

- **Movement, part 2:**
***Wh* Movement**

Background reading:

- CL Ch 5, §3, “Move”
- CL Ch 5, Appendix section on “Using Move”

1. Review and context for this discussion

- What do we do when we find sentences for which our model is making the **wrong prediction**?
 - Add or change some aspect of our model in order to make the predictions better
- So far, our syntax model (for English) contains:
 - the **X' schema** (how to combine words into phrases)
 - the **modifier structure** (for 'extra' phrases)
 - **complement options** (chosen by specific heads)
 - the **movement rule Inversion** (moves T to C)

2. Extending our model of syntax again

- Is it surprising that this sentence is **grammatical**?

(1) *What might the puppy devour?*

- Why is the auxiliary *might* on the **left** side of the subject NP? | **Inversion has applied**
- Why is there **no** NP complement in the VP as required by *devour*?
- What is the **position** of *what*?

3. *Wh* questions

- ***Wh* question** is the technical term in linguistics for questions containing a question word such as *what, who, where, when, which, how*
 - *Wh* questions are sometimes also called **information questions**
- Our sentence is an example of a *wh* question:
 - (1) *What might the puppy devour?*
 - How can we use the idea of **movement** to explain why this sentence is grammatical?

3. *Wh* questions

(1) *What might the puppy devour?*

- The position of the auxiliary *might* can be explained by Inversion, just as for yes-no questions

What might the puppy t devour ?

- But we still have to explain...
 - Where is the NP complement of *devour*?
 - What is the *what*, and what position is it in?

3. *Wh* questions

(1) *What might the puppy t devour ?*

- Notice what happens if we answer this question:
the *answer to what* **is** the *NP complement of devour*

The puppy might devour the zucchini.

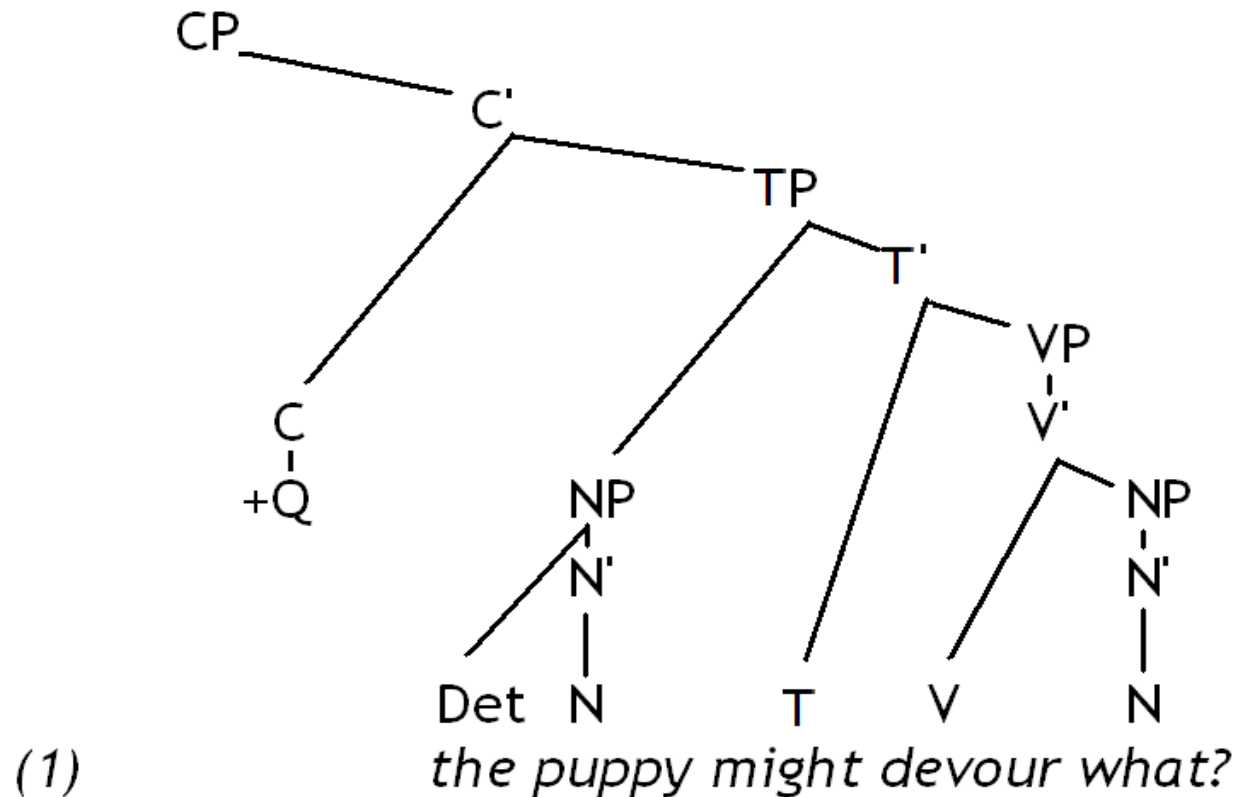
- Proposal: The question word *what* **is** itself actually the NP complement of *devour* in the deep structure
 - Its position at the beginning of the sentence is the result of another movement rule

What might the puppy t devour t ?

3. *Wh* questions

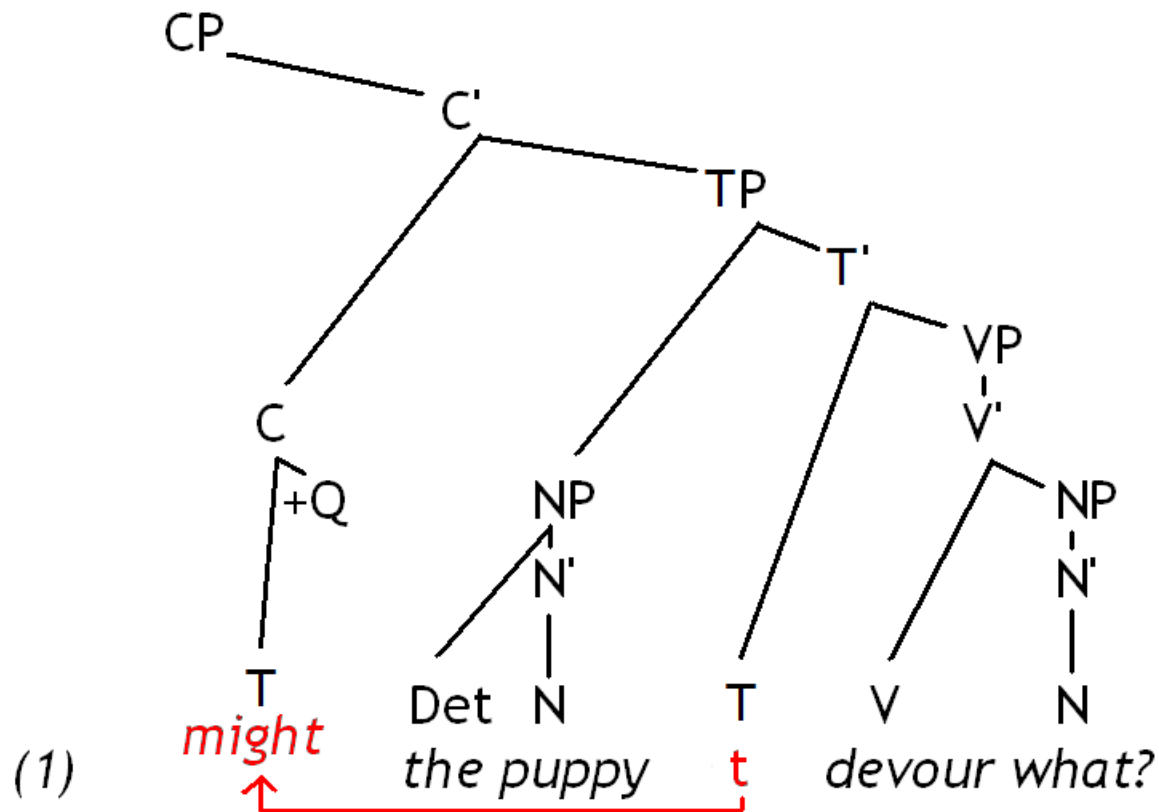
(1) *What might the puppy t devour t?*

- Deep structure:



3. *Wh* questions

- Inversion rule applies to *might*:



- What* needs to move, too — **where can it land?**

3. *Wh* questions

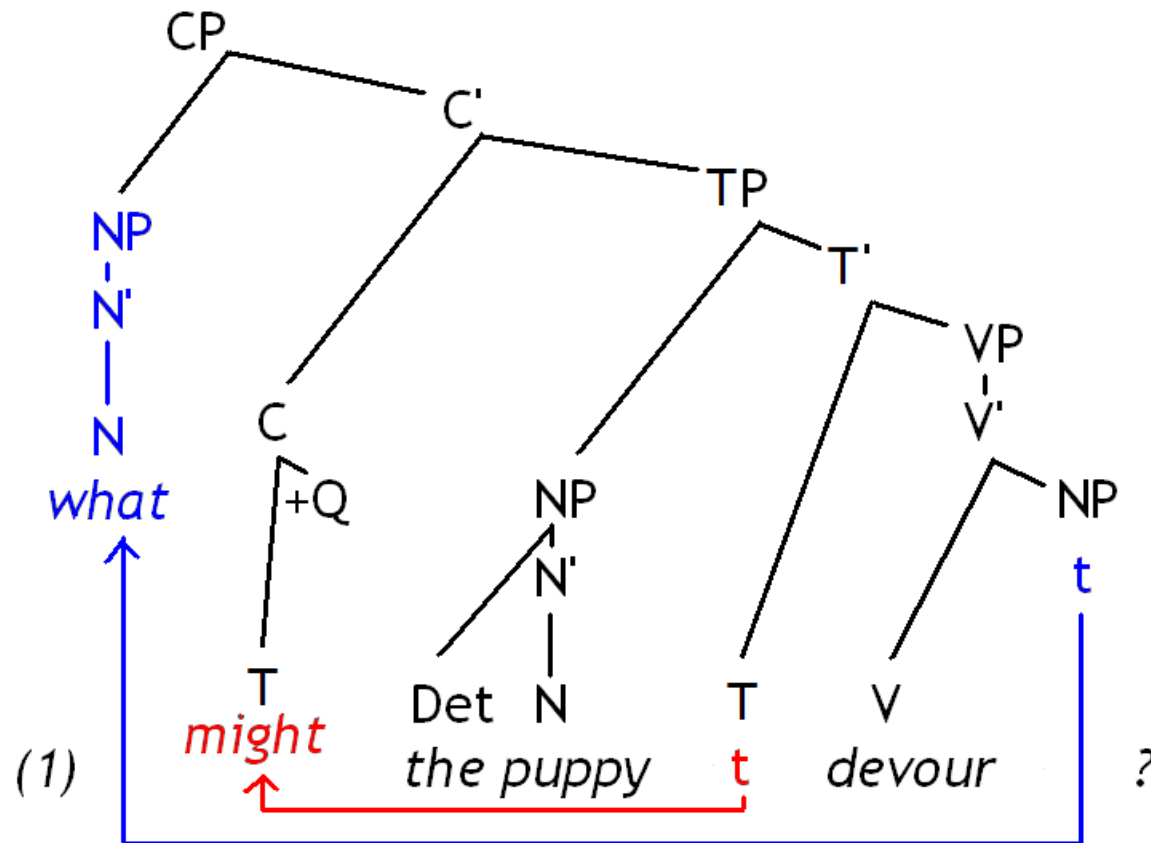
- ***Wh* Movement** — another movement rule that exists in English (applies in some other languages also)

Move a *wh* phrase to the **specifier position under CP** (see CL, p 188)

- A ***wh* phrase** is a (smallest) phrase containing a *wh* word
- Remember: About movement rules
 - A moved element leaves a trace
 - Movement rules do not change the structure of the rest of the sentence

3. *Wh* questions

- The final tree, for our sentence's **surface structure**



- *might* has **moved to C** by Inversion
- *what* has **moved to spec of CP** by *Wh* Movement

4. Progress report

(1) *What might the puppy devour?*

- Why is the auxiliary *might* on the **left** side of the subject NP? | Inversion has applied

- Why is there **no** NP complement in the VP as required by *devour*?

- What is the **position** of *what*?

| The *wh* phrase is the complement

| *Wh* Movement has moved it to the specifier of CP

- Next: How can we form questions from sentences that have no auxiliary like *will*?