8.2: X-bar Phrase Structure

X-bar theory makes the simple proposal that every phrase in every sentence in every language is organized the same way. Every phrase has a head, and each phrase might contain other phrases in the complement or specifier position.

How a phrase is organized

A YouTube element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here: https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/essentialsoflinguistics/?p=150

Check Yourself

1. In this tree diagram, what position does the DP *my coffee* occupy?
2. In this tree diagram, what position does the D *my* occupy?

3. In this tree diagram, what position does the NP *Hamilton* occupy?
• Complement.

Answers