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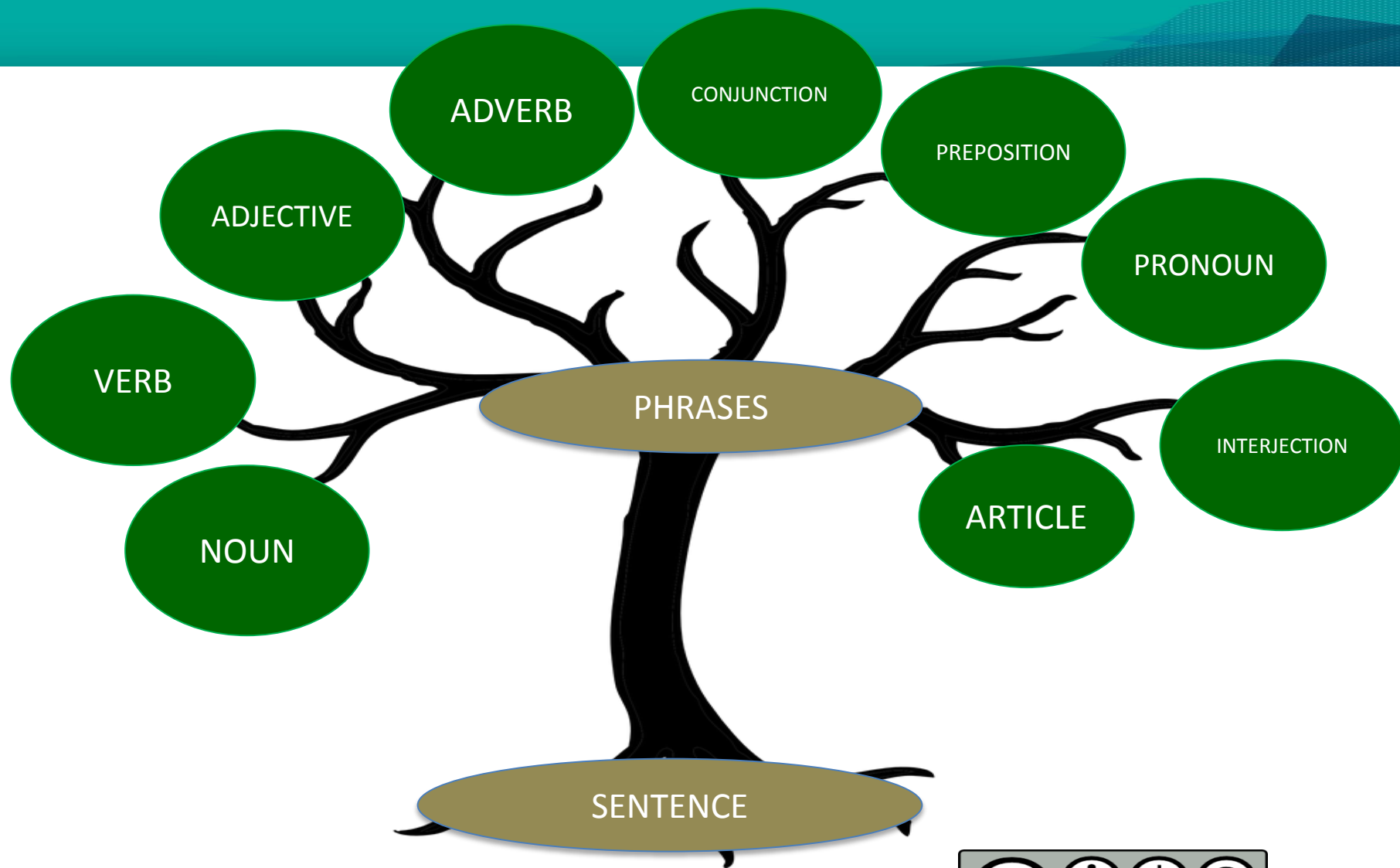
UHE3092 ENGLISH MECHANICS

TREE DIAGRAMS PART 2

by

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How to build a tree diagram

First, you have to know the basic structure of a sentence. Sentence is made of phrases and words. The rules that we use to build tree diagram is called Phrase Structure Rules. Below are the common phrases in a sentence.

1. $S \rightarrow \text{SUBJ PRED}$
2. $\text{SUBJ} \rightarrow \text{NP}$
3. **$\text{PRED} \rightarrow (\text{AUX}) \text{VP} (\text{NP})(\text{PP})$**
4. $\text{NP} \rightarrow (\text{det})^3 (\text{AP}) \text{N} (\text{PP})$
5. $\text{NP} \rightarrow \text{pro}$
7. **$\text{AUX} \rightarrow \text{-past}$**
8. **$\text{AUX} \rightarrow \text{-present}$**
9. **$\text{AUX} \rightarrow \text{modal}$**
10. $\text{PP} \rightarrow \text{Prep NP}$
11. $\text{AP} \rightarrow (\text{intens})^n \text{ADJ}^n (\text{PP})$



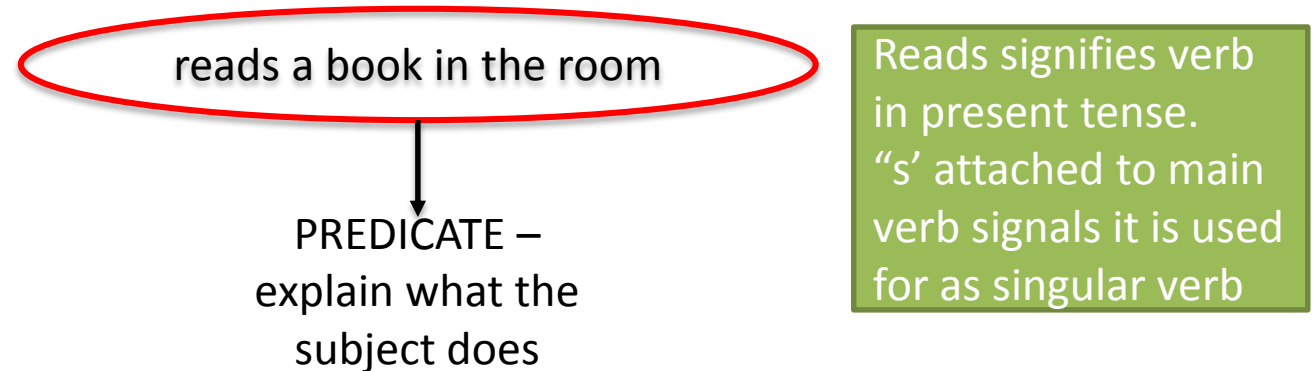
PRED → (AUX) VP (NP)(PP)

Predicate explains what the subject does.

In a predicate, you must have Verb Phrase.

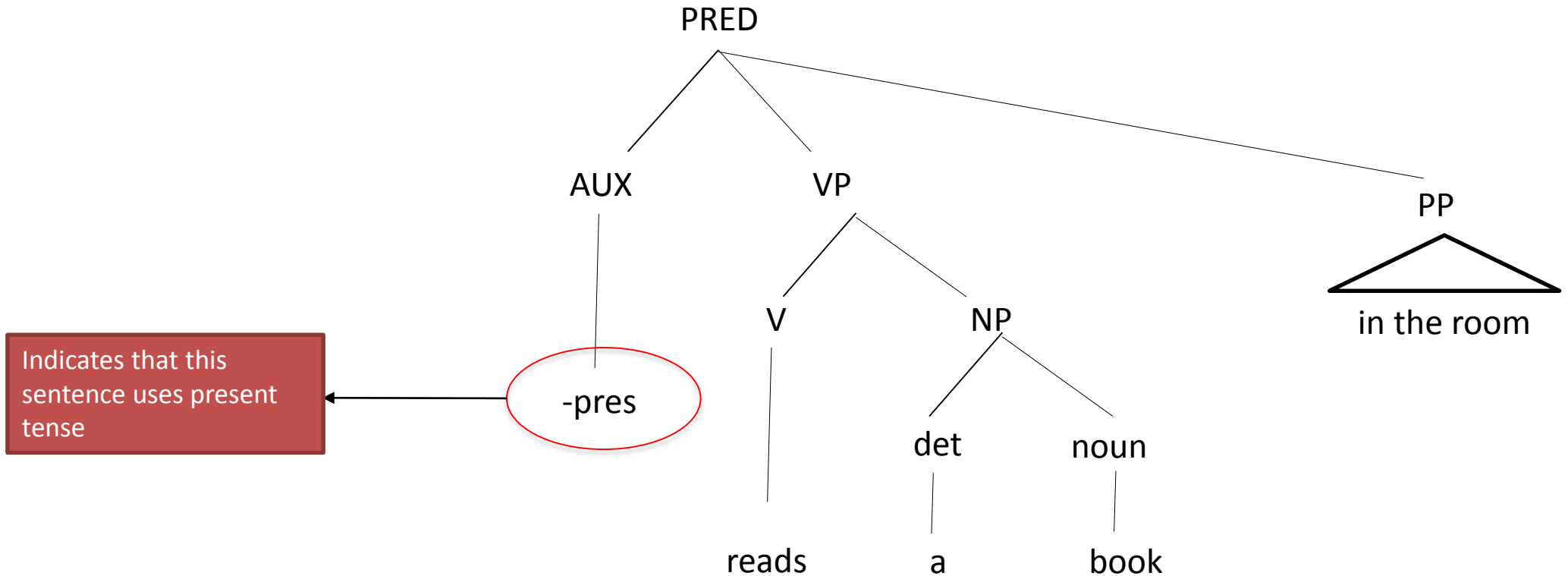
AUX means Auxiliary. It is a helping verb that signifies the tense aspects, modality, voices, imperative etc.

For example:



How to build PRED → (AUX) VP (NP)(PP) tree diagram?

Eg: reads a book in the room.



AUXILIARY

AUX → -past

AUX → -present

AUX → modal

- For auxiliary, it can be expanded to 4 aspects: simple, perfect tense, continuous tense and perfect continuous tense. For this slide, we only focus on the simple tense only.
- It is essential to indicate the tense before the verb. It shows the logic of building a phrase : tense before verb (since the verb formation is affected by the tense)

Why there is no future tense in the example above?

Because future tense does not have “inflection” that is dedicated specifically to the tense unlike present, “s” and past “ed”. The futurity is expressed in a form of modality.

More References

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<http://people.umass.edu/scable/LING201-SP13/Slides-Handouts/Syntactic-Trees.pdf>

