

Today's topic:

- **Syntactic change:
Grammaticalization**

Lexical / grammatical words

- Two classes of *word* in syntax
 - lexical word
 - grammatical word
(also called function word)
- Note that there can also be intermediate cases, especially if there is a diachronic change in progress

Lexical / grammatical words – examples

- Which category would you put these English words in?

book

running

the

deception

must [aux verb]

going

gonna [spelled *going to*]

Lexical / grammatical words – categories

- lexical word:
 - noun
 - verb
 - adjective
- grammatical word (also called function word):
 - preposition/postposition (*contra* LING 101)
 - determiner
 - auxiliary verb
 - complementizer
 - conjunction

Lexical / grammatical words – meanings

- Lexical words tend to have real-world meanings (abstract or concrete)
 - Grammatical words tend to have “grammatical” meanings
 - Grammatical (function) words tend to show relationships between lexical words, and other kinds of information about the sentence as a whole
- Which type of affix, *inflectional* or *derivational*, also has “grammatical” meaning?

Grammaticalization

- **grammaticalization** =
becoming *more grammatical*
- What are the steps in this process?

Grammaticalization

- **grammaticalization** = becoming *more grammatical*
- Steps in a grammaticalization chain
 - lexical word > grammatical word
 - grammatical word > clitic (bound element)
 - clitic > affix (bound morpheme)
- Does de-grammaticalization (also called **lexicalization**) ever happen? How frequently?

Grammaticalization: Examples

- What has happened in the case of the English construction *going to*?
 - Discussed in part in the reading
 - Taking it further: What has happened in some Southern varieties of American English?
- Discussion of examples on data handout assigned for today's class