

Workbook 1.1

An Introduction to English Sentence Structure
(Andrew Radford)

English 444/544

Exercise 1.1 Below are a number of sentences taken from various plays written by Shakespeare, representing a variety of English sometimes referred to as *Elizabethan English* Elizabethan English (like present-day English) was a head-first language in which heads were canonically positioned in front of their complements. In relation to the sentences below, show how movement operations which fronted various types of expression could mask the underlying head-first setting of the Head Position Parameter in Elizabethan English.

1. Seawater shalt thou drink (Prospero, *The Tempest*, I.ii)

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1. Seawater shalt thou drink (Prospero, *The Tempest*, I.ii)

What head-complement relationships are there in this sentence:

Verb Object (Noun) *drink seawater*

Auxiliary VP *shalt drink seawater*

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1. Seawater shalt thou drink (Prospero, *The Tempest*, I.ii)

The noun complement (*seawater*) precedes and is not adjacent to the head verb (*drink*).

Canonical Order: Thou shalt drink **seawater**

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Canonical Order: Thou shalt drink **seawater**

Object Fronting: **Seawater** thou shalt drink

The head auxiliary (*shalt*) follows part (*seawater*) of its complement VP (*drink seawater*) and is discontinuous from the rest (*drink*) of its complement VP.

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The head auxiliary (*shalt*) follows part (*seawater*) of its complement VP (*drink seawater*) and is discontinuous from the rest (*drink*) of its complement VP.

Object Fronting accounts for why *seawater* precedes *shalt*.

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Auxiliary Fronting: **Seawater** **shalt** thou drink

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The head auxiliary (*shalt*) follows part (*seawater*) of its complement VP (*drink seawater*) and is discontinuous from the rest (*drink*) of its complement VP.

Auxiliary Fronting: **Seawater** shalt thou drink

Auxiliary Fronting accounts for why the head auxiliary (*shalt*) is discontinuous from part of its VP complement (*drink*)

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2 That letter hath she delivered (Speed, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, II.i)

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2 That letter hath she delivered (Speed, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, II.i)

What head complement relationships are present in this sentence?

Verb Object *delivered that letter*

Auxiliary VP *hath delivered that letter*

Determiner Noun *that letter*

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The complement (*that letter*) precedes and is not adjacent to the head verb (*delivered*).

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Object Fronting: **That letter** she hath delivered

The head auxiliary (*hath*) follows part (*that letter*) of its complement VP (*delivered that letter*) and is discontinuous from the rest (*delivered*) of its complement VP.

Object Fronting accounts for why *that letter* precedes *shalt*.

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Auxiliary Fronting: **That letter** **hath** she delivered

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Auxiliary Fronting: **That letter** hath she delivered

Auxiliary Fronting accounts for why the head auxiliary (*hath*) is discontinuous from part of its VP complement (*delivered*)

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3 Friend hast thou none (Duke, *Measure for Measure*, III.i)

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3 Friend hast thou none (Duke, *Measure for Measure*, III.i)

What head-complement relationships occur in this sentence?

Quantifier Noun *none friend*

Verb Object (QP) *hast none friend*

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The noun complement (*friend*) precedes and is not adjacent to the head quantifier (*none*).

Canonical Order: Thou hast none **friend**

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3 Friend hast thou none (Duke, *Measure for Measure*, III.i)

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Canonical Order: Thou hast none **friend**

Noun Fronting: **Friend** thou hast none

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The noun complement (*friend*) precedes and is not adjacent to the head quantifier (*none*).

Canonical Order: Thou hast none **friend**

Noun Fronting: **Friend** thou hast none

The head verb (*hast*) follows part (*friend*) of its complement (*none friend*), also a result of Noun Fronting.

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4 True is it that we have seen better days (Duke Senior, *As You Like It*, II.vii)

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4 True is it that we have seen better days (Duke Senior, *As You Like It*, II.vii)

What head-complement relationships occur in this sentence?

V Subject Complement (Adjective) *is true*

Complementizer Clause *that we have seen better days*

Auxiliary VP *have seen better days*

V Object (NP) *seen better days*

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V Object (NP) *seen better days*

Like subjects with predicates, adjectives and APs do not have a head-complement relationship with the nouns they modify.

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The adjective complement (*true*) precedes its verb head (*is*).

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The adjective complement (*true*) precedes its verb head (*is*).

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4 True is it that we have seen better days (Duke Senior, *As You Like It*, II.vii)

The adjective complement (*true*) precedes its verb head (*is*).

Canonical Order: It is **true** that we have seen better days.

Adjective Fronting: **True** it is that we have seen better days.

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The adjective complement (*true*) precedes its verb head (*is*).

Canonical Order: It is **true** that we have seen better days.

Adjective Fronting: **True** it is that we have seen better days.

To get to the surface order, Auxiliary/Verb Fronting inverts *it is* to *is it*, but that does not obscure the Head-Complement canonical order.

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5 She may more suitors have

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5 She may more suitors have (Tranio, *The Taming of the Shrew*, I.ii)

What head-complement relationships occur in this sentence?

Quantifier Noun *more suitors*

Verb QP *have more suitors*

Auxiliary VP *may have more suitors*

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5 She may more suitors have (Tranio, *The Taming of the Shrew*, I.ii)

The verb and its complement have inverted.

Canonical Form: She may have more suitors

Object Fronting: She may more suitors have.

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5 She may more suitors have (Tranio, *The Taming of the Shrew*, I.ii)

Canonical Form: She may have more suitors

Object Fronting: She may more suitors have.

The head verb (*have*) follows its complement object (*more suitors*).

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6 Run you to the citadel! (Iago, *Othello*, V.i)

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What head-complement relationships occur in this sentence?

Determiner Noun	<i>the citadel</i>
Preposition Object DP	<i>to the citadel</i>
Verb Prepositional Phrase	<i>run to the citadel</i>

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6 Run you to the citadel! (Iago, *Othello*, V.i)

Canonical Order: You **run** to the citadel!

Verb Fronting: **Run** you to the citadel!

The verb is fronted which results in the verb being separated from its complement, but the relative order still has all the heads preceding their complements.

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7 Came you from the church? (Tranio, *Taming of the Shrew*, III.ii)

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What head-complement relationships occur in this sentence?

Determiner Noun	<i>the church</i>
Preposition Object DP	<i>from the church</i>
Verb Prepositional Phrase	<i>came from the church</i>

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Determiner Noun	<i>the church</i>
Preposition Object DP	<i>from the church</i>
Verb Prepositional Phrase	<i>came from the church</i>

The verb (*came*) is still ahead of its PP complement, but it is separated from its complement by the subject (*you*).

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7 Came you from the church? (Tranio, *Taming of the Shrew*, III.ii)

The verb (*came*) is still ahead of its PP complement, but it is separated from its complement by the subject (*you*). The verb is fronted to the beginning of the clause/sentence in a question.

Canonical Order: **You** came from the church?

Verb Fronting: Came **you** from the church?

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8 What think you he hath confessed? (First Lord, *All's Well That Ends Well*, IV.iii)

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8 What think you he hath confessed? (First Lord, *All's Well That Ends Well*, IV.iii)

What head-complement relationships occur in this sentence?

Verb Complement Clause

he hath confessed what

Verb Pronoun Object

confessed what

Auxiliary VP

hath confessed what

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What head-complement relationships occur in this sentence?

Verb Complement Clause

think he hath confessed what

Verb Pronoun Object

confessed what

Auxiliary VP

hath confessed what

The complement of the verb *confessed*, *what*, is moved the beginning of the sentence, putting it before its head and putting part of the complement of the verb *think*, *that he hath confessed what*, appears before its head.

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Canonical Form: You think he hath confessed **what**?

Wh- Fronting: **What** you think he hath confessed?

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Canonical Form: You think he hath confessed **what**?

Wh- Fronting: **What** you think he hath confessed?

The verb *think* is preposed before the subject *you*, separating *think* from (most of) its complement.

Exercise 1.1 Below are a number of sentences taken from various plays written by Shakespeare, representing a variety of English sometimes referred to as *Elizabethan English* Elizabethan English (like present-day English) was a head-first language in which heads were canonically positioned in front of their complements. In relation to the sentences below, show how movement operations which fronted various types of expression could mask the underlying head-first setting of the Head Position Parameter in Elizabethan English.

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What head-complement relationships occur in this sentence?

Preposition Pronoun

to what

Verb Prepositional Phrase

come to what

Auxiliary VP

will come to what

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The complement of the preposition *to, what*, is moved the beginning of the sentence, putting it before its head and putting part of the complement of the verb *come, to what*, appears before its head.

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Canonical Form: This will come to what

Wh- Fronting: What this will come to

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Wh- Fronting: What this will come to

The inversion of the auxiliary, *will*, and the subject, *this*, separates the auxiliary from most of its complement.

Auxiliary Movement: What will this come to

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What head-complement relationships occur in this sentence?

Determiner Noun

what visions

Verb Determiner Phrase

seen what visions

Auxiliary VP

have seen what visions

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Determiner Noun

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Verb Determiner Phrase

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Auxiliary VP

have seen what visions

The complement of the verb, *seen*, the *wh*- phrase, *what visions*, is fronted to the beginning of the question, resulting in the complement of the verb preceding the verb (and being separated from it), and resulting in part of the complement VP appearing before the head auxiliary, *have*.

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Wh- Fronting: What visions have I seen

The auxiliary is fronted before the subject, *I*, in a question, which results in the auxiliary being separated from some of its complement, *seen what visions*.

Auxiliary Movement: What visions have I seen