

Grammar & Linguistic Knowledge

Certain aspects of linguistics facilitate the processing of Grammar:

- 1) **Phonology** (Understanding of sounds/sound transformations):
 - a. a vs an
 - b. a union vs an uncle
 - c. a house vs an hour
- 2) **Morphology** (Understanding of meaningful units that build words – morphemes):
 - a. English + ness (adj + ness = noun)
 - b. Reparkid + ly (adj + ly = noun)
 - c. Rotar + ing (verb + ing = verb)
- 3) **Syntax** (Word sequence):
 - a. A sutoka is expensive.
- 4) **Social / Non-linguistic knowledge about language:**
 - Terms and structures can be specific to situations as part of the social norms within cultures
 - Calling a teacher “buddy”
 - Use of informal structures: I didn’t mean nothing buy it VS I didn’t intend to imply anything with that remark

 - Example: **how to identify Verbs:**
 - a. Can’t be preceded by articles (Syntax)
 - b. Can’t be attached to plural (s) (Morphology)
 - c. Pronunciation changes: house (n) vs house (v)

 - **Syntactic ambiguity:**
Cello-case (Bag) VS Cello case (Incident)
Eye-drops (n) off shelf VS Eye drops (v) off shelf
Teacher strikes (v) idle kids VS Teacher strikes (n), idle kids

 - **Rule of Syntax:** (Main/Lexical verbs VS Auxiliaries)

In a yes/no question, auxiliaries are moved to the front of the sentence:

- The man who is in the garden is tall -> Is the man in garden tall?

- **Universal Grammar:**
 - The Language Faculty in humans allows them to produce sentences they have never heard before by being exposed to random language use around them.
 - Different humans receive different grammatical structures:
 - a. I want for to go (Canadian*) VS I want to go
 - b. She don't learn you nothing VS She doesn't teach you anything
 - c. Was you ever bit by a bee VS Have you ever been bitten by a bee

- Descriptive Grammar VS Prescriptive Grammar
Example: **split infinitives:**
He wanted to wander aimlessly (prospectively grammatical) VS He wanted to aimlessly wander (prescriptively ungrammatical)