

Introduction to Linguistics:

SYNTAX

(parts of speech categories & subcategories)

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[Class Website](#)

Overview

- Structural relations
 - syntagmatic relations
 - paradigmatic relations
- Sentence structure
 - Terminology:
 - “syntax”
 - “phrasal syntax”
 - Syntactic categories
 - parts of speech (POS)
 - subcategories
 - phrasal categories

THE STRUCTURE OF LANGUAGE

What is structure?

- Language structure is determined by following kinds of constitutive relation:
 - structural relations:
 - syntagmatic relations: combinatory relations which create larger signs (and their realisations and interpretations) from smaller signs (and their realisations and interpretations)
 - paradigmatic relations: classificatory relations of similarity and difference between signs.
 - semiotic relations:
 - realisation: the visual appearance or acoustic representation of signs (other senses may also be involved).
 - interpretation: the assignment of meaning to a sign.

STRUCTURAL RELATIONS

Paradigmatic relations

- Paradigmatic relations:
 - relations of “**choice**”
 - classificatory relations of similarity and difference between signs.
 - similarity and difference of
 - internal structure: simple vs. complex stems
 - external structure: functions in different word orders / positions
 - meaning: synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, ...
 - appearance: shared and different distinctive features
- Tasks:
 - How many items in total in the *left*, *mid*, and *right* sets?
 - How many items in the sentence set shown?
 - How many of these actually exist, and how many do not?

{the, this, that, ...}

{boy, girl, ape, ...}

{swims, walks, ...}

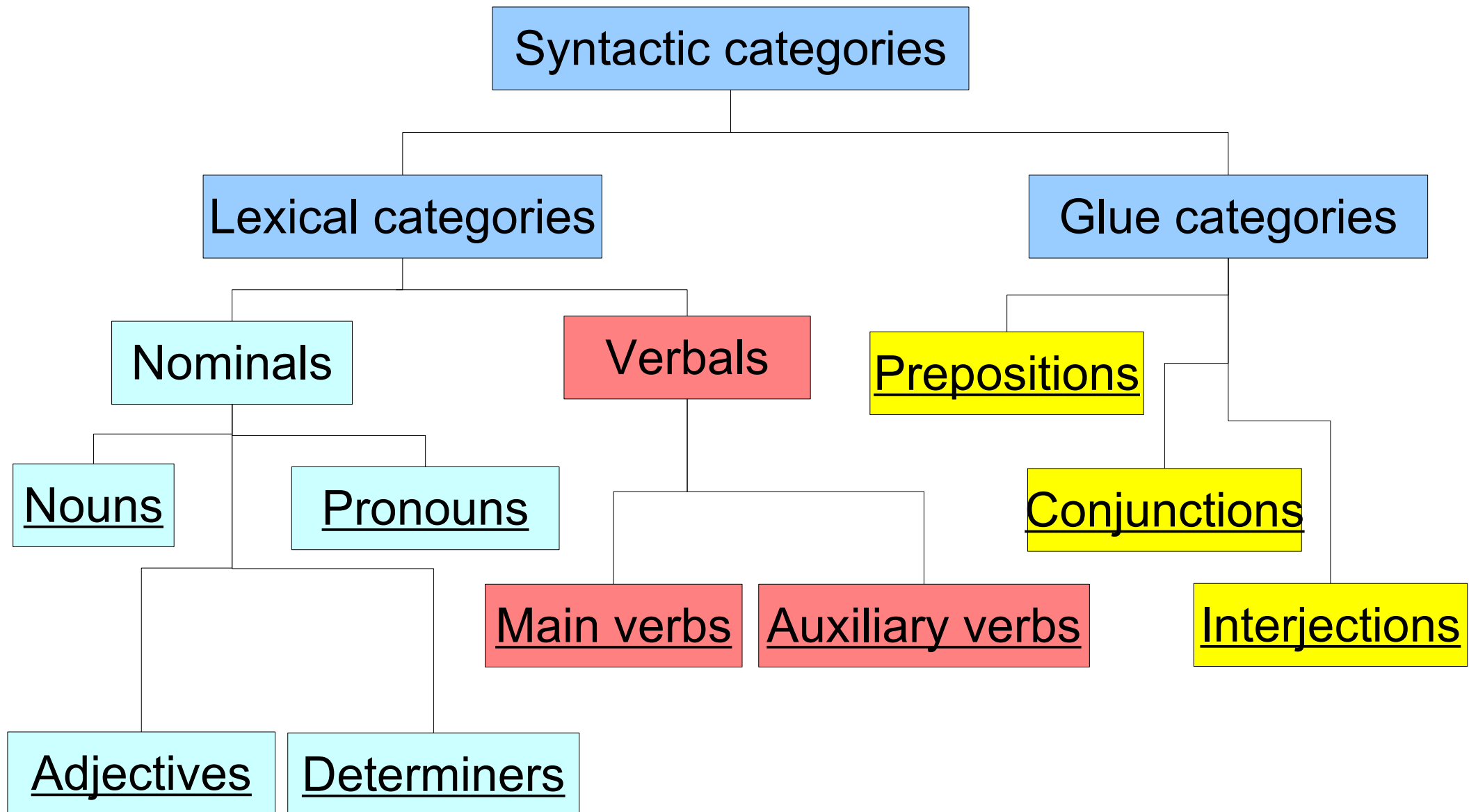
Syntagmatic relations

- syntagmatic relations
 - linguistic “glue”: combinatory relations: create larger signs (& their realisations & interpretations) from smaller signs (& their realisations & interpretations)
- Examples:
 - Phonology: Consonants and Vowels are glued together as
 - *core* and *periphery* of **syllables**.
 - Morphology:
 - lexical morphemes & affixes are glued together into **derived stems**.
 - stems are glued together into **compound stems**.
 - stems and inflections are glued together into **words**.
 - Syntax:
 - nouns and verbs are glued together as the *subjects* and *predicates* of **sentences**.

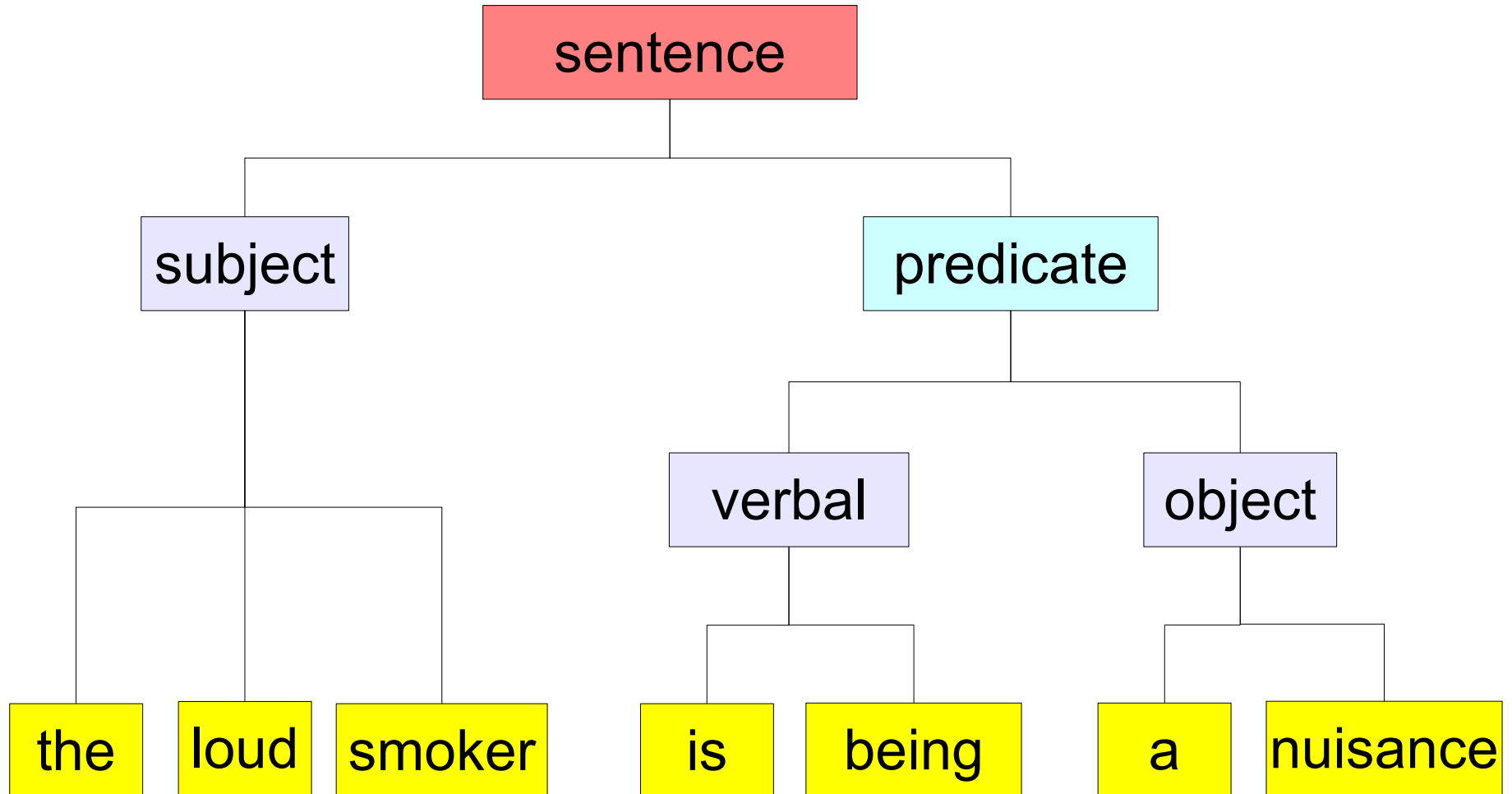
SYNTAX

(SENTENCE SYNTAX)

Paradigmatic relations in syntax



Syntagmatic relations in syntax



Words: context, external structure

- Parsing: the analysis of sentences in to parts (Latin: *pars*)

Prostitutes' deaths inquests open

Inquests into the deaths of four women who were killed in Suffolk have been opened and adjourned. The hearing at Ipswich Coroner's Court found no clear cause of death for Tania Nicol and Annette Nicholls. Anneli Alderton was asphyxiated and Paula Clennell died from compression of the neck, coroner Dr Peter Dean said. The inquest into the death of another victim, Gemma Adams, was opened last week.

Police are continuing to question two men about the murders. The first suspect, Tom Stephens, 37, was arrested on Monday. A second man being held has been named locally as 48-year-old Stephen Wright. Both are suspected of killing all five women.

- Task:
 - Identify the part of speech of each word in this text
 - Group the words into larger units

Parts of speech - categories

- Noun categories
 - Determiners
 - Adjectives
 - Nouns
 - Pronouns
- Verb categories
 - Verbs (main verbs, auxiliary verbs)
 - Adverbs
- Glue categories
 - Prepositions
 - Conjunctions
 - Interjections

NOUN CATEGORIES

Noun categories: determiners

- Articles:
 - definite: the
 - indefinite: a
- Possessives:
 - my, your, his, her, its, our, their
- Demonstratives:
 - proximal: this
 - distal: that
- Relatives, interrogatives:
 - what
 - which
 - whose
- Quantifiers:
 - cardinal numerals:
 - one, two, ...
 - existential:
 - some, several, few, many, ...
 - dual:
 - both, either
 - universal:
 - each, every, all, ...

Noun categories: adjectives

- Adjective types:
 - scalar:
 - small ... big
 - cold ... hot
 - hairless ... hairy
 - polar:
 - alive / dead
 - married / unmarried
 - appraisive:
 - good
 - great
 - wonderful
 - ordinal:
 - first, second, ...
- Special feature of scalar adjectives:
 - “adverbs” of degree:
 - very
 - highly
 - extremely
 - incredibly

Noun categories: nouns

- Proper nouns:
 - names:
 - personal
 - place
 - product
 - ...
- Common nouns:
 - Countable nouns:
 - knife, fork, spoon
 - Mass nouns (uncountable nouns):
 - bread (a slice of bread)
 - butter (a piece of butter)
 - jam (a spoonful of jam)
- Task:
 - What happens when you count “uncountable” nouns?

Noun categories: pronouns

- Personal pronouns:
 - I/me, you, he/him, she/her, we/us, they
- Possessive pronouns:
 - mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, theirs
- Demonstrative pronouns
 - proximal: this
 - distal: that, yonder (archaic)
- Quantifier pronouns
 - cardinal numerals: one, two, ...
 - existential: some, several, few, many, ...
 - dual: both
 - universal: each, every, all, ...
- Relative pronouns
 - *more like conjunctions*

VERB CATEGORIES

Verb categories: verbs

- Main verbs:
 - finite forms:
 - person (1st, 2nd, 3rd)
 - number (singular, plural)
 - tense (present, past)
 - non-finite forms
 - infinitive
 - participle:
 - present
 - perfect
- Periphrastic verbs (auxiliary verb + non-finite main verb):
 - modal: can, may, will, shall; ought, ...
 - aspectual: be+prespart (continuous), have+pastpart (perfect)
 - passive: be+pastpart

it might have been being repaired

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it might have been being repaired
modal perfect continuous passive main verb

Verb categories: adverbs

- Deictic:
 - here, there; now, then
- Time (when):
 - soon, immediately, yesterday, ...
- Place & direction (where):
 - upwards, into, towards
- Manner (how):
 - slowly, quickly
 - cleverly, stupidly
 - nicely, nastily
 - well
 - ...
- Degree
 - *better dealt with in connection with adjectives*

GLUE CATEGORIES

Glue categories: prepositions

- Basically - make nominal expressions into adverbial expressions
- Pretty much the same categories as adverbs
- Except the “all purpose preposition” *of*
- Tasks:
 - What is the meaning of “of”?
 - Construct prepositional phrases corresponding to the types of adverbs

Glue categories: conjunctions

- Co-ordinating conjunctions:
 - and, but
- Subordinating conjunctions:
 - conjunction-like relative pronouns:
 - who, which, that
 - make sentences (clauses) into adjective-like noun modifiers
 - i.e. basically:
 - make sentence (clauses) into adverb-like verb modifiers
- Task:
 - find examples of conjunctions of each type and put them into sentences

Glue categories: interjections

- Interjections link parts of dialogues together:
 - “Hi!”
 - “er”
 - “huh?”
- They may also be expressions of subjective reactions:
 - “Ouch!”
 - “Wow!”
- Task:
 - find examples of 5 different interjections (not the ones listed here)

PHRASAL CATEGORIES

Noun Phrases: definitions

- The Noun Categories form larger units:

Adjective Phrase = (DegreeAdverb)* Adjective

Nominal Phrase = (Adjective Phrase)* Noun

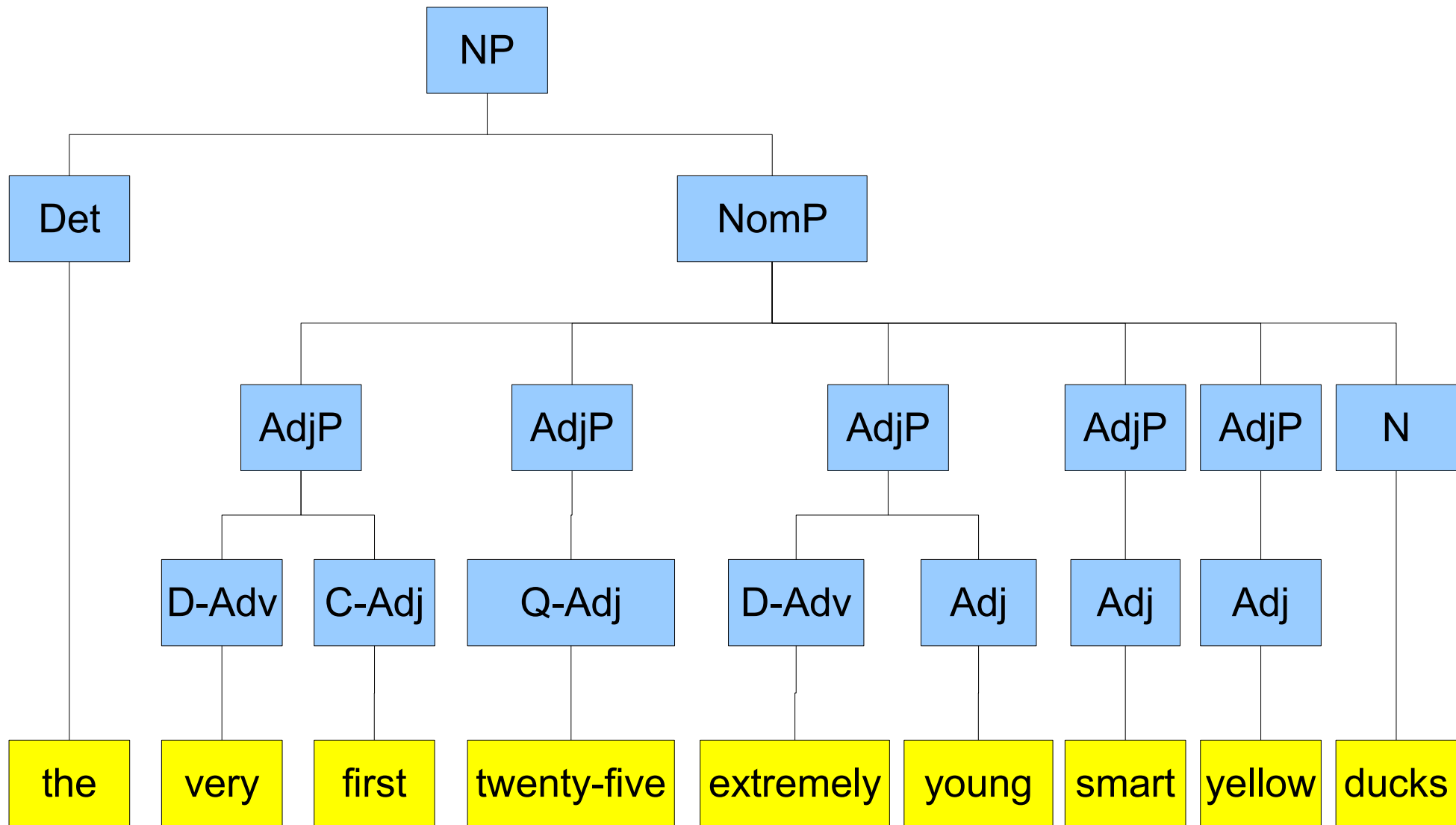
Noun Phrase = (Determiner) Nominal Phrase (Relative Clause)

Show how the following Noun Phrase is constructed, using the definitions above:

The very first twenty-five extremely young smart yellow ducks

Note that linguistics has developed relatively independently in different places, so there are different terminology systems.

The very first twenty-five ...



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!