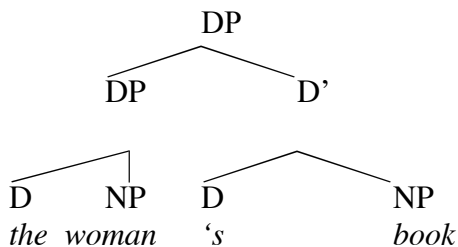


## Drawing Trees

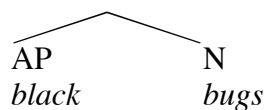
Here are some suggestions for drawing trees, put together from various syntax textbooks. These are suggestions for drawing the particular kind of tree we've been using in this class—that is, these are Bare Phrase Structure trees (and not, for example, X-bar trees, which is what textbooks are often teaching you to draw).

1. Write out the sentence, and label each word with the appropriate category (N, D, V, P, etc.)
2. Figure out which strings of words are noun phrases. Start with the smallest noun phrase you can find (if you're working on an English sentence, it often helps to start at the right edge and work your way backwards), and attach anything that belongs with the N to it. Remember that:

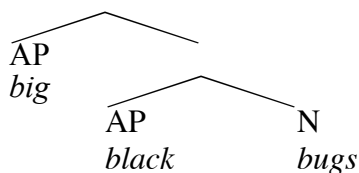
(i) if the N has a D, the D takes the rest of the NP as a sister and projects its own phrase, a DP, dominating the NP. If the N has a possessor (*the woman's book*), the possessor is another DP:



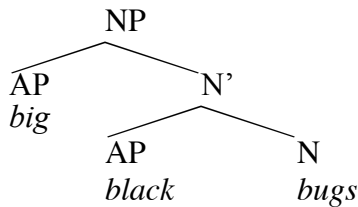
(ii) if there are APs or PPs that are part of the noun, start by putting the one that's closest to the N together with the N, to form a new node. If there's still an AP or PP left over, then put this new node together with another AP or PP, until you're done. So if you've got something like *big black bugs* to diagram, you'll start by putting together *black* and *bugs*:



Then take this new node you've made and put it together with *big*:



When you're done with a phrase, put the node labels on last. Give the highest node with a given label the label XP, and all the other nodes (except the head) the label X':



3. As you're constructing your DPs, you'll need to be constructing PPs too (since they sometimes modify NPs). Constructing them is easy; you just make the P and the DP sisters, and label the resulting node PP. The harder part is figuring out where they go; think about whether they're NP adjuncts or VP adjuncts.
4. Construct VP, more or less as we did NP.
5. Now you're ready to start putting the skeleton of the tree together. Give VP a sister *v*. This *v* will either have a specifier (if the verb is transitive or unergative) or not (if the verb is unaccusative or passive).
6. The sister of your *v*P will be a T. Sometimes T will fail to be visible in English, but it's there, anyway; popular free-standing T's in English include *will* and *to* (as in *I want to be a syntactician*).
7. In the specifier of TP there will be...something, courtesy of the EPP, which requires that there be something here. This specifier might be the subject, which has raised from the specifier of *v*P or the complement of VP, depending—or it might be an expletive, inserted here just to satisfy EPP.
8. Finally, TP may have a sister C (in fact, we'll see eventually that it probably always does have a sister C, which we can't always see in English). In embedded clauses in English, words like *whether* and the *that* in *I think that syntax professors should be better paid* are instances of C (confusingly, English also has a D *that*, as in *I greatly admire that syntactician*). C and its sister TP Merge to form a node which you can (and should) label CP.