

MA GRAMMAR / WEEK 05

Constituent coordination

MA Grammar · Week 5
Quirk et al., Chapter 13

What exactly does and connect?

Constructed contrast

The tutor and the student revised the text.

The tutor revised the text and explained the changes.

Today's goals

Bracket the conjoins.

Distinguish clause and phrase coordination.

Test shared material and ambiguity.

Rank is part of the analysis

Clause coordination

[The tutor spoke] and [the students listened].

Lower constituent coordination

The tutor [spoke clearly] and [answered questions].

[The tutor] and [the students] agreed.

A shared operator changes the brackets

The students may [read the article] and [compare the examples].

May takes scope over both coordinated predications in the natural reading.

The students [may read the article] and [must compare the examples].

The second version contains separate modal expressions and different commitments.

Noun phrase coordination can be ambiguous

Shared premodifier?

We discussed old manuscripts and maps.

Two readings

[old manuscripts] and [maps]

old [manuscripts and maps]

The adjective may apply to one set or both.

Togetherhness is a semantic question

Combinatory reading

Rana and Noor wrote a paper together.

Segregatory reading

Rana and Noor each wrote a paper.

Compare: Rana and Noor wrote a paper.

Parallel function need not mean same form

The answer was [clear] and [of practical value].

The conjoins differ in form: adjective and prepositional phrase.

Both can function as a predicative complement in this context.

A category mismatch alone does not prove a coordination is unacceptable.

Theory check · Compare three analyses

A. The students read and annotated the article.

B. The students read the article and annotated the examples.

C. The students read the article, and the tutor annotated it.

Bracket the smallest plausible conjoins and identify shared material.

Workshop 1 · Find the constituent level

1. The lecture was brief and very informative.
2. The students can read and discuss the article.
3. We invited the new tutors and students.
4. The tutor replied quickly and with considerable care.

Bracket, label and test an alternative where one is available.

Drill key · Keep form and function apart

Items 1–2

1: adjective phrases within the subject complement.

2: read and discuss share the article and can.

Items 3–4

3: new may modify tutors only or both groups.

4: an AdvP and a PP both function as manner adverbials.

Workshop 2 · A subject listing

“English Literature including Poetry, Drama and Novel”

Authentic extract · University of Mosul, College of Arts
Major Subjects to be studied at the Department

Identify the coordinated items.
Is the whole extract a finite clause?

A list item is not a missing sentence

The coordination occurs inside the including expression.

The three items are Poetry, Drama and Novel.

There is no finite verb in the complete extract.

Analyse the list's structure before proposing an editorial change.

Text laboratory · Reading-group notice

Constructed teaching data

- 1 The group will compare recent articles and book chapters.
- 2 Participants may annotate the examples and discuss the results.
- 3 The tutor and the student representative will introduce the session.
- 4 Comments should be precise and of practical use.
- 5 We will invite visiting lecturers and researchers from Mosul.

Map scope and shared material

Bracket each pair of conjoins and identify its rank.

Give two readings of recent in line 1 and visiting in line 5.

Identify the shared operator in line 2 and explain its scope.

Test line 4 by placing each conjoin separately in the clause frame.

Suggested analysis of the notice

Clear structural relations

- 2: coordinated predications after may.
- 3: coordinated subject NPs.
- 4: AdjP and PP with a shared predicative role.

Ambiguous scope

- 1: recent may apply to articles alone or to both sets.
- 5: visiting and from Mosul each require a scope decision.

Make your intended reading explicit.

Challenge · Count actions carefully

Claim: two coordinated verbs mean two independent clauses.

Use line 2 of the notice as a counterexample.

Explain the role of the shared subject and modal.

Exit response · Disambiguate deliberately

We consulted experienced teachers and researchers.

Give two bracketings.

Write one unambiguous version for each reading.

Portfolio 2 · Make a grammatical case

Write 500–600 words about a coordination problem.

Include constituent brackets, a diagnostic and a plausible alternative.

Explain why your preferred reading fits the context.

Next week: Quirk et al., §§13.90–104.