

## 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
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- 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)