

Summary: Finding the Main Form Phrase In an English Sentence

1. The **comma** marks the main break between two parts of a sentence; and a left-right form phrase (a conjunction or disjunction phrase) will fall at that main break.

Example:

(4) Either we'll have truffles,[|] **or** we'll have grog and we'll have grappa._|

(4F) $(P \vee (Q \wedge R))$

(5) Either we'll have truffles or we'll have grog,[|] **and** we'll have grappa._|

(5F) $((P \vee Q) \wedge R)$

2. “Either” and “both” act as left parentheses, marking the left edge of an “either... or” or “both... and”.

Example:

(6) **Either** we're **not** having truffles or we're having grog (6F) $(\sim P \vee Q)$

(7) We're **not** having **either** truffles or grog (7F) $\sim(P \vee Q)$

3. If **inversion** moves a left-right form phrase to the front of the sentence, that moved phrase is typically the **main form phrase** of the sentence.

Example:

(11) **Unless** she's tired Neko will eat fish and work on her inventions.

(11F) $(U \vee (V \wedge W))$

4. In cases of **deleted repetition**, if the repeated word(s) appear on the left they act as a left parenthesis; so a negation phrase added to those repeated word(s) acts as if it's outside those parentheses.

Example:

(13) **Suki's not** [going to law school and ~~Suki's~~ writing a novel.

(13F) $\sim(R \wedge S)$

(14) **Suki's not** going to law school and **she's** writing a novel.

(14F) $(\sim R \wedge S)$