

Imperative structures

- In imperative structures (hence Imp) there is no NP before the verb.
- While structuralists propose that the elliptical (deleted) element in the imperative structure is **You** as in the following example:

Open the door (You open the door)

Chomsky believes that such elliptical element is:

Open the door (You will open the door)

Supporting this by resolving to tag questions:

Open the door (Won't you?) rather than (Don't you)

These examples show that in the deep structure the NP is **You**, the tense is **present** and the first auxiliary is **will**.

Imp you will open the door

Imp NP+present+M+V+NP

Deletion of "You will" → Present+V+NP

Result → **Open the door**

Imp not you will open the door

Imp not NP+present+M+V+NP

Deletion of "You will" → Not Present+V+NP

Rearrangement → present+not+V+NP

Addition of Do → present+Do+not+V+NP

Result → **Don't open the door**