

# Syntax II – Assignment #7

## Missing elements and movement tests

Due Thursday May 7th

This assignment is an exercise in using some of the syntactic tools that you have learned about. You will need to use generalizations that you have learned about *wh*-movement (and other overt movement operations in English) to work towards an analysis of other constructions.

Propose analyses for the following English constructions, focusing on the question of whether the constructions contain any (overt or covert) elements that undergo syntactic movement. Do these constructions show sensitivity to any of the constraints on *wh*-movement? [There is no need to use *all* of the constraints on *wh*-movement, a representative sample will suffice; try to test for subject, object and adjunct movement, when the construction allows this.] If you conclude that the construction involves movement, is this movement more restricted or more liberal than *wh*-movement?

Note: in the examples below, the positions marked by an underscore mark the position in which an NP object or a reason-adverbial (i.e. answer to *why*) is *interpreted*; this underscore should not be taken to imply any commitment to whether or not these positions are occupied by syntactic traces. Determining whether these positions are occupied by movement traces is your task in the assignment.

### (1) Finite relative clauses

- a. This is the cheese [that Wallace loves \_\_\_]
- b. This is the cheese [which Wallace loves \_\_\_]
- c. This is the cheese [Wallace loves \_\_\_]
- d. This is the reason [why Wallace loves Wensleydale \_\_\_]

### (2) Infinitival relative clauses

- a. This is precisely the cheese [to spread \_\_\_ on crackers]
- b. This is the right breed of sheep [to send Preston for \_\_\_]
- c. This is the wrong reason [to eat Yorkshire cheese \_\_\_]

### (3) *easy*-constructions

- a. Provolone is easy [to find \_\_\_]
- b. Wensleydale is hard [to buy \_\_\_ at ACME]
- c. *Barriers* is difficult [to understand \_\_\_]

### (4) ‘Right node raising’ coordinations

- a. Wallace likes \_\_\_ and Wendolene detests every cheese in the store.
- b. Wallace believes that Gromit will enjoy \_\_\_ and Wendolene hopes that Preston will at least tolerate the dog food that is selling for half price this week.

As usual, it is fine to work with other students in the class on this assignment, provided that you submit your own work. Non-native speakers of English: you may either work with a native speaker of English, or test equivalent constructions from your own native language, or a combination of both [if your native language is a verb-final language, then (4) will not be testable]. Be sure to give clear glosses and translations for your examples.