CATEGORIES OF WORDS
(BESE Ch. 1 pp. 1-47, functionally underspecified categories not discussed this semester)

Noun *vs.* verb: how to distinguish them?
The defining character of environment (= **distribution**):

(1)   a. the *weathers* in Europe and Australasia differ greatly
          b. heavy rain *weathers* concrete

Notional *vs.* grammatical words = **thematic/lexical (-F)** *vs.* **functional/grammatical (+F)**
words/categories/classes Classification by means of *binary features* – 3 features define 8
classes (plus 4 more by underspecification for the cases not covered, see BESE).

[-N, +V]	[-F, -N, +V] = V – Verbs	[+F, -N, +V] = Inflections: Modals, *-ed*, *-s*/Ø, infinitival *to*
[+N, -V]	[-F, +N, -V] = N – Nouns	[+F, +N, -V] = Determiners: *the, a/an, every, this, 's*
[+N, +V]	[-F, +N, +V] = A – Adjectives/Adverbs	[+F, +N, +V] = Degree Adverbs: *so, too, as*
[-N, -V]	[-F, -N, -V] = P – Prepositions	[+F, -N, -V] = Complementisers: *that, if, for*

NOMINAL EXPRESSIONS AS DPs
(BESE Ch. 4: The DP hypothesis, pp. 129-143, multiple determiners not discussed)
functional and lexical categories

Language acquisition: lexical categories (e.g. noun) appear first, functional categories (e.g.
determiner) are acquired later

It is the determiner that selects the nominal expression, and not vice versa.

(2)   a.   in the corner, there sat a man
          b.   * in the corner, there sat the man

(3)   a.   on Saturday there arrived some men
          b   * on Saturday there arrived the men
          c   on Saturday there arrived men
          d   * on Saturday there arrived John

Nominals modified by an overt determiner are DPs, bare nominals are DPs headed by a null
determiner: the null generic/existential determiner has much the same quantificational, person
and **complement-selection properties** as a typical overt determiner such as *enough: I've read
enough poetry/poems/*poem*) and pronouns occupy the determiner head position →
complementary distribution between pronouns and determiners (vs. proper nouns).

Substitution test: *this student, Peter, he, men* → are all of them DPs?
definite empty determiner: selects proper nouns
indefinite empty determiner: selects plural nouns

1. determiners with no complement: *he* (but: *you students*)
2. determiners with obligatory complement: *the*
3. determiners with optional complement: *this*
selectional restrictions on number