

The preceding chapters have been concerned with constructions which consist of a head element, alone or accompanied by one or more dependents. In this chapter we turn to two types of **non-headed** construction, namely **coordination** and **supplementation**. Compare:

- [1] i I left the room *and* Pat followed me. [coordination]
 ii *The tourists* – most of them exhausted – got into the bus. [supplementation]

Construction [i] is non-headed because the two underlined constituents are of equal syntactic status: we cannot say that one is head and the other dependent. Construction [ii] is not so clearly distinct from a headed construction: the difference is that the underlined constituent is not tightly integrated into the syntactic structure. We treat it therefore as a supplement rather than as a dependent (such as we have in *The exhausted tourists got into the bus*). We look in detail at coordination in §§1–4, and then turn more briefly to supplementation in §5.

1 The structure of coordinate constructions

1.1 Coordinations, coordinates, and coordinators

Coordination is a relation between two or more elements of syntactically equal status, the **coordinates**; they are usually linked by means of a **coordinator** such as *and* or *or*:

- [2] i [Kim *and* Pat] *speak excellent French.* [NP-coordination]
 ii *He can see you* [this afternoon *or* on Tuesday]. [NP/PP-coordination]

The equality of the coordinates is reflected in the fact that usually **either** of them could stand alone in place of the whole coordination (with adjustment of agreement features where necessary): *Kim speaks excellent French*; *Pat speaks excellent French*.¹ A second indication of the equality of the coordinates is that in the most straightforward cases we can reverse their order without significant effect on structure or meaning: *Pat and Kim speak excellent French*; *He can see you on Tuesday or this afternoon*.

■ Coordination as a non-headed construction

Coordination contrasts with subordination, where the elements are of unequal status. In subordination one element is head, the other(s) dependent, but precisely because

¹In cases like *Kim and Pat* [*are a happy couple*], such replacement is not possible, but the coordinates are again of equal status in that **neither** can replace the whole: see §1.3.2.