1. **<u>Syntax:</u>**
- Syntax is the study of sentences and their formations/structures.
- Words are not the minimal units in language and they have complex structures that follow rules.

2. **<u>Generative/Transformational Grammar:</u>**
- Initiated by Noam Chomsky in his 1957 book Syntactic Structures.
- A leading idea is the concept of **Universal Grammar (UG)**.
- UG states that the system of categories, operations, and principles that are shared by all languages. Despite the numerous superficial differences, all languages share common aspects of sentence formation.

3. **<u>The Syntactic Component:</u>**
   The Lexicon:
   It is a mental dictionary that provides a list of the language's words, as well as information about their pronunciation, their category and their meaning.
   The Computational System:
   There are 2 main structure-building operations:
   1. **Merge:** This combines elements to create phrases and sentences.
   2. **Move:** This changes the position of an element within a particular structure.

4. **<u>Sentences:</u>**
- Sentences are not just made up of words, but rather, they have an internal, complex structure which they must follow.
- To form a sentence, words must conform to specific patterns determined by the syntactic rules of the language.
- Sentences are combinations of phrases.
- Every sentence is a sequence of words, but not every sequence of words is a sentence.
- Sentences can be ambiguous.
- **Well-Formed/Grammatical Sentences** are sentences that follow the standard rules of English. I.e. They follow the rules of syntax.
- **Ill-Formed/Ungrammatical Sentences** are sentences that don't follow the standard rules of English. I.e. They don't follow the rules of syntax.
- A sentence can be both grammatical and meaningless.
- Grammaticality is not based on meaning, on the truth of the sentences or on the topic discussed:

5. **<u>Syntactic Knowledge:</u>**
- As a native speaker, you should be able to use your syntactic knowledge to:
   1. Construct sentences.
   2. Recognize ambiguous sentences and state all possible meanings the sentence.
      I.e. **Disambiguate** sentences that have more than 1 meaning.
   3. Give information about related sentences.
   4. Reveal the following information:
      - Word order
      - Grammatical Relation (Subject, Direct Object, Indirect Object, etc)

6. **Lexical Categories (Open Class Categories):**
- Express content and allow new words to be added into this category.
- Noun (N)
- Verb (V)
- Adjective (Adj)
- Preposition (P)
- Adverb (Adv)
- **Morphological evidence/Morphological distribution:** This looks at the affixes attached to the word.
- **Syntactic evidence/Distributional definition:** This looks at what comes before and after the word.
- I have put a table of derivational affixes on my website that can be used to determine morphological evidences. I only put syntactic evidences on here.
- Note: Preposition is the only category that does not have morphological evidence.

7. **Nouns (N):**
- Pronouns can replace nouns (They, He, She, I, Me, We).
- Preceded by determiners, prepositions or adjectives.
- Modified by adjectives.
- Is the subject or object of the sentence.

8. **(Main) Verbs (V):**
- Preceded by auxiliaries or the subject.

9. **Adjectives (Adj):**
- Preceded by degree words.
- Followed by and modifies nouns.

10. **Adverbs (Adv):**
- Modify verbs.
- Preceded by degree words.

11. **Preposition (P):**
- E.g. To, Of, In, On, For, During, After, Before, Across, Between, At, Under, Behind
- Followed by and connects nouns to the rest of the sentence.
- Preceded by adjectives.

12. **Functional Categories (Closed Class Categories):**
- Express function or grammatical information.
- This group is fixed with very limited members.
- Determiners (Det)
- Degree Words/Degree Adverbs (Deg)
- Auxiliary Words/Auxiliary Verbs (Aux)

13. **Determiners:**
- Followed by nouns.
- **Articles:** A, An, The
- **Possessive (Show possession):** My, Your, His, Her, Its, Our, Their
- **Demonstratives:** This, That, These, Those
- **Quantifiers (Show amount):** Some, Much, Several, Little, Many, Few
- **Numbers:** Two books, four pencils, etc

14. **Auxiliary/Helping Verbs:**
- **Modal Auxiliary:** Can, Could, Should, Shall, May, Might, Will, Must
- **Regular Auxiliary:** Be, Am, Is, Are, Was, Were, Have, Had, Has, Do, Did, Does
- Followed by main verbs.
- If a helping verb is the only verbs in the sentence, then it is treated as a main verb.
- E.g. He had breakfast already.
- There can be more than 1 auxiliary verb in a sentence.

15. **Degree Words/Degree Adverbs:**
- Followed by adjectives and adverbs and shows the amount of the quality of the adjective or adverb. (Intensifier)
- E.g. so, really, extremely, more, very, extra.

16. **Differences Between Lexical and Functional Categories:**
- The reason for this categorization is due to three qualities:

    1. **Inventory** refers to the number of items in each category.

    Lexical: Unlimited

    Functional: Limited

    2. **Productivity** refers to the possibility of creating new items.

    Lexical: New words are almost always part of the lexical category.

    Functional: New words are almost always never part of the functional category.

    3. **Semantics** refers to the meaning behind the words/items.

    Lexical: Carries a lot of meaning.

    Functional: Carries little or no meaning.