Applying the X-bar schema to Japanese

(1)   Japanese phrases have the following word order:

(a) Direct object + verb   NP V   susi-o   tabe-ta

sushi-ACC   eat-PAST   'ate sushi'

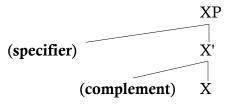(b) Object + postposition   NP P   uti de

home at   'at home'

(c) Postpositional phrase + verb   PP V   [PP uti de]   tabe-ta   'ate at home'

home at   *eat-PAST*

(d) Embedded clause + verb   CP V   [CP Aya-ga susi-o tabe-ta to] omo-u

sushi-ACC eat-PAST C think-NPST
'thinks that Aya ate sushi'

• Conclusion: Japanese is a **head-final** language

(2)   X-bar phrase structure for Japanese

XP

(**specifier**)   X'   • repeat X' level if **modifier** is needed

(**complement**)   X

(3)   Hints, tricks, and reminders — Points to keep in mind while drawing sentence trees

(a) How do the **subject** and the **predicate** fit into a sentence?

(b) What structure does a **direct object** take?

(c) What structure does the **object of a postposition** take?

(d) What is the structure of an **embedded sentence**?