American English Grammar
Assignment, Week 4

Please complete the readings listed on the syllabus (Fasold, Ch. 3, and Crystal, Chs. 7-10).

Fasold’s chapter 3 (by David Lightfoot and Fasold) is quite difficult reading, and it presents tree structures in terms of the latest development in linguistic theory (using terms like DP (‘Determiner Phrase’) that are hard to make sense of when you first run into them. As with earlier chapters, but especially here, you do not need to be able to draw the tree structures that are presented; but do try to follow the process that Lightfoot and Fasold present for building the trees.

Of course, if you are teaching middle or high school students, you could have them break sentences down into their parts, without using these technical labels. In fact, we do want to get that very basic idea down—so before doing any other work, please divide the sentences given here into what you think of as their component parts; use a double slash for the division between subject and predicate, and a single slash to separate the elements within the verb phrase (do not worry about the sub-parts within the long, complex noun phrases). Then underline the head of each noun phrase in the sentence (I’ve done one for you):

1. The **electrician** from Boston is installing the new modern **wiring** that we ordered last week.

2. My older **sister** bought the **house** on the corner of Philadelphia Street.

3. Peter forgot to put the **cheese** in the refrigerator last night after dinner.

4. My friend looked up the answer for me.

5. Ellen rushed out the door when she heard the noise.

Then, once you have read the chapter, try writing answers for the following exercises:

Exercise 3.5

b. adjunction: that yellow, juicy **overripe**

c. embedding: that ... that I don’t...

d. embedded: that ... who ...

e. nonadjunction ...

Exercise 3.8

f: “That... who... that... that... over coordination

adjunction: wise old, dishonest

Exercise 3.9

Exercise 3.12

3. a. new graduate

b. A

c. Jane

d. B

e. ? Jane

f. ? C