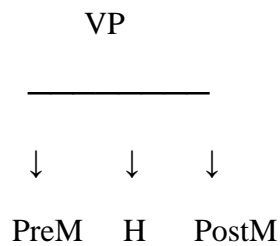


Verb Phrases (VP)

A verb phrase consists of a verb and all the other words and group of words that cluster around the verb.

The lexical verb itself is called headword whereas the other words that cluster around the headword are called verb modifiers.



There are two kinds of verb phrases:

a. Simple – consists of only one verb which is the headword.

e.g. work

VP

↓

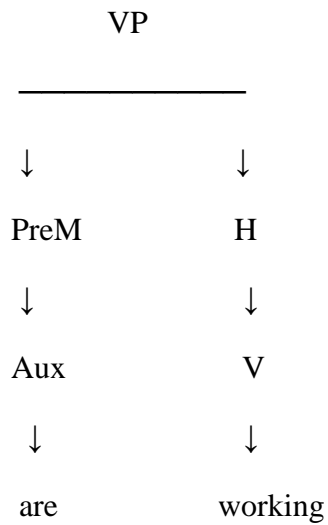
H

↓

V

b. Complex – consists of a lexical verb as headword which is preceded by a modal auxiliary or by one or more primary auxiliaries as premodifiers and followed by one or more words as postmodifiers.

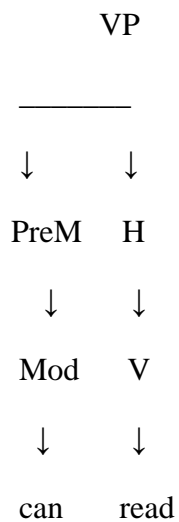
e.g. are working



Verb premodifiers are:

1. Modal auxiliaries

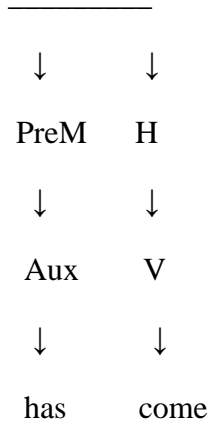
e.g. can read



2. Primary auxiliaries

e.g. has come

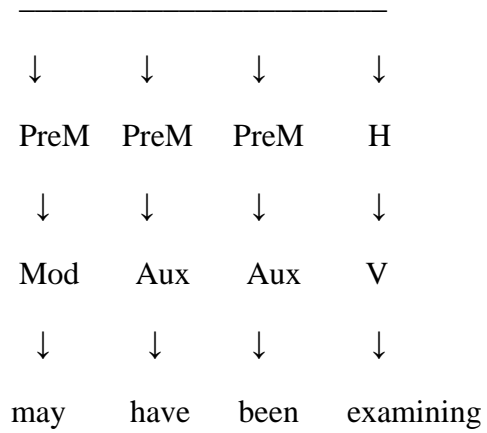
VP



There can be two or three preverbal modifiers in a VP:

e.g. may have been examining

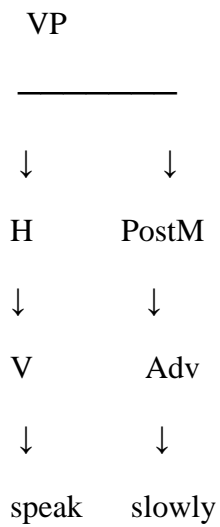
VP



Verb postmodifiers are:

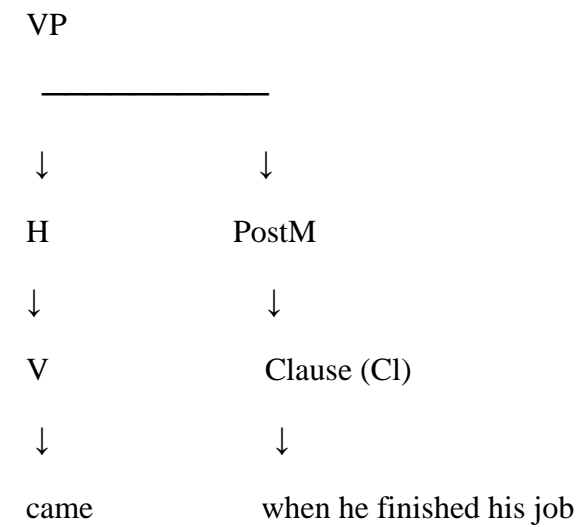
1. Adjuncts

e.g. speak slowly



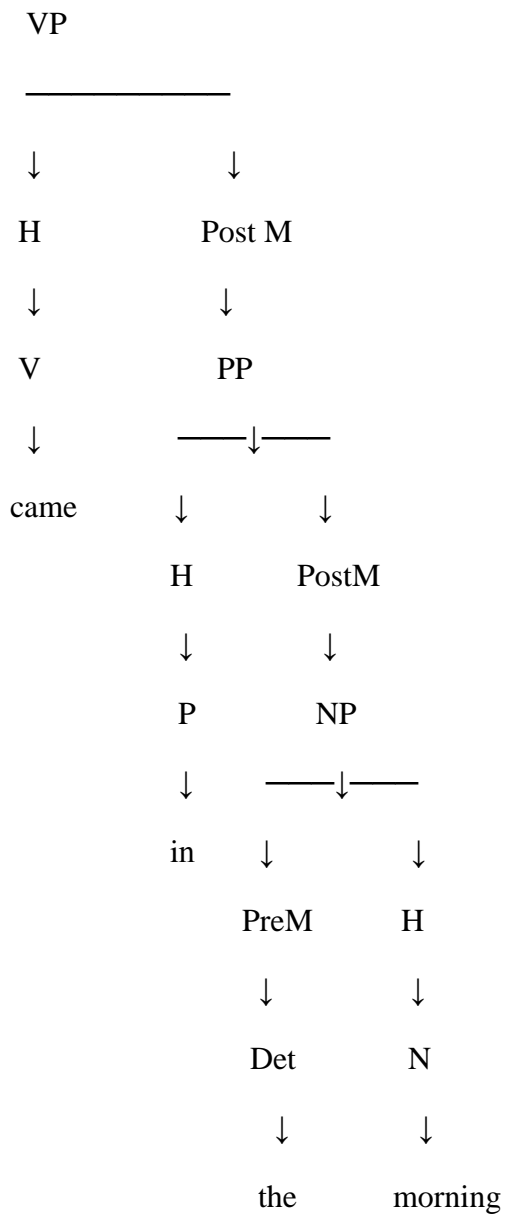
2. Clauses with adjunct function

e.g. came when he finished his job



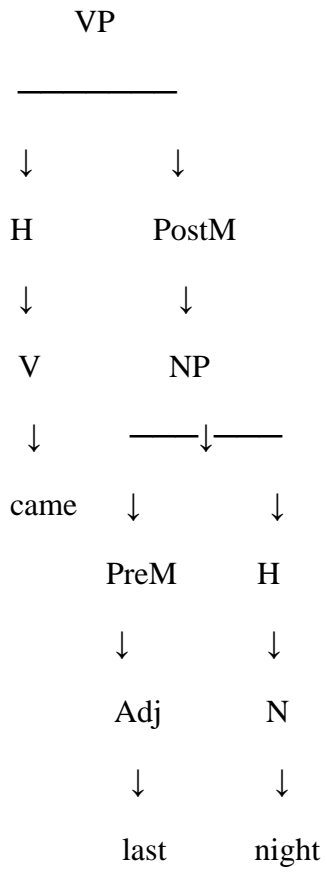
3. Prepositional phrases

e.g. came in the morning

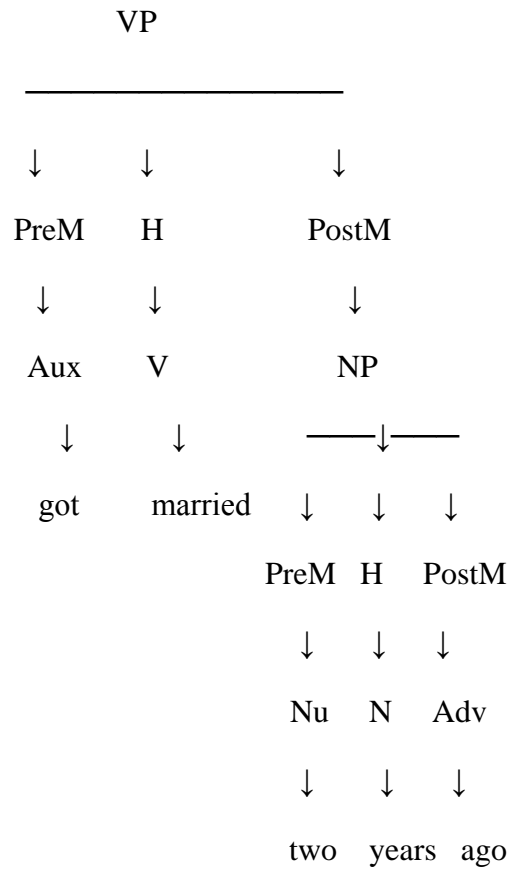


4.Noun Phrases

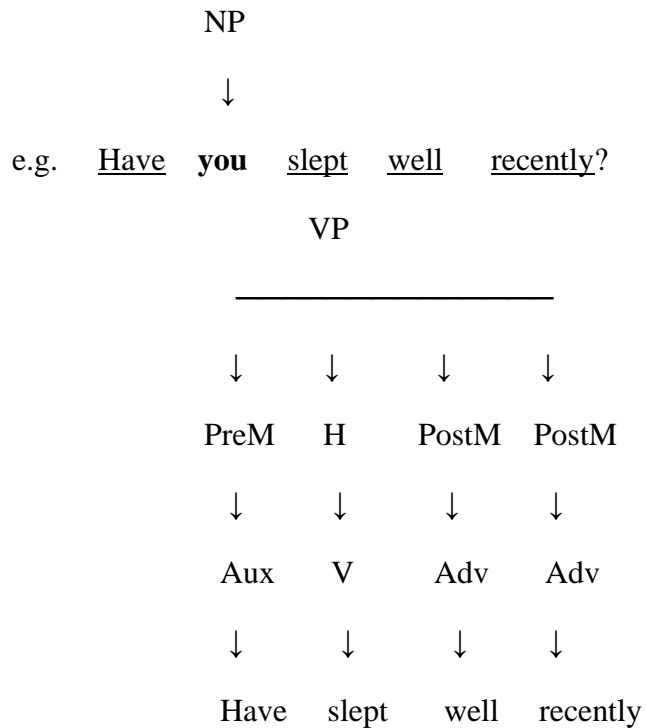
e.g. came last night



got married two years ago



Sometimes the verb can be separated from the headword especially in questions.



Verb postmodifiers are also some adverbial particles which are closely linked to the headword and express a particular meaning.

e.g. turned down

