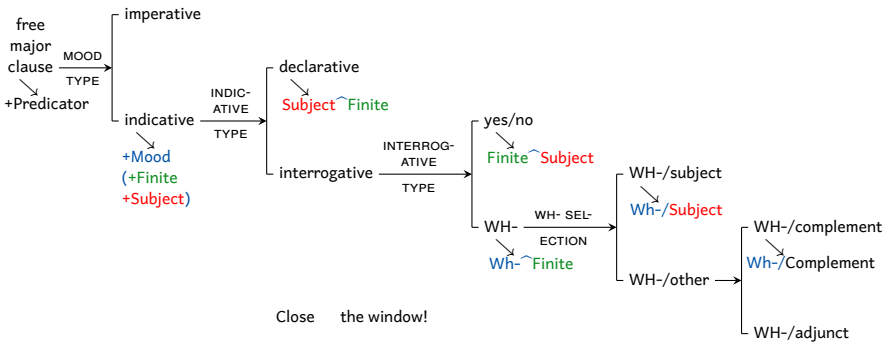
Is he closing the window?

Who is closing the window?

Wh is is

↑   ↑  
 Mood   Pred   Complement





Close the window!

He is closing the window.

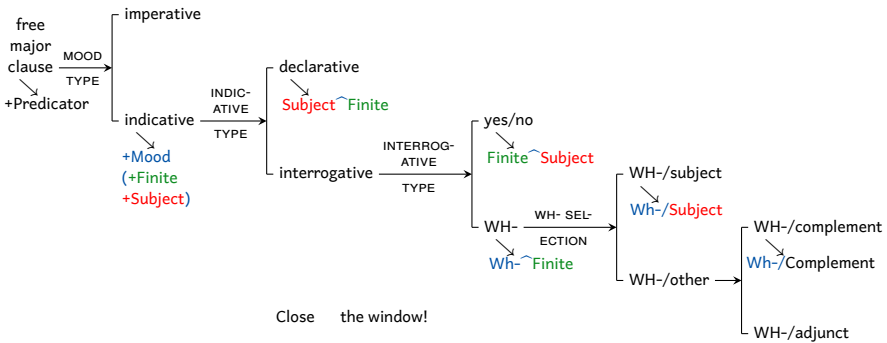
Is he closing the window?

Who is closing the window?

What is is

Wh

Complement ↑ Mood ↑ Pred ↑ Complement ↑



Close the window!

He is closing the window.

Is he closing the window?

Who is closing the window?

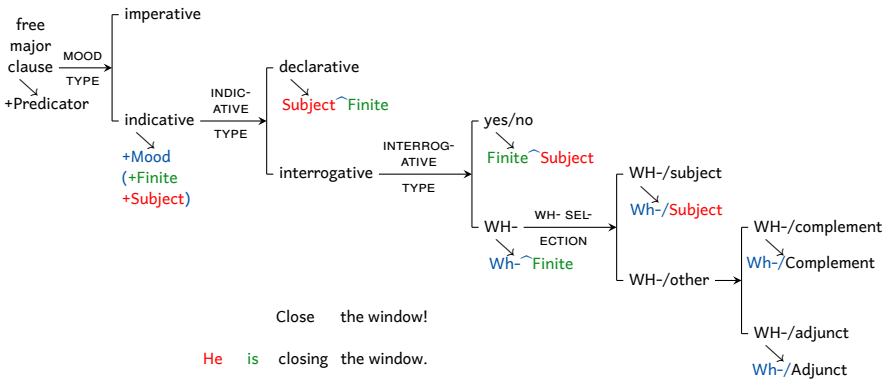
What is he closing?

Wh

Complement ↑    ↑    ↑    ↑    Complement

                  ↑    ↑

                  Mood



Close the window!

He is closing the window.

Is he closing the window?

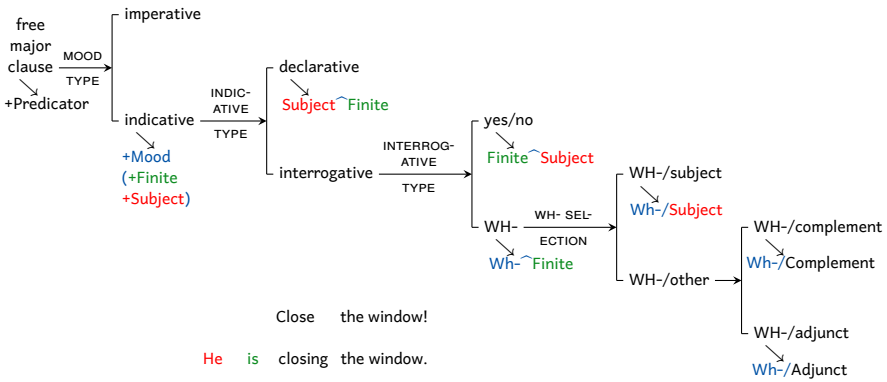
Who is closing the window?

What is he closing?  
is

Why

Adjunct    Complement    Mood    Pred    Complement

↑    ↑    ↑    ↑    ↑



Close the window!

He is closing the window.

Is he closing the window?

Who is closing the window?

What is he closing?

Why is he closing the window?

Adjunct    Complement    Mood    Pred    Complement

↑            ↑            ↑            ↑            ↑

- clause

- major
- clause

- bound (e.g. reported speech)
- major
- clause

- non-finite or finite
- bound (e.g. reported speech)
- major
- clause



- non-finite or finite
- bound (e.g. reported speech)
- major
- clause
-

- non-finite or finite
- bound (e.g. reported speech)
- major
- clause
- 
- 

[free]	[[free]]		[bound]	
Close the window!	(She told me)		to close the window.	[non-finite]
He is closing the window	(She told me)		closing the window.	[finite]
Is he closing the window?	(She asked me)	whether	he was closing the window.	[finite]
Who is closing the window?	(She asked me)		who was closing the window.	[finite]
What is he closing?	(She asked me)	what	he was closing.	[finite]
Why is he closing the window?	(She asked me)	why	he was closing the window.	[finite]

## Clause as interaction: MOOD (2)



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## Clause as interaction: MOOD (2)

SUBJECT PERSON:



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### SUBJECT PERSON:

- either 'non-interactant' or 'interactant',

### SUBJECT PERSON:

- either 'non-interactant' or 'interactant',
  - if 'interactant', then 'speaker' ("I") or 'speaker-plus' ("we") or 'addressee' ("you");

### SUBJECT PERSON:

- either 'non-interactant' or 'interactant',
  - if 'interactant', then 'speaker' ("I") or 'speaker-plus' ("we") or 'addressee' ("you");
    - if 'addressee', then: no further differentiation (unlike German)

### SUBJECT PERSON:

- either 'non-interactant' or 'interactant',
  - if 'interactant', then 'speaker' ("I") or 'speaker-plus' ("we") or 'addressee' ("you");
    - if 'addressee', then: no further differentiation (unlike German)
    - *You kenn say You to me. :-D*





## Clause as interaction: MOOD (3)



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## Clause as interaction: MOOD (3)

FINITE TYPE:



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## Clause as interaction: MOOD (3)

FINITE TYPE:

- either 'temporal' (primary tense) or 'modal';

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### FINITE TYPE:

- either 'temporal' (primary tense) or 'modal';
  - if 'temporal', then PRIMARY TENSE: 'past' or 'present' or 'future';

### FINITE TYPE:

- either 'temporal' (primary tense) or 'modal';
  - if 'temporal', then PRIMARY TENSE: 'past' or 'present' or 'future';
  - if 'modal', then MODALITY: 'high' or 'median' or 'low'.

### FINITE TYPE:

- either 'temporal' (primary tense) or 'modal';
  - if 'temporal', then PRIMARY TENSE: 'past' or 'present' or 'future';
  - if 'modal', then MODALITY: 'high' or 'median' or 'low'.

PRIMARY TENSE	[past]	<i>she knew</i> ('yesterday')
	[present]	<i>she knows</i> ('now')
	[future]	<i>she will know</i> ('tomorrow')
MODALITY	[high]	<i>she must know</i> ('surely')
	[median]	<i>she will know</i> ('probably')
	[low]	<i>she may know</i> ('perhaps')

## Clause as interaction: MOOD (4)



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## Clause as interaction: MOOD (4)

### POLARITY:



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## Clause as interaction: MOOD (4)

### POLARITY:

- either 'positive' or 'negative';



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## Clause as interaction: MOOD (4)

### POLARITY:

- either 'positive' or 'negative';

### POLARITY MARKING:



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### POLARITY:

- either 'positive' or 'negative';

### POLARITY MARKING:

- if 'positive' or if 'negative', then either 'marked' (emphatic) or 'unmarked'.

### POLARITY:

- either 'positive' or 'negative';

### POLARITY MARKING:

- if 'positive' or if 'negative', then either 'marked' (emphatic) or 'unmarked'.

	[unmarked]	[marked]
[positive]	<i>he closed it</i>	<i>he did close it</i>
[negative]	<i>he didn't close it</i>	<i>he did not close it</i>

# Clause as representation: TRANSITIVITY



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# Clause as representation: TRANSITIVITY

## ① A “GOING ON” consists of

- PROCESS +
- PARTICIPANTS +
- CIRCUMSTANCES

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# Clause as representation: TRANSITIVITY

## ① A “GOING ON” consists of

- PROCESS +
- PARTICIPANTS +
- CIRCUMSTANCES

## ② PROCESS TYPE:

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# Clause as representation: TRANSITIVITY

- ① A “GOING ON” consists of
  - PROCESS +
  - PARTICIPANTS +
  - CIRCUMSTANCES
- ② PROCESS TYPE:
  - material (‘doing’)
    - *Lola runs*. [intransitive]
    - *Tom films Lola*. [transitive]

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# Clause as representation: TRANSITIVITY

## ① A “GOING ON” consists of

- PROCESS +
- PARTICIPANTS +
- CIRCUMSTANCES

## ② PROCESS TYPE:

- material (‘doing’)
  - *Lola runs.* [intransitive]
  - *Tom films Lola.* [transitive]
- mental (‘sensing’)
  - *Mary liked the gift.* [‘like’ type]
  - *The gift pleased Mary.* [‘please’ type]

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# Clause as representation: TRANSITIVITY

## ① A “GOING ON” consists of

- PROCESS +
- PARTICIPANTS +
- CIRCUMSTANCES

## ② PROCESS TYPE:

- material (‘doing’)
  - *Lola runs.* [intransitive]
  - *Tom films Lola.* [transitive]
- mental (‘sensing’)
  - *Mary liked the gift.* [‘like’ type]
  - *The gift pleased Mary.* [‘please’ type]
- relational (‘being’)
  - *Mary is a teacher.* [ascriptive]
  - *Mary is the teacher.* [equative]

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## Clause as representation: TRANSITIVITY

### ① A “GOING ON” consists of

- PROCESS +
- PARTICIPANTS +
- CIRCUMSTANCES

### ② PROCESS TYPE:

- material (‘doing’)
  - *Lola runs.* [intransitive]
  - *Tom films Lola.* [transitive]
- mental (‘sensing’)
  - *Mary liked the gift.* [‘like’ type]
  - *The gift pleased Mary.* [‘please’ type]
- relational (‘being’)
  - *Mary is a teacher.* [ascriptive]
  - *Mary is the teacher.* [equative]
- (plus other minor types)

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  - *Mary is the teacher.* [equative]
- (plus other minor types)

### ③ TWO WAYS OF MODELLING REALITY:

- *Pat cooked.* [intransitive]
- *Pat cooked the rice.* [transitive]
- *The rice cooked.* [middle]
- *Pat cooked the rice.* [effective]

MODEL 1 IS THE  
‘TRANSITIVE’ MODEL  
MODEL 2 IS THE  
‘ERGATIVE’ MODEL

### ① THEME SELECTION

- Theme = Predicator (Close the **window!**)
- Theme = Adjunct (In summer the students drink lots of **beer**.)
- Theme = Subject (Maria likes **Mozart**.)
- Theme = ...

### ① THEME SELECTION

- Theme = Predicator (Close the **window!**)
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### ② THEME FOCUSING

### ① THEME SELECTION

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### ② THEME FOCUSING

- THEME PREDICATION
  - it was Oswald who shot Kennedy



### ① THEME SELECTION

- Theme = Predicator (*Close the **window!***)
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### ② THEME FOCUSING

- THEME PREDICATION
  - *it was Oswald who shot Kennedy*
- THEME IDENTIFICATION
  - *the one who shot Kennedy was **Oswald***
  - *Oswald was the one who shot **Kennedy***

### ① THEME SELECTION

- Theme = Predicator (*Close the **window!***)
- Theme = Adjunct (*In summer the students drink lots of **beer.***)
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- THEME PREDICATION
  - *it was Oswald who shot Kennedy*
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  - *the one who shot Kennedy was **Oswald***
  - *Oswald was the one who shot **Kennedy***
- ... probably VOICE belongs here, too:
  - *Oswald shot **Kennedy***
  - *Kennedy was shot by **Oswald***

### ① THEME SELECTION

- Theme = Predicator (*Close the **window!***)
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- Theme = ...

### ② THEME FOCUSING

- THEME PREDICATION
  - *it was Oswald who shot Kennedy*
- THEME IDENTIFICATION
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  - *Oswald was the one who shot **Kennedy***
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### ③ INTERPERSONAL THEME

- *surely Anne*

### ① THEME SELECTION

- Theme = Predicator (*Close the **window!***)
- Theme = Adjunct (*In summer the students drink lots of **beer.***)
- Theme = Subject (*Maria likes **Mozart.***)
- Theme = ...

### ② THEME FOCUSING

- THEME PREDICATION
  - *it was Oswald who shot Kennedy*
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  - *the one who shot Kennedy was **Oswald***
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- ... probably VOICE belongs here, too:
  - *Oswald shot **Kennedy***
  - *Kennedy was shot by **Oswald***

### ③ INTERPERSONAL THEME

- *surely Anne*

### ④ TEXTUAL THEME

- *oh but in that case*

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## Situating English grammar—the grammar of a nice cup of tea

(...)

Lastly, tea—unless one is drinking it in the Russian style—should be drunk *without sugar*. I know very well that I am in a minority here. But still, how can you call yourself a true tea-lover if you destroy the flavour of your tea by putting sugar in it? It would be equally reasonable to put in pepper or salt. Tea is meant to be bitter, just as beer is meant to be bitter. If you sweeten it, you are no longer tasting the tea, you are merely tasting the sugar; you could make a very similar drink by dissolving sugar in plain hot water.

Some people would answer that they don't like tea in itself, that they only drink it in order to be warmed and stimulated, and they need sugar to take the taste away. To those misguided people I would say: Try drinking tea without sugar for, say, a fortnight and it is very unlikely that you will ever want to ruin your tea by sweetening it again.

(...)

—George Orwell, 'A Nice Cup of Tea' (1946).

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Some people would answer that they don't like tea in itself, that they only drink it in order to be warmed and stimulated, and they need sugar to take the taste away. **To those misguided people** I would say: Try drinking tea without sugar for, say, a fortnight and it is very unlikely that you will ever want to ruin your tea by sweetening it again.

**unmarked Theme** (Theme = Subject)

**marked Theme** (Theme ≠ Subject)

Lastly, tea—unless one is drinking it in the Russian style—should be drunk *without sugar*. I know very well that I am in a minority here. But still, **how can you call yourself a true tea-lover** if you destroy the flavour of your tea by putting sugar in it? It would be equally reasonable to put in pepper or salt. Tea is meant to be bitter, just as beer is meant to be bitter. If you sweeten it, **you are no longer tasting the tea**, you are merely tasting the sugar; you could make a very similar drink by dissolving sugar in plain hot water.

Some people would answer that they don't like tea in itself, that they only drink it in order to be warmed and stimulated, and they need sugar to take the taste away. To those misguided people I would say:

**Try drinking tea without sugar for, say, a fortnight** and it is very unlikely that you will ever want to ruin your tea by sweetening it again.

indicative: declarative MOOD

indicative: interrogative MOOD

imperative MOOD



Lastly, tea—unless one is drinking it in the Russian style—should be drunk *without sugar*. I know very well that I am in a minority here. But still, how can you call yourself a true tea-lover if you destroy the flavour of your tea by putting sugar in it? It would be equally reasonable to put in pepper or salt. Tea is meant to be bitter, just as beer is meant to be bitter. If you sweeten it, you **are no longer tasting** the tea, you are merely tasting the sugar; you could make a very similar drink by dissolving sugar in plain hot water.

Some people would answer that they **don't like** tea in itself, that they only drink it in order to be warmed and stimulated, and they **need** sugar to take the taste away. To those misguided people I would say: Try drinking tea without sugar for, say, a fortnight and it is very **unlikely** that you will ever want to ruin your tea by sweetening it again.

positive POLARITY

negative POLARITY

Lastly, tea—unless one is drinking it in the Russian style—should be drunk *without sugar*, **shouldn't it?** I know very well that I am in a minority here, **arent I.** But still, how can you call yourself a true tea-lover if you destroy the flavour of your tea by putting sugar in it? It would be equally reasonable to put in pepper or salt. Tea is meant to be bitter, just as beer is meant to be bitter. If you sweeten it, you are no longer tasting the tea, **are you**, you are merely tasting the sugar, **aren't you**; you could make a very similar drink by dissolving sugar in plain hot water.

Some people would answer that they don't like tea in itself, that they only drink it in order to be warmed and stimulated, and they need sugar to take the taste away. To those misguided people I would say: Try drinking tea without sugar for, say, a fortnight, **will you?**, and it is very unlikely that you will ever want to ruin your tea by sweetening it again, **will you.**

Lastly, tea—unless one is drinking it in the Russian style—**should** be drunk *without sugar*. I know very well that I am in a minority here. But still, how **can** you call yourself a true tea-lover if you destroy the flavour of your tea by putting sugar in it? It would be equally reasonable to put in pepper or salt. Tea is meant to be bitter, just as beer is meant to be bitter. If you sweeten it, you are no longer tasting the tea, you are merely tasting the sugar; you **could** make a very similar drink by dissolving sugar in plain hot water.

Some people would answer that they don't like tea in itself, that they only drink it in order to be warmed and stimulated, and they need sugar to take the taste away. To those misguided people I would say: Try drinking tea without sugar for, say, a fortnight and it is very **unlikely** that you will ever want to ruin your tea by sweetening it again.

Lastly, tea—unless one **IS DRINKING** it in the Russian style—should be drunk *without sugar*. I **KNOW** very well that I **AM** in a minority here. But still, how can you call yourself a true tea-lover if you destroy the flavour of your tea by putting sugar in it? It would be equally reasonable to put in pepper or salt. Tea is meant to be bitter, just as beer is meant to be bitter. If you sweeten it, you are no longer tasting the tea, you are merely tasting the sugar; you could make a very similar drink by dissolving sugar in plain hot water.

Some people would answer that they don't like tea in itself, that they only drink it in order to be warmed and stimulated, and they need sugar to take the taste away. To those misguided people I would say: Try drinking tea without sugar for, say, a fortnight and it is very unlikely that you will ever want to ruin your tea by sweetening it again.

material PROCESS

mental PROCESS

relational PROCESS

## Unit 6 (summer) — nominal group

Lastly, tea—unless one is drinking it in **the Russian style**—should be drunk *without sugar*. I know very well that I am in a minority here. But still, how can you call yourself **a true tea-lover** if you destroy the flavour of your tea by putting sugar in it? It would be equally reasonable to put in pepper or salt. Tea is meant to be bitter, just as beer is meant to be bitter. If you sweeten it, you are no longer tasting the tea, you are merely tasting the sugar; you could make **a very similar drink** by dissolving sugar in **plain hot water**.

Some people would answer that they don't like tea in itself, that they only drink it in order to be warmed and stimulated, and they need sugar to take the taste away. To **those misguided people** I would say: Try drinking **tea** without sugar for, say, a fortnight and it is very unlikely that you will ever want to ruin your tea by sweetening **it** again.

**nominal group**



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## Unit 6 (summer) — TENSE

Lastly, tea—unless one **is drinking** it in the Russian style—should be drunk *without sugar*. I **know** very well that I am in a minority here. But still, how can you call yourself a true tea-lover if you destroy the flavour of your tea by putting sugar in it? It would be equally reasonable to put in pepper or salt. Tea is meant to be bitter, just as beer is meant to be bitter. If you sweeten it, you are no longer tasting the tea, you are merely tasting the sugar; you could make a very similar drink by dissolving sugar in plain hot water.

Some people would answer that they don't like tea in itself, that they only drink it in order to be warmed and stimulated, and they need sugar to take the taste away. To those misguided people I would say: Try drinking tea without sugar for, say, a fortnight and it is very unlikely that you **will ever want** to ruin your tea by sweetening it again.

present

present-in-present

future (?)

γπα

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expanding clause: condition

projected clause: idea

## Unit 7 (summer) – verbal group complexes

Lastly, tea—unless one is drinking it in the Russian style—should be drunk *without sugar*. I know very well that I am in a minority here. But still, how can you call yourself a true tea-lover if you destroy the flavour of your tea by putting sugar in it? It would be equally reasonable to put in pepper or salt. Tea is meant to be bitter, just as beer is meant to be bitter. If you sweeten it, you are no longer tasting the tea, you are merely tasting the sugar; you could make a very similar drink by dissolving sugar in plain hot water.

Some people would answer that they don't like tea in itself, that they only drink it in order to be warmed and stimulated, and they need sugar to take the taste away. To those misguided people I would say:

Try | drinking tea without sugar for, say, a fortnight and it is very unlikely that you will ever want | to ruin your tea by sweetening it again.

expansion: means

projection: idea

γπα

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The structure and content of the course are based on:

- M. A. K. Halliday, *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*. London: Edward Arnold, 1994<sup>2</sup> ["IFG2"]

Associate Professor Annabelle Lukin of Macquarie University, Sydney, has produced an excellent series of videos that are available online:

<https://vimeo.com/album/2028694>

The videos follow essentially the same structure as the present course; they are based on M. A. K. Halliday and Christian Matthiessen, *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*, London: Edward Arnold, 2004 [“IFG3”]