# Syntactic Objects are not Sets

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The core structure building operation in minimalist syntax (Merge) constructs sets, where the arguments of the Merge operation become members of the newly constructed object. This talk explores some of the historical and conceptual reasons for this approach, and argues that sets are not the right data structure for syntax. In its place, I develop a theory where structure is built by an operation that constructs objects, which have parts (as opposed to sets that have members), and argue that this has conceptual advantages. The empirical ramifications of this theory are then explored, including how it impacts on our understanding of locality.