

Wh-questions

- Elements to be questioned must be constituents.
 - I saw a handsome guy with blue eyes at the park yesterday.
 - I saw [a handsome guy with blue eyes] [at the park] [yesterday].
 - Who did you see at the park yesterday?
 - Where did you see a handsome guy with blue eyes?
 - When did you see a handsome guy with blue eyes at the park?

Wh-questions

- How do we form a wh-question?
 - Replace the phrase in question with a suitable wh-word or wh-phrase
 - Move the wh-word or wh-phrase to the beginning of the clause
 - There is a gap where the wh-word or wh-phrase was.

Wh-questions

- The cat is wearing [a hat].
- The cat is wearing **what**.
- **What** is the cat wearing _____?



Wh-questions

- Wh-phrase replaces the phrase it stands for.
 - Same grammatical category
 - Doesn't get a new grammatical relation
- The gap cannot be filled by another item of the same type.
 - *What is the cat wearing a shirt?

Position of wh-phrase

- Position of wh-phrase seems to be outside the main body of the clause.
- Immediately before complementizer
*What that is the cat wearing?

Frisian

wat oft ik drinke woe?
what whether I drink would
'What would I drink?'

Embedded clause

- I wonder what the cat is wearing.
- I wonder the cat is wearing **what**.
- I wonder **what** the cat is wearing ____.



Wh-in-situ

- Wh-phrase stays in position; it does not move.
- In English, echo question:
– You saw who? (vs. Who did you see?)
- In Thai?

Wh-in-situ

- In some languages, questions can be formed by both wh-movement and wh-in-situ.

French

Tu vois Pierre ce soir.
you see:2SG Pierre this evening
'You're seeing Pierre tonight.'

Qui tu vois ____ ce soir?
who you see:2SG this evening
'Who are you seeing ____ tonight?'

Tu vois qui ce soir?
you see:2SG who this evening
'Who are you seeing ____ tonight?'

Multiple wh-question

- Can we question more than one constituent in a single clause?
- In English, only one wh-phrase can be fronted.

[The cat] is wearing [a hat].

Who is wearing what?

*Who what is wearing?

Multiple wh-question

- Multiple wh-fronting

Bulgarian

Koj kogo vidjal?

who whom saw

'Who saw whom?'

Kogo kakvo e pital Ivan?

whom what is asked Ivan

'Who did Ivan ask what?'

– Wh-phrases occur in a fixed order.

Multiple wh-question

- Multiple wh-fronting

Serbo-Croatian

Ko koga voli?

who whom loves

'Who loves whom?'

Koga ko voli?

whom who loves

'Who loves whom?'

– Wh-phrases can occur in any order.

Other movements

Tea I like, but coffee I can't stand.

เสียนั่นฉันไม่ชอบ

- A phrase is moved to the clause-initial position.
- There is a gap where the phrase originally was.
- No change in grammatical relation

Tea I like ____, but coffee I can't stand ____ .

เสียนั่นฉันไม่ชอบ _____

Other movements

- **Scrambling**: constituents may be scrambled up in no particular order.
 - Japanese, Korean

Relative clause

- An embedded clause which modifies a head noun
 - A farmer who hits his donkey is drunk.
ฉันไม่ชอบเสื้อที่เธอซื้อ
- Restrict the possible set of entities
- Simple or complex sentence?

Relative clause

- In English, a relative clause begins with a wh-word like 'who' or 'which', or 'that; or comes right after the head noun it modifies.
 - A farmer [who hits his donkey] is drunk.
 - John borrowed the book [that Mary liked].
 - John borrowed the book [Mary liked].
- A relative clause contains a gap.
 - A farmer [who ___ hits his donkey] is drunk.
 - John borrowed the book [that Mary liked ___].
 - John borrowed the book [Mary liked ___].

Relative clause

- The gap refers to the same entity as the head noun.
- Relativized position

Cross-linguistic variation

- Order of relative clause and head noun
- Existence of a gap in the relativized position

Cross-linguistic variation

- Order of relative clause and head noun
 - English? Thai?
 - Japanese, Korean
 - Relative clause precedes head noun.
 - No introductory word
 - Hungarian
- Head-initial vs. head-final language

Cross-linguistic variation

- Order of relative clause and head noun
 - Head noun appears inside the relative clause

Bambara

tye ye so san

man PAST horse buy

'The man bought the horse.'

tye ye [ne ye **so** min ye] san

man PAST I PAST horse which see buy

'The man bought the horse that I saw.'

Cross-linguistic variation

- Existence of a gap in the relativized position
 - Pronoun or noun phrase in the relativized position in some languages
 - **Resumptive pronoun**
 - Huasa
wuqad [da ya k Ashe ta da ita]
knife REL he killed her with it
'the knife that he killed her with ____'