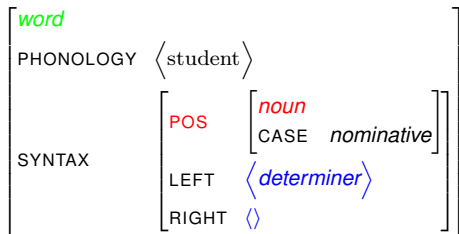


Grammar 15

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Common nouns can combine with determiners to their left

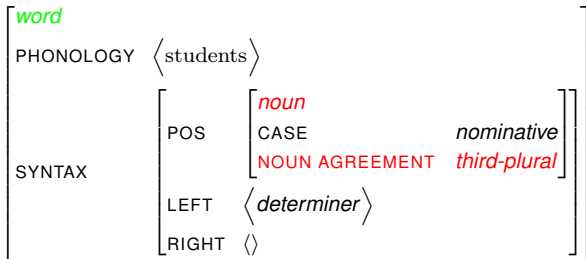
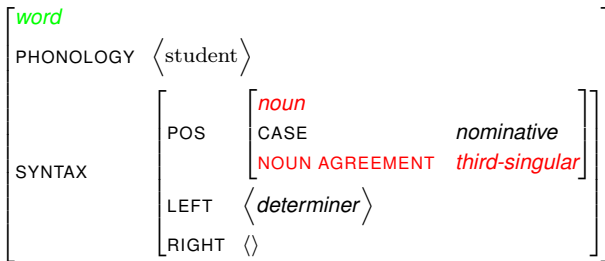


But not all determiner-noun combinations are grammatical:

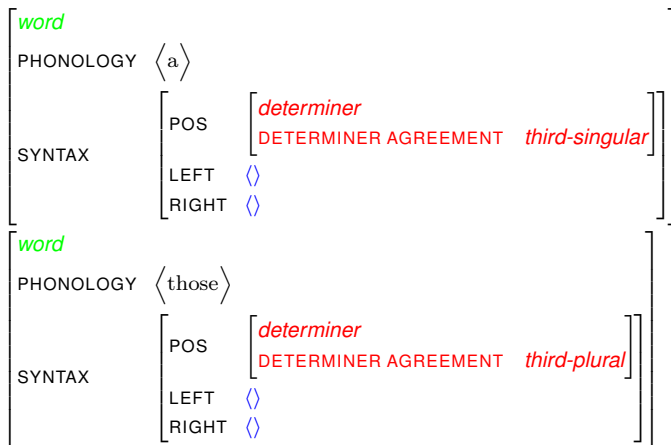
- (1) a. a student
b. the student
c. * those student
d. * a students
e. the students
f. those students

Reason: the noun requires that the determiner agree with it!

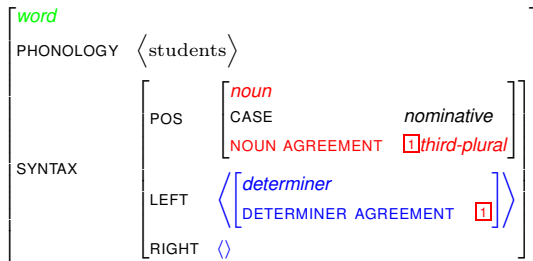
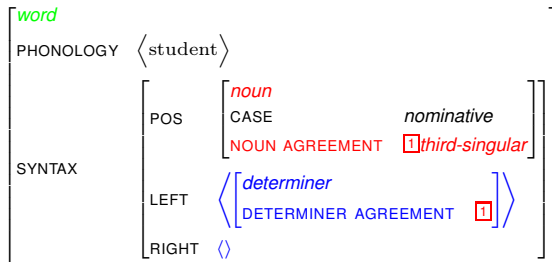
Determiners and nouns have agreement features



Determiners and nouns have agreement features



Nouns select determiners that agree with them



Subject-verb agreement

Finite verbs select subjects that agree with them:

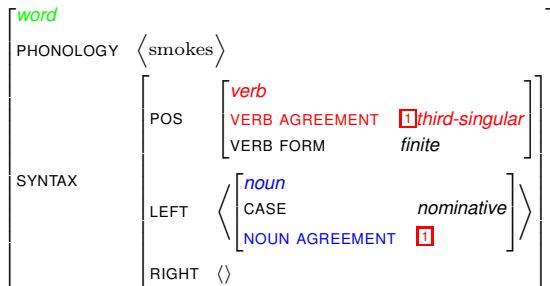
- (2) a. I smoke.
b. * I smokes.
c. I smoked.
- (3) a. You smoke.
b. * You smokes.
c. You smoked.
- (4) a. * She smoke.
b. She smokes.
c. She smoked.

Subject-verb agreement

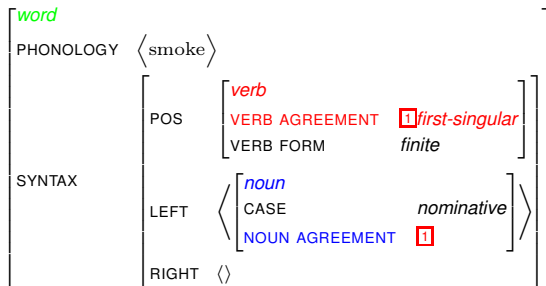
Finite verbs select subjects that agree with them:

- (5) a. We smoke.
b. * We smokes.
c. We smoked.
- (6) a. You smoke.
b. * You smokes.
c. You smoked.
- (7) a. They smoke.
b. * They smokes.
c. They smoked.

Verbs select subjects that agree with them



Verbs select subjects that agree with them, 2

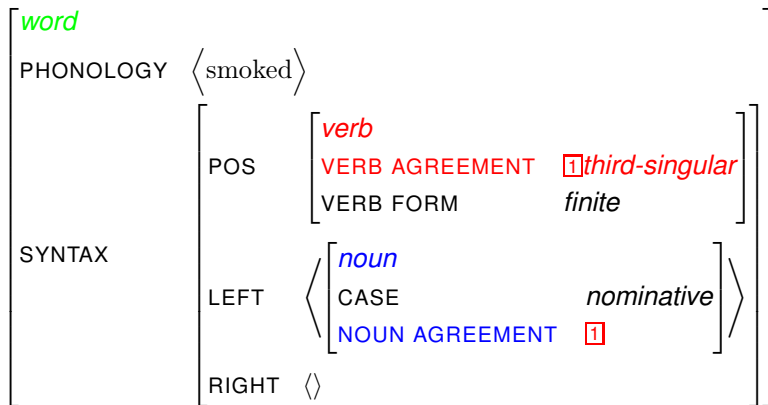


There are 4 more lexical entries for *smoke* (plus the infinitive) which only differ from the one above in having one of the following agreement values:

- second-singular
- first-plural
- second-plural
- third-plural

Verbs select subjects that agree with them, 3

There are six entries for the past tense verb form *smoked*. Here is the one for the third person singular:



Excercises

- 1 Parse the words “smokes”, “smoke”, and “smoked” and inspect the results. Explain how many results the grammar returns in each case!
- 2 Parse test items (132)-(139) and explain why you get the results you get and their number!
- 3 Parse test items (140)-(143) and explain why you get the results you get and their number!
- 4 Why do you get more results for *am* than for *smoke*, even though both words are first person singular?
- 5 Which results do you get for the form *are*?