

Splitting Noun Phrases

We often encounter one noun phrase running into another, usually as the result of an implied relative pronoun.

He invested money in an infrastructure trust finance people recommended.

We can allocate “an infrastructure” to the prepositional noun phrase, and “people” to the relative pronoun clause, which leaves us with “trust” and “finance” to allocate.

ToInvest has a person investing money in company, and a trust is a form of company, and infrastructure trust is a form of trust, so that should allow trust to be added to the prepositional noun phrase. You could invest money in finance, but “trust finance” is unknown, whereas people work in finance, so there can be “finance people”. The noun phrase is split, and an implied relative pronoun inserted, to give

He invested money in an infrastructure trust ImpliedRelativePronoun finance people recommended.

The verb phrases can follow the splittable noun phrase, as

The infrastructure trust finance people recommended was sold.

Sometimes the noun phrase appears splittable, but there are no other verb phrases, so it is one long phrase.

The Enron finance costs in the last year were very high.

If we suppress the preposition, we get

The Enron finance costs were very high.

“costs” goes with the plural form of the verb ToBe, and costs can be high or low. “Finance” can be high as well, but it is not plural.

Suppression

We can “suppress” some of the details of a sentence so we can more easily see its structure. This means that when we look for the next or previous symbol, we find the suppressed symbol, ignore it, and look for the next one.

We can also temporarily “reinforce” a symbol. If we have semicolons within a sentence acting as boundaries, we can make them temporarily appear as BeginSentence and EndSentence, so no other symbols are found. This would provide a bound for CHECKLEFT and CHECKRIGHT.

Suppression and reinforcement provide a simple means of hypothesising, and allow the existing grammar patterns to have a wider range of application.