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### English 270: Textbook section / Paper #3: Finishing up the textbook

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### **Textbook section / Paper #3: Finishing up the textbook**

Our third paper assignment will follow the first two in attempting to fill in missing portions of the textbook, “Collaborative Textbook on English Syntax” at <https://yorksyntax.commons.gc.cuny.edu>. This time, we’ll be concentrating on Chapters 9 and 10, on subordinate clauses and movement/deletion. Again, your task is to research and write a missing section of the textbook, about 800-1200 words. This time, we’ll start with the draft—I’ll give you the general format—of a particular section on a particular topic of your choosing, I’ll give you comments, and you’ll revise it and submit a final draft, just like a regular paper. Then, I’ll select portions of these to add to the textbook on the Commons site, so that students in the future can use them.

#### **Guidelines:**

There are six missing sections you can choose for this assignment, and you should choose one:

- 1) Chapter 9, Section “**Subordinate Clauses**”
  - ➔ Covers subordinate clauses in general, introduces their different types and forms, differences from main clauses, and includes relative & non-finite clauses briefly (these will be their own sections)
- 2) Chapter 9, Section “**Relative Clauses**”
  - ➔ Discusses relative clauses (a type of subordinate clause), how they’re used, how they act as modifiers to nouns in the NP, and what their specific features are.
- 3) Chapter 9, Section “**Non-Finite Clauses**”
  - ➔ Provides an alternate approach to some of the Aux constructions we’ve seen, and looks at how we deal with ‘to V’ constructions like, “Jacob wants to write an essay”, where “to write an essay” is a non-finite clause
- 4) Chapter 10, Section “**Subject-Aux Inversion**”
  - ➔ Discusses Subject-Aux inversion, a type of movement, including when it happens (yes/no questions and other instances), and do-support.
- 5) Chapter 10, Section “**Wh-Movement**”
  - ➔ Discusses Wh-movement (how question words move to the front of the sentence after being generated later on in the sentence). Also discusses how we deal with categories or parts of speech for question words.
- 6) Chapter 10, Section “**Fronting and Deletion**”
  - ➔ Covers the two simpler types of movement/deletion; this includes the fronting of adjuncts from the VP and other elements in the sentence, deletion, and gapping.

This time, I’m providing you with some suggested references, which are mostly reference books and textbooks (so, you’ll find the book and then do some searching around for the information you need). You will need 4-6 references overall, and at least two of those



should be references you find on your own. Note that these references are to help you find the source in the York College Library, where all of these books are available online (with CUNY login)

**For all sections** (all available online through the York College Library—tutorial in 10/7 class):

- Aarts et al. 2014, *The Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar*
- van Gelderen, 2010, *An Introduction to the Grammar of English*
- Denham & Lobeck 2013, *Navigating English Grammar – A Guide to Analyzing Real Language*
- Brinton & Brinton, *The Linguistic Structure of Modern English*
- *The Internet Grammar of English* <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/internet-grammar/>
- Aarts & McMahon, *The Handbook of English Linguistics*

Finally, I will be putting a few chapters of Huddleston & Pullum’s “A Student’s Grammar of the English Language” on the Blackboard site, and highly recommend it as a source for this paper.

**What the section should look like:** There should be a brief introduction introducing the topic of your section, and you should divide your topic into subsections. The information should be geared toward students like you. The key here is to do your research, and source your information. Think about how textbooks are written, and why they are written that way—try to make sure you give a solid overview of a topic, without getting lost in the details. You’ll need 4-6 sources, so get on that sooner rather than later—finding good quality sources to draw on is going to be a large portion of the work here.

**A note on plagiarism:** Textbooks use other people’s ideas, but not their direct words (unless they’re directly quoting, and this is *\*very rare\**) This will be an exercise in paraphrasing other sources (i.e., putting that source’s idea in your own words—not just changing a few words), and even better, reading and building your own understanding of a topic and summarizing the knowledge you’ve gained from multiple sources (rather than summarizing a particular source). Do not plagiarize on this assignment—see the syllabus for details and links about plagiarism, and please feel free to ask me if something would be plagiarism.

**What about Wikipedia?** Wikipedia’s a great place to build a general understanding of a topic, and I would even suggest you start learning about your topic there (with, e.g., the page on “Phonology of English”). It’s going to be way too much detail, though, and you should not use sentences or phrases that come directly from the Wikipedia article (or any other source! That’s plagiarism!). One of the best things about Wikipedia, though, is that it will point you to other sources, and that’s definitely one way to find new sources. Don’t forget about library resources as well.

**What about other textbooks?** That’s a great way to get an idea of the sorts of things you should cover. But again, there’s a line between inspiration and copying—your sections and text should come from your own understanding of the topic, rather than from some other textbook.



### **Details on what's due and when:**

NOTE: This time, because of the limited time remaining in the semester, we will skip the proposal/outline and proceed with a full rough draft as the first thing you turn in.

- A) Draft, due Wednesday, 12/2, 11:59 PM on Blackboard:** This should be a **full draft** of your section, with sources cited in-text and at the end in MLA format.
- B) Final, due Wednesday, 12.16, 11:59 PM on Blackboard (NO EXTENSIONS):** This is the final draft of your section, and it will be graded and considered (in part or in whole) for inclusion in the textbook. *On the final draft, please indicate whether you would like to be credited by your name, an alias or 'nom de plume', or whether you would like your contributions to remain anonymous, if your work ends up in the textbook for future semesters.*

Format: Submit your work as a .doc or .docx file if possible; 12 pt. Times font, double-spaced, 1 inch margins.

