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Linguistics 120B

MIDTERM EXAM

November 6, 2017

THIS EXAM IS NOT TO BE ARCHIVED IN ANY TEST BANK

There are 69 points in seven questions, plus a 6-point bonus question, totaling 9 pages. Question 7 is worth more points than any of the other questions.

The last page, which you may tear off, contains the summary of English phrase structure rules.

1. (9 points) The following sentences each contain an underlined made-up word. State its syntactic category (part of speech). (You do NOT need to justify your answer.)

- a) Grace loves to cycle ^{and} ter skate along the beach. conjunction
- b) They ^{might} ugroz often eat cold baked beans. complementizer
- c) ^{that the} Fasm issue might hold up the festivities. determiner
- d) Debbie packed three quite ^{pretty} ppruz skirts. adjective
- e) Some gerbils can ^{fly} klidrel. verb
- f) Jake suddenly and ^{suddenly} nirpoolp took our cash. adverb
- g) Less ^{water} lurrgg will need to be collected. noun
- h) You must be certain ^{that} niwki we are sleeping. complementizer
- i) Every cat pounced right ^{at} chrut a squirrel. preposition

1	8
2	1
3	6
4	3
5	9
6	10
7	17
8	0
Total	54

2. (6 points) Explain why it is surprising, from the perspective of our theory, that each of the following sentences is grammatical (for some speakers). Identify relevant (sequences of) words in your answer.

a) The shuttle crew might be lost and in grave danger.

It's surprising that this sentence is grammatical despite not having any verb since X-bar predicts a VP complement (sister to the T head of a TP).

b) Someone stole John's and Mary's wallets.

It's surprising that we allow coordination of possessives that share the same NP complement (as opposed to John's wallet and Mary's wallet), even though we don't know if they share the same wallets or each have their own wallet(s).