I. Lexical Categories

*Identify the lexical category of the underlined word in each sentence.*

1.a. It was a cold and dreary day.
   b. I can’t seem to get rid of my cold.

2.a. You must dry cilantro leaves before storing.
   b. The dry heat of the desert proved to be deadly.

3.a. There has been some improvement in the past week.
   b. In the past, there has not been much improvement.

4.a. That’s a promise.
   b. I promise to take you to the zoo tomorrow.

II. Phrasal Structure

For each of the following phrases, identify its type, its head, and any specifiers or complements. (Remember that every phrase must have a head, but that specifiers and complements are optional.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specifier</th>
<th>Head</th>
<th>Complement</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: the rat</td>
<td>the</td>
<td>rat</td>
<td>(none)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. men

2. in the barn

3. really mean

4. worked at the station

5. extremely boring

6. that house on the corner

7. never walks to the park

8. the poem about love

9. seldom smiles

10. swept the floor
Syntax Practice Exercises
Linguistics 201

I. Lexical Categories

*Identify the lexical category of the underlined word in each sentence.*

1.a. It was a **cold** and dreary day.             **Adjective**
    b. I can’t seem to get rid of my **cold**.    **Noun**

2.a. You must **dry** cilantro leaves before storing. **Verb**
    b. The **dry** heat of the desert proved to be deadly. **Adjective**

3.a. There has been some improvement in the **past** week. **Adjective**
    b. In the **past**, there has not been much improvement. **Noun**

4.a. That’s a **promise**.                       **Noun**
    b. I **promise** to take you to the zoo tomorrow. **Verb**

II. Phrasal Structure

For each of the following phrases, identify its type, its head, and any specifiers or complements. (Remember that every phrase must have a head, but that specifiers and complements are optional.)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>the</td>
<td>the rat</td>
<td>(none)</td>
<td>NP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. men</td>
<td>men</td>
<td></td>
<td>NP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. in the</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>the barn</td>
<td>PP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>barn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. really</td>
<td>really</td>
<td>mean</td>
<td>AP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. worked</td>
<td>worked</td>
<td>at the station</td>
<td>VP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the station</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. extremely boring</td>
<td>extremely</td>
<td>boring</td>
<td>AP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. that house on the corner</td>
<td>that</td>
<td>house on the corner</td>
<td>NP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. never walks to the park</td>
<td>never</td>
<td>walks to the park</td>
<td>VP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. the poem about love</td>
<td>the</td>
<td>poem about love</td>
<td>NP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. seldom smiles</td>
<td>seldom</td>
<td>smiles</td>
<td>VP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. swept the floor</td>
<td>swept</td>
<td>the floor</td>
<td>VP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Phrase Structure Trees

Draw tree diagrams for each of the following sentences.

1. A droid walked into the cantina.
3. The jawas always hide underneath the bed.
4. Leia often watches the sunset.
5. The flight through the asteroids was very pleasant.
6. Yoda seems tired of fighting.
A droid walked into the cantina.
Luke might sell his speeder.
The jawas always hide underneath the bed.
Leia often watches the sunset
The walk through the park was very pleasant.
Yoda seems tired of fighting.
Syntax Practice Exercises, part 3
Linguistics 201

Draw tree diagrams for the following sentences.

1. The jury believed that the defendant was guilty.
2. Sally was painting a house by the sea.
3. James can play the piano and the accordion.
4. Tom wondered if the Dinos would win the game.
The jury believed that the defendant was guilty.
2a.

In this interpretation, the house is what is “by the sea”. Sally may be painting inside her bedroom in Calgary, though.
In this interpretation, the act of painting is happening “by the sea”. The house in the painting might be in a forest or on a mountain, etc.
James can play the piano and the accordion.
Tom wondered if the Dinos would win the game.