

Name _____ Section _____

Homework 5: Syntax

Due Tuesday, Feb. 13

(1) Give a single VP phrase structure rule that correctly generates all of the following examples. 2 pts

a. went to the store

b. ate a hamburger

c. chewed slowly

d. quietly talked to the neighbor

e. ran

f. sang a song in the shower

VP => _____

(2) The following sentence is structurally ambiguous. *Briefly* paraphrase each meaning and draw two syntactic trees corresponding to the two distinct interpretations of the sentence. 6 pts.

The tourist touched the monkey with the banana.

- (3) a. Create a sentence that conforms precisely to the following phrase structure rules (i.e. none of the elements listed here are optional). 2 pts.

| | | | | | |
|----|----|---------------|----|----|---------|
| S | => | NP – Aux – VP | NP | => | Det – N |
| VP | => | V – NP – PP | PP | => | P-NP |

- b. Draw the syntactic tree for your sentence. 3 pts.
- (4) Draw the syntactic tree for the following sentence. 5 pts

The cats and dogs chased big birds and small squirrels.

(5) State whether the underlined elements in each sentence form a constituent or not. Provide one diagnostic to justify your answer. 4 pts.

a. John took the book to the library.

b. The cat is sleeping on the table in the hallway.

(6) Underline or circle a constituent in the bracketed VP of the sentence and show that question formation (“wh- movement”) supports its status as a constituent. 3 pts. (Hint: p. 207)

Joan will [take her old Honda to the shop]

(7) In the example sentence (a), the underlined constituent can be deleted in a following sentence, as in (b).

a. I will finish my homework by Friday!

b. I will ___ by Saturday!

Draw the syntactic tree for the sentence in (a), and circle the node that represents the constituent being deleted (use the back of this sheet). 5 pts. (Hint: p. 206)