

III Non-finite clauses

14 Non-finite and verbless clauses

14. 1 Preliminaries

❖ **Preliminaries**

3 main kinds of non-finite clause: ***form types***

- ***infinitival***

- ***to-infinitival***

- Max wanted to charge his name*

- ***bare infinitival***

- The helped me move the furniture*

- ***gerund-participial***

- I remember locking the door*

- ***past-participial***

- his father got charged with manslaughter*

14 Non-finite and verbless clauses

14. 1 Preliminaries

➤ *subjectless non-finites*

- i. Kim was glad [] to reach home]
- ii. It has been a pleasure [] meeting you]
- iii. The sum [] spent on gambling] was extraordinary]

➤ *Hollow clauses*

- i. The letter isn't legible enough [] for you to read []
- ii. The letter isn't legible enough [] to read []
- iii. I don't think they are worth [] spending much time on []

14 Non-finite and verbless clauses

14. 1 Preliminaries

➤ ***The catenative construction***

A catenative construction contains a verb having a non-finite internal complement which contains an embedding predicate

- i. I wanted to arrange for Kim to do it
- ii. She intends to try to persuade him to help her redecorate her flat

14 Non-finite and verbless clauses

14. 1 Preliminaries

➤ *Structure of infinitivals*

▪ *for-subordinator*

- i. It is important for you to read the first one immediately
It is important [_{CP} **for** [_{C'} **you** to read the first one immediately]]
- ii. the need for us to cooperate
the need [_{CP} **for** [_{C'} **us** to cooperate]]
- iii. too cold for us to swim
too cold [_{CP} **for** [_{C'} **us** to swim]]
- iv. We arranged for it to be postponed
We arranged [_{CP} **for** [_{C'} **it** to be postponed]]

▪ *to-subordinator*

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- ***to-subordinator***

to subordinates a VP (and not only V)

- i. She wants me to lend him the money, so lend him the money I have to.

She wants me **to** [_{VP} **lend him the money**], so lend him the money I have **to** [_{VP} _].

- ii. She wants me to lend him the money, but I don't have to.

She wants me **to** [_{VP} **lend him the money**], but I don't have **to** [_]

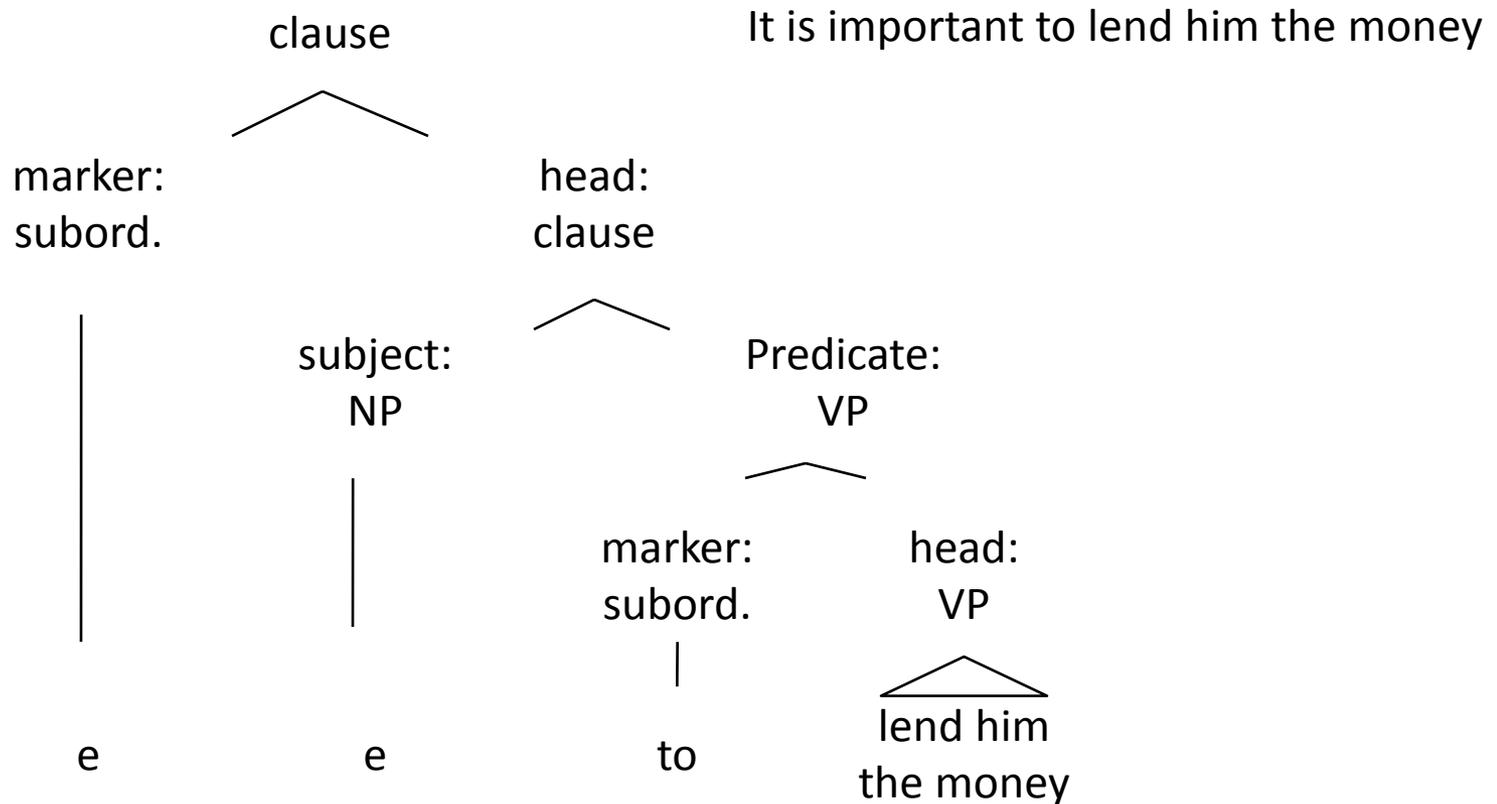
- iii. I have to lend him the money and find a solicitor for him.

I have **to** [_{VP} **lend him the money**] and [_{VP} **find a solicitor for him**].

14 Non-finite and verbless clauses

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- ***infinitival clause structure according to H&P (2002)***



14 Non-finite and verbless clauses

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➤ *The structure of gerund-participials*

- *form*: verb-**ing**

- i. **gerundial noun**

- She had witnessed the breaking**ing** of the seal

- ii. **gerund-participial form of verb**

- There is no point in breaking**ing** the seal

- They were entertaining**ing** the troupes

- ii. **present-participial adjective**

- an entertaining**ing** show

- *function*

14 Non-finite and verbless clauses

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- ***function***
 - **complement**
 - i. Telling her father was a big mistake.
 - ii. He stopped seeing her
 - **non-complement**
 - i. Being a foreigner himself, he understood their resentment
 - ii. Anyone knowing his whereabouts should contact the police.

14 Non-finite and verbless clauses

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■ ***nominal source of the gerund***

Diachronically, the *ing*-affix used to be a nominalization-affix. Then, its use was extended to mark a special verb-form

• **'nominal' gerund**

She had witnessed the breaking of the seal

- no extraposition

*It was silly the breaking of the seal

• **'verbal' gerund**

There is no point in breaking the seal.

- extraposition

It was silly breaking the seal

but:

*It amused him breaking the seal

14 Non-finite and verbless clauses

14. 1 Preliminaries

- ***hybrid constructions***

Gerunds with **nominal** and **verbal** formal properties

i. ? **This** constant telling tales has got to stop.

? Let's have **no more of** this bringing food into the computer room.

ii. There was **no** telling what he might do next

There'll be **no** stopping her

- ***genitive case***

i. noun

I resented his constant questioning of my motives

ii. verb

I resented his constantly questioning of my motives

14 Non-finite and verbless clauses

14. 1 Preliminaries

- ***Subject of gerund participials***

The expression of the subject is optional.

- **without subject**

I regretted leaving the firm

Being a shareholder is important

- **with plain (accusative) subject**

I resented him constantly questioning my motives

- **with genitive subject**

I regretted his leaving the firm

His being a shareholder is important

cf.

I arranged (for him) to leave the firm

(For you) to be a shareholder is important

14 Non-finite and verbless clauses

14. 1 Preliminaries

■ ***case of subjects in gerund-participials***

• ***complement gerund participials: plain (accusative)/genitive***

○ I regretted him/his leaving the firm

I **regretted** [_{CP} **him** leaving the firm]

I regretted [_{NP} his leaving the firm]

○ I enjoyed *him/his reading of the poem

*I **enjoyed** [_{CP} **him** reading of the poem]

I enjoyed [_{NP} his reading of the poem]

○ I caught him/*his reading my mail

I **caught** [_{CP} **him** reading my mail]

*I caught [_{NP} his reading my mail]

○ I resented him constantly questioning my motives

• ***non-complement gerund-participials***

14 Non-finite and verbless clauses

14. 1 Preliminaries

- ***non-complement gerund-participials: nominative/plain***

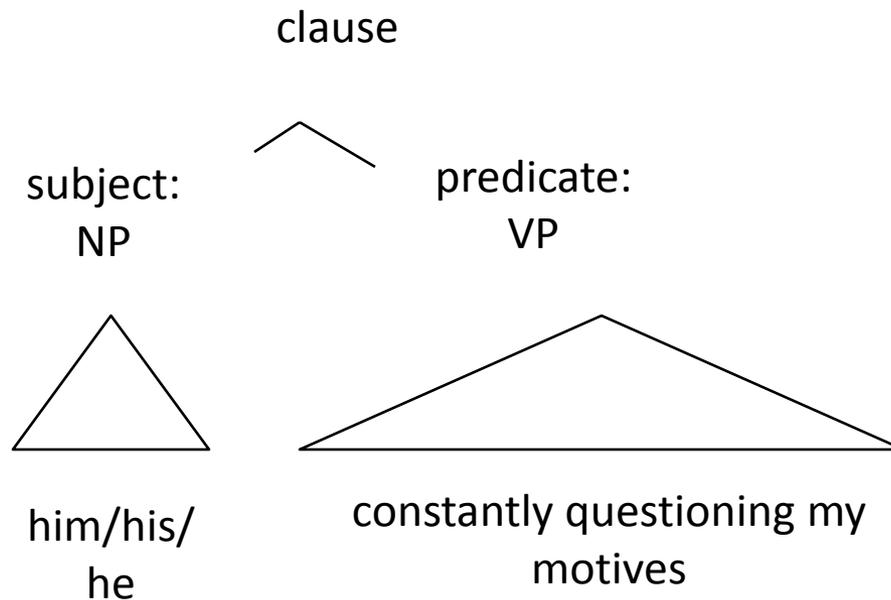
They appointed Max [he/him being the only one who spoke Greek].

– very formal style, therefore the informal accusative is unlikely
[His mother being ill], Max had to withdraw from the expedition.

14 Non-finite and verbless clauses

14. 1 Preliminaries

- ***structure of gerund-participial***



14 Non-finite and verbless clauses

14. 1 Preliminaries

➤ *Understood subjects*

- *controlled interpretation*

Pat | persuaded | Kim | _ to travel by bus
DO Agent
Patient IC

- *raised interpretation*

Pat | intended | Kim | _ to travel by bus
DO Agent
Patient IC

- *non-syntactic interpretation*

It | was necessary | _ to travel by bus

The structure of infinitivals

and

The structure of gerund-participials

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An introduction...

Infinitivals are distinguished by the two finite constructions (whose verb is a *preterite, a present tense form* or irrealis *were*) by the following properties:

- i Most infinitivals, apart from the complements of modal auxiliaries and supportive *do*, contain *the VP subordinator "to"*
- ii Unlike imperatives, they do not take auxiliary *do* in negatives, etc.: compare *Don't be late* and *It's important not to be late*.
- iii Unlike imperatives, they are almost invariably subordinate
- iv Unlike subjunctives, they usually have no subject, and where there is a subject it appears in accusative (or plain) form, not nominative
- v Whereas the most common type of subjunctive construction, the mandative, takes the finite-clause subordinator *that*, the infinitival subordinator (used only when a subject is present) is *for*.

Form types:

On the basis of the inflectional form of the verb we distinguish three main kinds of non-finite clause: **infinitival**, **gerund-participial** and **past-participial**.

The structure of infinitivals

Two special features of the *to*-infinitival construction:

- . *For* (introduces the clause if it contains a subject)
- . *To* itself (marks the VP)

The clause subordinator *for*

It derives historically from the preposition *for*

Syntactic reflection of the prepositional source of *for*

a) Case

He arranged for her/*she to be interviewed first.

b) Subject must immediately follow *for*

i It's important for you to read the first one immediately.

ii *It's important for the first one you to read immediately.

c) Distribution

i a. the need for peace

b. the need for us to cooperate

ii a. too cold for a swim

b. too cold for us to go out

iii a. ready for departure

b. ready for us to start

iv a. We arranged for a postponement.

b. We arranged for it to be postponed

Reanalysis of *for* as a subordinator

a) Occurrence of *to*-infinitivals in non-PP positions

- i For you to give up now would be tragic. [subject]
- ii It's rare for the bus to be so late. [extraposed subject]
- iii This made it necessary for the meeting to be postponed. [extraposed object]
- iv I can't afford for them to see me like this. [complement of *afford*]

b) Range of subject NPs

- i It's essential for there to be no misunderstanding on this point
- ii He called for close tabs to be kept on the new recruits

c) Constituent structure

- i It's necessary [for both your parents to sign the form]
- ii It's necessary [for the form to be signed by both your parents]
- iii It's necessary [for your parents both to sign the form]

d) Absolute initial position and contrast with *that*

i a) It is important that detailed records be kept

b) It is important for detailed records to be kept

ii a) That's the best course that you can take

b) That's the best course for you to take

iii a) In order that the bill may be passed major amendments were made

b) In order for the bill to be passed major amendments were made

The infinitival subordinator *to*

.Constituent structure

It is important that *to* enters into construction with a VP, not just a verb.

- i She wants me to lend him the money, so lend him the money I have to
- ii She wants me to lend him the money, but I don't have to ___.
- iii I have to lend him the money and find a solicitor for him.

Syntactic reflection of the prepositional source of *to*

a) Distributional restrictions

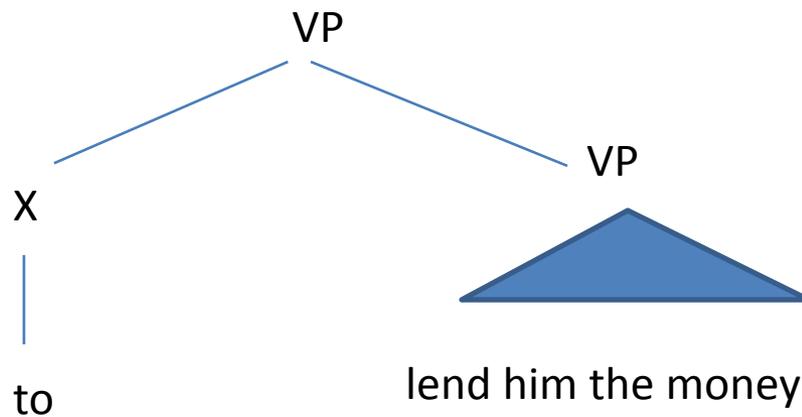
- a. *We're thinking of to London.
- b. *We're thinking of to travel by bus.

b) Contrast with prepositions *from* and *against*

- i a. I persuaded her to buy it. b. I dissuaded her from buying it.
- ii a. I assented to her proposal. b. I dissented from her proposal.

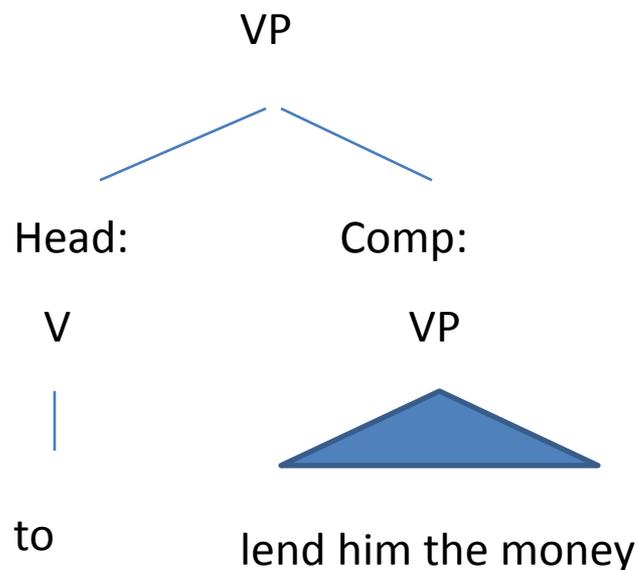
Reanalysis of *to* as a VP subordinator

to lend him the money can be assumed to be a VP. We can therefore assume this partial structure:

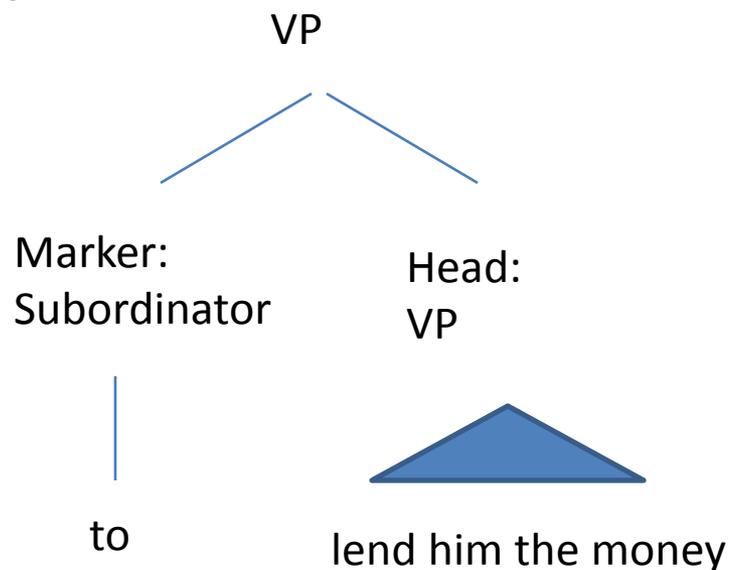


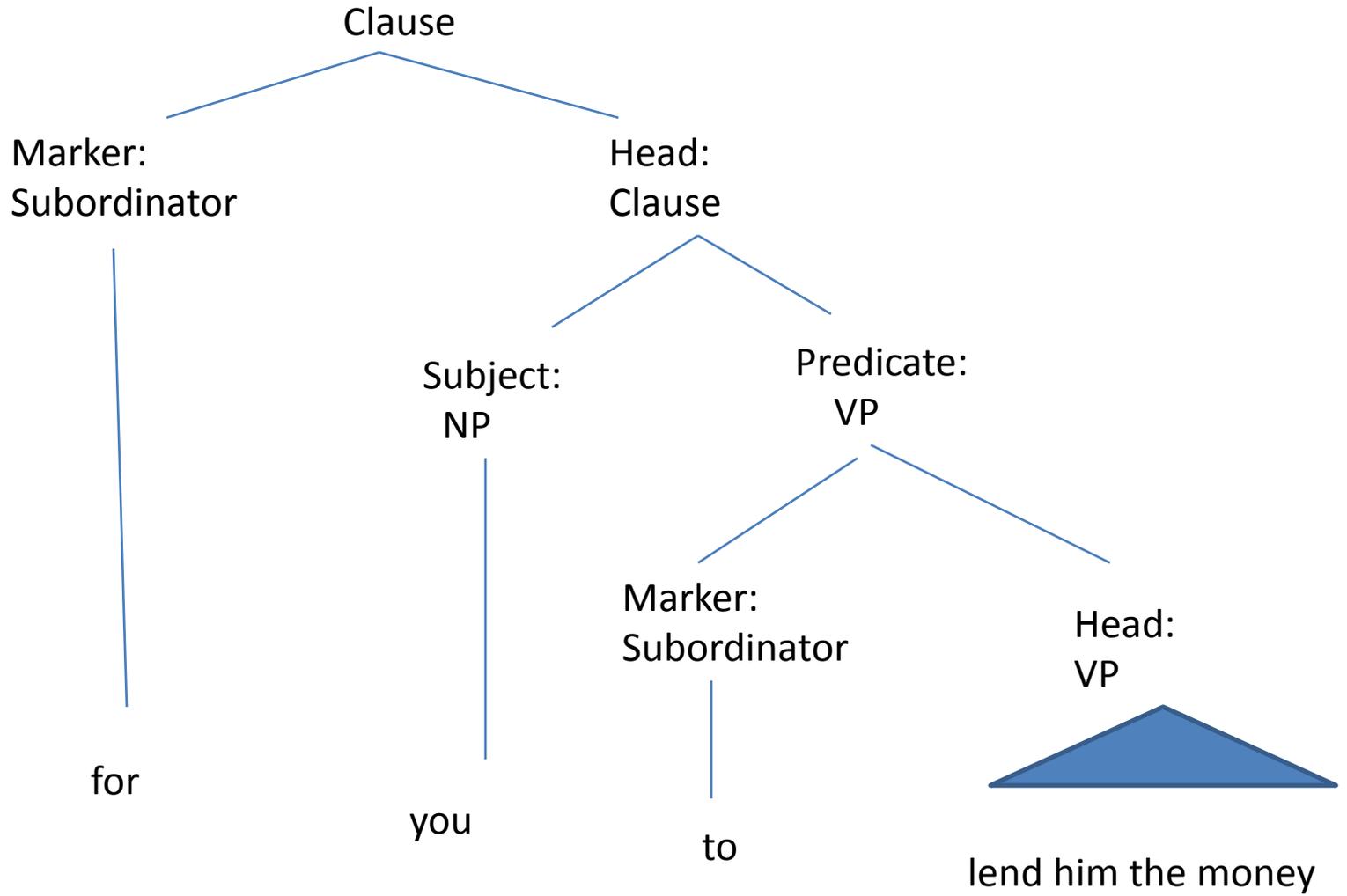
To fill out the detail we must decide which constituent (*to* or *lend him the money*) is the head of the upper VP. If the constituent labelled X is the head, then it follows that it belongs to the verb category and we would have the structure in a. below. The alternative is that *lend him the money* is the head. In this case *to* will have a function in the VP compared to that of *that, whether* and *for* in the structure of the clause, namely as a marker of the subordination, and we will have the structure in b.

a.



b.





1.5 The structure of gerund-participials

The verb in gerund-participials ends with the suffix – ING

Then a distinction between:

1) Gerundial noun

Ex: she had witnessed _____ of the seal

2) Gerund-participle form of the verb

Ex: they were _____ the troops

3) Present-participial adjective

Ex: an _____ show

Nominal source of the traditional gerund

The gerund suffix formed

Nouns from Verbs

This use was extended 

it combined dependents associated with

- nouns: *the* *of the seal*

- verbs: *the seal*

This extension led to the split between
NOMINAL and VERBAL "gerunds"

The nominal source of the –ing verb that is found in most gerund-participial complements is reflected on certain properties still hold in present-day English:

a) Distribution of similarity to NP:

The gerund-participial complements freely occur as complement to a preposition and can follow the verb in subject-auxiliary inversion construction

Ex: it's a matter of
is wise?

(extraposition: gerund-participials fall somewhere between NPs and to-infinitival.

Ex: it was silly

Extraposition is normal with to-infinitivals but not possible with NPs)

b) Hybrid constructions

- i) There was no what he might do next
- ii) There'll be no her

[in black: relevant heads;
the pre-head dependents: typical NP structure;
The post-head ones characteristic of VP structures]

i and ii *illustrate the kind of hybrid constructions that can arise when a historical change has not been fully carried through to completion*

c) Genitive case

- i) I resented [his constant of my motives] ADJECTIVE - NOUN
- ii) I resented [his constantly my motives] ~~ADVERB~~ → VERB

In both we have genitive *his*.

It marks the dependent of a noun, NOT of a verb



Analysis of the genitive NP as subject of the gerund-participial

- [57] i) a) this constant tales has to stop
b) let's have no more of this food into the computer room
- ii) a) there was no what he might do next
b) there'll be no her

1) Marginal status of the determiner + VP construction

Constructions like [57] involve a determiner with a VP as head. Nowadays they are very peripheral;

2) Relation with accusative / plain case

The genitive case can be replaced in informal style by an accusative (or plain) case, in order to regularize the causal construction.

Ex: [I resented] him constantly questioning my motives

3) Optionality of the genitive NP

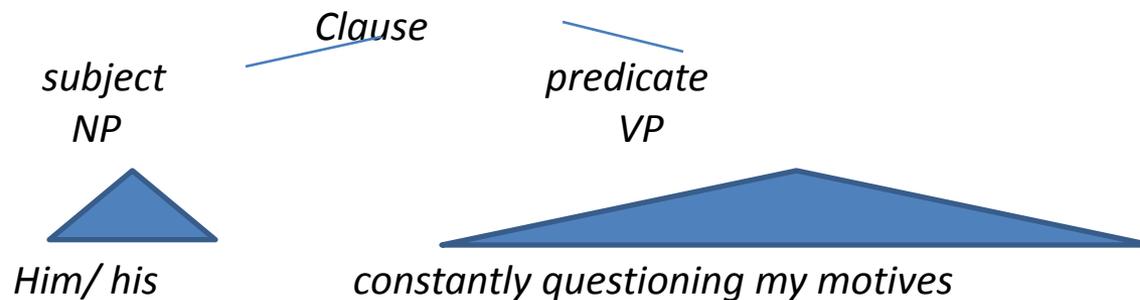
The genitive NP can normally be omitted:

- i) I regretted [**his** leaving the firm]
- ii) I regretted [leaving the firm]

In this kind of construction the presence or absence of the genitive is like the presence or absence of the subject in a to-infinitival clause.

- i) I arranged [**for him** to leave the firm]
- ii) I arranged [to leave the firm]

Structure of gerund participial “...*his/him constantly questioning my motives*”



Subject must be in absolute initial position

The subject always occupies initial position in a gerund-participial clause.

It is not possible to prepose elements or to postpose the subject.

Ex.:

- i) I resented [them / their going without me]
- ii) * i resented [without them / their going]

- i) I remember [a troop of boy scouts suddenly appearing over the hill]
- ii) * I remember [suddenly appearing over the hill a troop of boy scouts]

Comparison between genitive marking and the subordination for

For marks the clause boundary, so that the following NP must belong in the subordinate clause.

The **genitive case** relates the NP to the following VP and hence as again belonging in the subordinate clause.

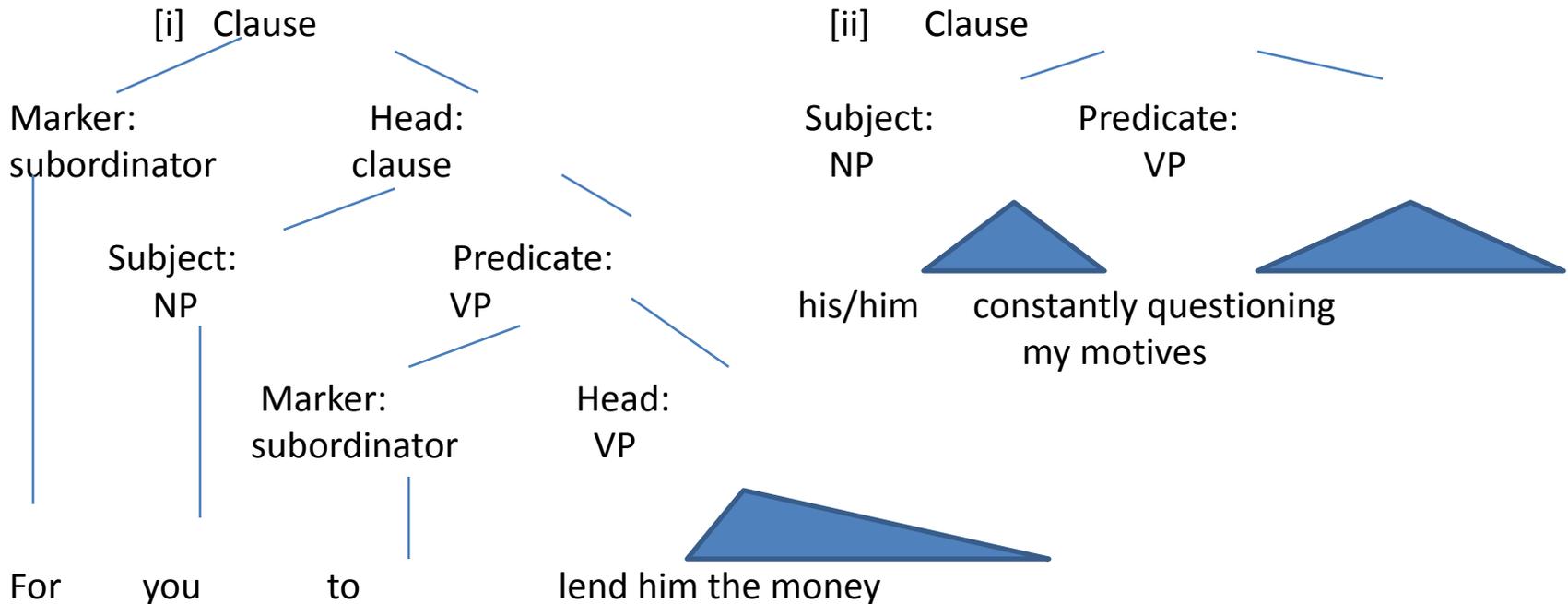
In **to-infinitivals** the subject must immediately follow *for* and in **gerund-participials** the subject must be the first element: neither construction allows for elements to be fronted to pre-subject position or the subject to the postposed.

There are several differences:

a) Status and position

For is a separate word belonging to a category of subordinators; it occupies initial position in the marker function. [i]

The genitive case is an inflectional case. [ii]



b) Restrictions on NP

Genitive case is incompatible with certain types of NP:

Ex: * I resented _____ 's being made public *only ~~no~~ non-genitive this is possible*

No such restrictions apply to for.

5 Classification of catenative verbs

❖ Classification of catenative verbs

- ***Class 1 verbs***

occur only in the simple construction

i. Kim decided to leave

- ***Class 2 verbs***

occur in simple or complex constructions

i. She asked to see him

ii. She asked me to see him

- ***Class 3 verbs***

occur only in the complex construction

i. I assumed there to be a mistake in the instruction

ii. She urged me to go

5 Classification of catenative verbs

Class 1

❖ **Class 1: catenative verbs only in the simple construction**

a. bare infinitival complement

can, dare, do, had better, may, must, need₁, shall, will₁, would rather

b. to-infinitival complement

- **ordinary subject**

i. *He decided to resign*

ii. *He decided that he would resign* (modal will) Tw

iii. *We intended (for it) to resume*

iv. *It was intended (for it) to resume* (passivation, extraposition) Px

v. *They pretend to be ill*

vi. *They pretend that they are ill* (unmodalized) Tu

*affect, choose, consent, decide (Tw, Px), demand (Tm),
determine (Tw), hate, pretend (Tu), proceed, refuse, regret,
remember, think*

5 Classification of catenative verbs

Class 1

- ***raised subject***
 - She seemed to like it*
 - You ought not take any notice* (bare infinitival) B
 - There is to be another inquiry*
 - It appears I'm wrong* (Tu only in impersonal constructions)

appear (Tu), be₁, chance₁ (Tu), come, fail, happen (Tu), have, have got, look, ought (B), promise₁, prove₁, seem (Tu), tend, threaten₁, turn out (Tu), use

5 Classification of catenative verbs Class 1

➤ ***bleaching***

Partial loss of primary meaning

He promised to tell the police

The weather promised to change

threaten, ...

5 Classification of catenative verbs

Class 1

c. to-infinitival or gerund-participial construction

- **ordinary subject**

i. *I propose to tell/telling her*

ii. *He didn't bother to help/helping her*

iii. *It was proposed to support/supporting them*

attempt, bother (N), fear, neglect, propose (Px), scorn

- **raised subject**

i. *He began to shout/shouting*

begin, cease, commence, continue, start₁

5 Classification of catenative verbs

Class 1

d. gerund-participle only

- **ordinary subject**

- i. *We avoided being seen*

- ii. *They considered going to Paris*

avoid, come₂, complete, consider₁, discontinue, escape, evade, finish, get₂, go, postpone, practise, quit, repent, resist, resume, try₂

- **raised subject**

- i. *Kim was writing the introduction*

- ii. *It ended up raining*

be₂, end up, go on₂, keep₁, keep on₁, stop₁

5 Classification of catenative verbs

Class 2

❖ **Class 2: catenative verbs in simple and complex constructions**

- includes only those verbs where the intervening NP can be omitted without a change in meaning

➤ ***p-x and p-y-x*** without change in verb meaning

i. *She promised to see him* *p-x*

ii. *She promised me to see him* *p-y-x*

p-(y)-x

5 Classification of catenative verbs Class 2

p-x and **p-y-x** with change in verb meaning

i. *They chose₁ not to answer*

They chose₂ Kim to lead the party

ii. *He considered₁ resigning*

He considered₂ it to be a fraud

iii. *I didn't think to check his credentials*

He was thought to be trustworthy

*choose, consider, dare, elect, fear, get, have, keep, know,
move, prepare, prove, stop, think, trouble, will*

5 Classification of catenative verbs

Class 2

➤ **Class 2: catenative verbs in simple and complex constructions**

a. *to-infinitival but not gerund-participial*

• ***plain-complex, with ordinary object***

i. *They asked to see him*

ii. *They asked me to see him*

*ask (Tm, F), beg (Tm, F), help (B, Ns), pay (F), petition (F),
pledge (Tw), pray (Tw, F), promise₂ Tw), request (Tw), train*

5 Classification of catenative verbs Class 2

- | | | | |
|------|--|-------|--------------------------------------|
| i. | <u>Liz</u> asked ○ to leave | _____ | subject control |
| | <u>Liz</u> asked <u>Pat</u> ○ to leave | _____ | object control |
| ii. | <u>Liz</u> promised ○ to phone at six | _____ | subject control |
| | <u>Liz</u> promised <u>me</u> ○ to phone at six | _____ | subject control |
| iii. | <u>Liz</u> helped <u>_____</u> ○ to clear up the mess | _____ | implicit object control |
| | <u>Liz</u> helped <u>me</u> ○ to clear up the mess | _____ | object control |
| | | _____ | subject control |
| iv. | <u>Liz</u> asked <u>Pat</u> ○ to be allowed to leave | _____ | object control in the active constr. |
| | <u>Liz</u> asked <u>Pat</u> ○ to be photographed with the children | _____ | object control |

5 Classification of catenative verbs Class 2

- ***plain-complex, with raised object***
 - I expect to finish soon*
 - I expect you to finish soon*
 - *He was wished to come* (without passivation) -P

*claim (Tu), desire (Tm, F), expect (Tu), mean₁ (Tm, F),
profess (Tu), reckon, wish (-P, F)*

5 Classification of catenative verbs

Class 2

- ***for-complex***

- i. *He longed to return home*
- ii. *He longed for her to return home*
- iii. *He longed for her dismissal*

ache, agree (Px), aim (Px), apply, arrange (Px, Tw), be dying, burn, burst, can afford (N), care, clamour, hope (Px, Tw), itch, long, opt, pine, say (Ts, Ns), wait, yearn

- ***oblique complex***

- i. *He signalled to stand up*
- ii. *He signalled to us to stand up*

5 Classification of catenative verbs Class 2

b. to-infinitival or gerund-participial

- ***both forms can be simple or complex, genitive allowed***

i. I'd hate to see it

ii. I'd hate you to see it

iii. I hate wasting time

iv. I hate his/him wasting time

genitive is restricted to
formal style

*can bear (N), can stand (N), hate, like (PP), loathe, love,
prefer (T)*

also takes finite
complementes

takes past participial

occurs predominantly
in non-affirmatives

5 Classification of catenative verbs Class 2

- **simple or complex infinitival or gerund form, no genitive**

i. *I need to read it*

ii. *I need you to read it*

iii. *My hair needs cutting*

iv. *I need my hair cutting*

deserve (?F), need₂, require, want₁

gerunds are concealed
passives

- **to-infinitival simplex or complex, gerund-participial restricted**

i. *I intend to tell /telling her*

ii. *I intended him to hear me*

intend (Px, Tm, F), plan (Px, Tm, F), want₂ (-P, PP)

gerund participle only in the simple
construction (*intend, plan*)

gerund participial only in the
complex construction (*want*)

5 Classification of catenative verbs

Class 2

- ***to-infinitival plain-complex, gerund-participial simple***

i. *He admits it to have been a mistake*

ii. *He admits breaking it*

acknowledge (Tu), admit (Tu), cofess (Tu), deny (Tu)

raised object

unmodalized
that-clause

- ***to-infinitival plain-complex, gerund-participial simple or complex***

i. *I remember him to be irascible*

ii. *I remember telling you*

iii. *I remember his/him telling you*

advise (Ns, Tm), encourage (Ns), forget (Tu, -P), recollect (Tu, -P), recommend (Ns, Tm), remember₂ (Tu), report (Tu, PP)

5 Classification of catenative verbs

Class 2

c. **gerund-participial only**

- **simple construction with subject control**

i. *You risk being arrested*

ii. *I won't risk them/their seing us together*

anticipate, appreciate, celebrate, delay, describe, detest, discuss, enjoy, envisage, fancy, foresee, imagine, mention, mind (N), miss, put off, recall, regret₂, resent, risk, tolerate, welcome

- **simple construction with no syntactic control**

i. *It will mean getting up earlier*

ii. *It will mean you/your getting up earlier*

advocate, deplore (PG), deprecate, discourage(PG), facilitate, include, involve (-PG), justify, mean (-PG)

gerund as subject

5 Classification of catenative verbs

Class 3

❖ Class 3: catenative verbs only in the complex construction

a. *infinitival but not gerund-participial*

- ***plain-complex with ordinary object***

i. *She urged me to go*

appoint, assist, beckon, challenge, command, design, direct, entitle, forbid, instruct, remind, stimulate, thank, trust, ...

- ***plain-complex with raised object***

i. *I assumed there to be a mistake in the instructions*

accept, affirm, allege, fear₂, find₁, reveal, understand₂, ...

allow, cause, enable, permit, ...

- ***oblique-complex***

i. *Kim appealed to them to release the hostages*

appeal (to), bank (on), count (on), depend (on), keep on₂ (at), rely (on)

5 Classification of catenative verbs Class 3

b. infinitival, gerund-participial, or past-participial

- ***no matrix passivation***

i. I got them to talk/talking

ii. I got my car repaired

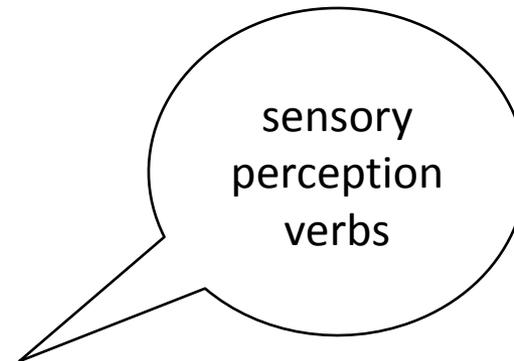
get₄, have₃ (B)

- ***matrix passive allowed***

i. I heard them arrive/arriving

ii. I heard the window broken

*feel (Tu, [B]), hear (Tu, [B]), notice (Tu, B), observe (Tu, [B]),
overhear ([B]), see₁ (Tu, [B]), watch (B)*



5 Classification of catenative verbs Class 3

- **primary meaning (perception):** *experiencer - stimulus*

- i. *We saw Kim leave the bank*

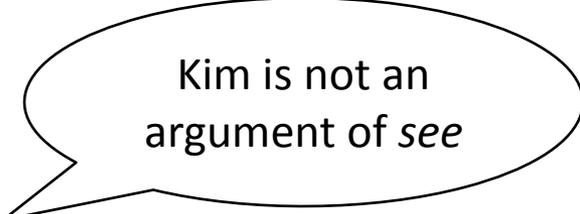
- *Kim was seen leave the bank*

- ii. *We saw Kim leaving the bank*

- Kim was seen leaving the bank*

- iii. *We saw Spurs beaten by United*

- ?Spurs were seen beaten by United*

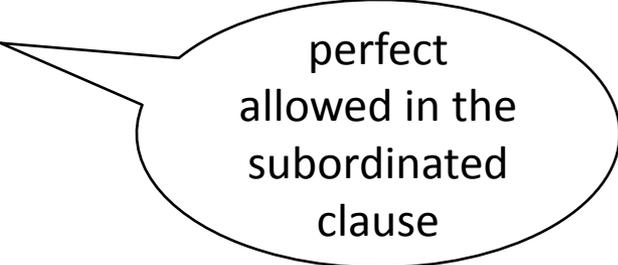


Kim is not an
argument of see

- **secondary meaning (cognition)**

- iv. *We saw him to be an impostor*

- He was seen to be an impostor*



perfect
allowed in the
subordinated
clause

5 Classification of catenative verbs

Class 3

c. *Gerund-participial only*

- ***genitive possible***

i. *They prevented us/speaking to her*

excuse (-P), forgive (-P), pardon (-P), prevent, prohibit (-P)

- ***no genitive***

i. *I caught them/*their smoking*

catch, discover₂, depict, envy (-P), find₂, keep, leave, picture, portray, see (-P), set, show, smell, start (-P)

5 Classification of catenative verbs

Summary

