

Syntax Worksheet

This is where you'll be showcasing how your language puts phrases into sentences.

Sample Sentences

To give us some bearings on what your language looks like, I want you to come up with some sample sentences. You have verbs; you have nouns; you have morphology for each of them: Let's see them in action! Below, give us the following:

1. **Three intransitive sentences** that meet the following criteria:
 - a. Three different verbs.
 - b. Two different nouns as core arguments (one default number, one non-default number).
 - c. One non-third person pronoun as a core argument.
 - d. One noun modified by an adjective.
 - e. One sentence with a temporal, locative, or manner adverb.
 - f. One sentence featuring a non-core (e.g. locative) nominal argument.
2. **Three transitive sentences** that meet the following criteria:
 - a. Three different verbs (you can use the same nouns you used already).
 - b. Two nouns modified by an adjective (one object/patient, one subject/agent).
 - c. Two non-third person pronouns (one object/patient, one subject/agent).
 - d. One sentence with a temporal, locative, or manner adverb.
 - e. One sentence featuring a non-core (e.g. locative) nominal argument.
 - f. Two different tenses or aspects (e.g. present vs. future, complete vs. incomplete, etc.).

Valence Changing Operations

Below, illustrate your valence changing operations with interlinears and translations. Not all languages will have actual valence change morphology, but all of them will be able to translate the following sentences with the listed concepts (note: Feel free to use any nouns or verbs to illustrate each category. You'll be writing your own sentences; I just gave you examples below):

3. Passive with reintroduced argument (e.g. “The dog was called by the woman” or “The woman called to the dog.”):
4. Causative (e.g. “The teacher made the boy call his mother”):

Questions

5. Give an example of a statement followed by a yes/no question version of that statement:
6. Give two examples of a WH-question using “who” or “what”: one with the WH-word as a subject/ agent, and the other with the WH-word as an object/patient:

Relative Clauses

7. Give two examples of relative clauses: One where a subject/agent is the target of relativization, and another where the object/patient (or a non-core argument) is the target of relativization.

Negation

8. Give an example of a positive sentence and its negation