

15 Oct
2014

The Scruffy Clan

Handout 9.5

I suppose you might think of a verb "to hair" and thus call this a participle, but Adjective is accurate enough.

1. The wild-haired cat sat unassumingly (with a worn look) next to a large concrete collection tank.)

"NEXT TO" is a double preposition

2. To all appearances, it was a calm, slightly wild feline, probably two or three generations feral.

S LV PN
PA

Infinitive phrase as Subject
[Inf O/I] LV INF phrase as SC.

Theoretically, "feral" could be described as modifying "feline".
SINGLE ("feline") is a PN that renames the subject, either analysis is sound.

3. To make such an assumption would be to fall into gross error.

4. This cat, sedate now, could make the hair rise on the back of your neck.)

S AV to
Pseudo subj of inf

Inf phrase as DO

Whether you want to include the definite article in the inf phrase is your call.

5. Streaking through the wild-lands of Stockton's mixed pine and oak forest moving lithely through the cedar bog, this matriarch of the Scruffy Clan asks observers to reexamine their ideas (of feline behavior.)

Participial phrase modifying the subject "matriarch"
part phrase modifying "forest"
AV pseudo subj Inf O/I

GERUND Phrase as subject

6. Thinking (of her) as a gentle, measured or relaxed cat misses the depth and breadth (of her character.)

7. For instance, she likes dancing (in the moonlight) by the banks of Cedick Stream (and often she can be found prancing around the old cedar stump beyond the footbridge.)

"She can be found prancing" is tricky. It has a passive voiced verb.
Turn it active and get this:
CAT Loving Students found her prancing.

8. Sitting queen-like by the stone pile (at the bottom of parking lot seven)

becomes her, and (with a demanding expression) she awaits feeding

brought by a gentleman (in shorts.)

"feeding brought by a gent in shorts" is GERUND as DO, "brought by a gent in shorts" is part phrase modifying "feeding".
"Becomes" is often intransitive and linking; here it is transitive.

9. Wearing a broken top hat (on festive occasions, this gentleman is

reputed to be a third cousin (of Dr. Doolittle) and certainly he can

communicate freely (with Scruffy Clan.)

Again, NOT DO -
NOTE PASSIVE VOICE,
I think Adverbial.

10. The queen, Dervorgilla (by name, makes the others hunt for her.)

Inf phrase as DO
to

"others" is pseudo subject
of "to hunt."

"close by" is operating jointly I think; it is adverbial.

part phrase mod. subj.

11. Reclining close by in the collection tank, one of her proven favorites

LV PN S AV S LV Inf phrase
is a smaller black cat [that watches] with eyes [which seem to hold] as PA

O/I
magic]]).

These two dependent clauses are both relative clauses

Part phrase w/ tense modifying subject

HAVING ARRIVED early at school today
I had the chance and opportunity to feed

Dervorgilla.

12. Blackie enjoys hunting

part
for small creeping rodents,

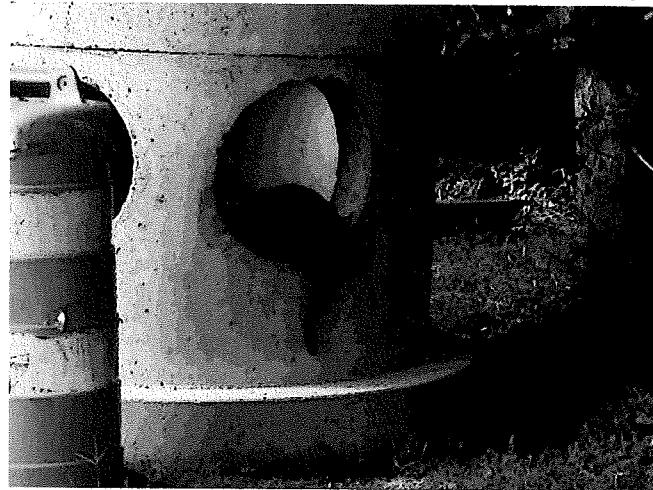
lurking (out of sight) and

O/G → Inf phrase
awaiting opportunities to

pounce delightedly on

OR JUST
Ad,?

unsuspecting critters.)



Inf is
Adjectival
I think.

An Alternative Analysis
describes the final two
verbal phrases as part
phrases modifying "Blackie."

Gen phrase as Subj

O/G ↑

13. Respecting the natural order means [that] man, mouse, and cat must

AV Inf as DO of "must learn"

learn to coexist]. ← This is a subordinate clause acting
as DO to "means."

Genitive phrase as subject

O/G

O/G

IO

14. Observing the Scruffies and their way of life may show us the

DO humanity residing quiescently within our souls.)

part phrase