
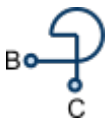




UNLWS is a non-linear written language which takes full advantage of a two-dimensional writing surface. Its words are glyphs which (basically) represent predicates, and texts are put together by combining glyphs to show which of the predicates' arguments have the same referent. For example, starting from the four glyphs

			
"A is me"	"B eats C"	"D is a fish"	"E is large"

putting A and B together, and C, D, and E together, assembles the text



"I eat a large fish."

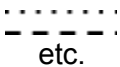
The angle to which glyphs are rotated, and the length and disposition of the connecting lines, do not matter. Two connecting lines may cross; this is also not significant (though we try to avoid it).

Bear in mind these ways in which UNLWS is unlike a typical linear language:












1. An UNLWS text has no defined reading order; you can start anywhere and proceed in any fashion about it.
2. Relatedly, UNLWS does without definite noun phrases and doesn't often need pronouns, because it can usually just directly connect an argument of "this clause" to an argument of a "previous clause".
3. It is pragmatically unnatural in UNLWS to talk much about temporal sequence explicitly, since time is linear.

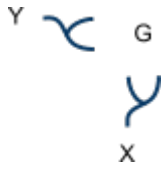



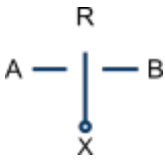






This text contains reported *conversation* in UNLWS. A conversation is carried out by the participants successively making additions to a single shared text, each using their own color. Deictic elements in the conversation (like "me") are interpreted with respect to whoever originally wrote them. In our text the narrator writes in black, and the author of the part of the conversation in each other color is signalled by a dot of that color appearing where the author is introduced, outside the quoted conversation. Since non-conversation is interspersed with conversation here, the cartouches (see below) delimit how much of the conversation had happened at a few relevant points.

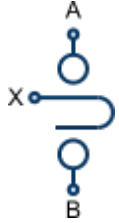










There is no bright line between morphosyntax and lexicon in UNLWS, so we've just dumped all the elements that appear in this text into the big table below.












 etc.	boundary of a <i>cartouche</i> . Cartouches enclose parts of the text, and are the mechanism by which the extents of quotations etc. are delimited. Normally, though, the full cartouche boundary isn't drawn, but only as little as one can get away with.
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	<p>irrealis. If the line between two glyphs has a gap, that equality of their arguments is not in fact being asserted. If one side of the gap has a hook, as A does in the second example, then everything on the hookless side (B) is irrealis (the precise scope of this process may be ambiguous unless a cartouche is used.)</p>
	<p>negative. As above, if there's no hook, only this relation is being denied; if there is one, the conjunction of everything on the B side is denied.</p>
	<p>interrogative. Also usable in embedded questions.</p> <p>In conversation, can be answered 'yes' by filling in the gap with a line, 'no' by filling it and striking it through.</p>
	<p>X be the event nominalization of the relation between A and B.</p> <p>This can also be used to nominalize a predicate, if instead of the line A—B one has a glyph.</p>
	<p>X be "Y". Y is some quoted UNLWS text, being used for its meaning, and is usually in a cartouche.</p> <p>Watch out, some quoted text in this story is reused as non-quoted text!</p>
	<p>X be "Y". Y is some quoted material, used for its form; it can be text in any writing system, a diagram, a color, ...</p>
	<p>X be I (i.e. be the author of this text)</p>
	<p>X be we two (exclusive)</p>
	<p>X be we (two) (inclusive)</p>
	<p>X be what? Also usable in embedded questions.</p> <p>In conversation, can be answered by continuing the main line through the cup.</p>
	<p>Y be a group of A and B (acting or being acted on in concert).</p> <p>The second variant is an alternate form allowed in conversation when the first author asserts Y of A, and the second then asserts B was involved too.</p> <p>This group has two members, but groups may have more, by adding more lines to the side with B in the obvious fashion.</p>

	<p>Y be A and B, respectively (acting or being acted on separately). This construction introduces a <i>stack</i>: think of it as if the line leading to Y, and the text beyond it, is a stack of two identical texts drawn one atop the other, one connected to A and one to B. The same stack may be unstacked again by a later instance of this construction.</p> <p>The second variant is conversational.</p> <p>Like groups, stacks may have more than two lines.</p>
	<p>Y be a group of (multiple) As</p>
	<p>Y be a group of two As</p>
	<p>Y be a group of four As</p>
	<p>Y be a group of one hundred million As</p>
	<p>Y be a group of many As</p>
	<p>Y be a mass of As, perceived as a gestalt</p>
	<p>A be a part of Y.</p> <p>Underlyingly this (and the next entry) is also a grouping construction and can hybridize with the other grouping constructions. Watch out for '[some number of] As be parts of Y'.</p>
	<p>A be the lower part of Y.</p> <p>This glyph imposes an orientation context in its vicinity. Rather than explain this fully, I'll just say that in the present text, where the 'be long' glyph sits near this one, the described objects are long in the vertical direction.</p>
	<p>past perfective.</p> <p>These two tense-aspect markers sit directly on a line or glyph.</p>
	<p>forevermore, indefinitely into the future (imperfective).</p>
<p>(bolded lines)</p>	<p>an emphasis marker.</p> <p>A bolded very short line may look like a fat dot.</p>

	<p>The place marked G holds a graph indicating how (the extent of) Y varies as (the extent of) X varies. A little tickmark off the graph indicates the actual extent of X and Y being asserted.</p>
	<p>The place marked G holds a timeline. A tickmark indicates the time being asserted of X; a dot indicated the present. If there is a line like the one bound to Q in this picture, Q is the length of time depicted. (Connections from Q emanate downward.)</p>
	<p>X perceive stimulus S, emitted by Y. The unmarked glyph used for 'see', 'say (to)', etc. When describing a conversation all participants are bound as Y.</p>
	<p>as above but the percept is specified as chemical: X smell or taste S, emitted by Y</p>
	<p>X think that A is B, that the relation between A and B holds. if a glyph R is present whose binding point has no glyph-internal line (like 'good' below): X think that it would be R if A were to be B.</p>
	<p>X be good Exceptionally, the negative stroke can appear across this glyph's body. 'Expected' below has the same property.</p>
	<p>X be expected</p>
	<p>X (either agent or situation) cause Y (situation); X make Y (concrete). May appear without the line after the tip of the arrow, if Y is an event nominalization. Similarly for 'intend' below.</p>
	<p>X intend Y, Y happen through volition of X</p>
	<p>X can Y. Y is usually an irrealis event nominalization.</p>
	<p>A be at B; A and B be colocated</p>

	<p>A and B be on opposite sides of X</p>
	<p>A be distant from X</p>
	<p>A go from X to Y and back again</p>
	<p>A move slowly</p>
	<p>Y be the surface or boundary of X</p>
	<p>Y be a bump or protrusion on X</p>
	<p>Y be a cavity or depression in X, containing A</p>
	<p>X be a year</p>
	<p>X be smallish</p>
	<p>X be large</p>
	<p>X be long, have one large and two small dimensions (relatively speaking)</p>

	<p>X be broadish, X be longer than it is broad but still broader than it is deep (as an example; the orientation is not actually specified).</p> <p>As you might surmise, the last two words are part of a family in which the length of each of the three lines measures one dimension.</p>
	<p>X be content</p>
	<p>X be sad</p>
	<p>X grok, deeply / familiarly understand Y</p>
	<p>Y characterize X, Y be (an abstraction of) a property of X. This glyph is frequently used in pairs with the Ys connected, rendering 'X1 be like X2'.</p>
	<p>X be ground, land.</p> <p>The line of this glyph is morphologically the same line appearing in the shape and position words. So it can incorporate e.g. 'depression' or 'protrusion', as in the next entry:</p>
	<p>Y be a depression in the ground</p>
	<p>X be water</p>
	<p>X be stone</p>
	<p>X be stiff, though not completely rigid</p>
	<p>X be sparkly</p>

	<p>X be plant</p>
	<p>X be tree</p>
	<p>X be flying creature</p>
	<p>X be rodent-like animal (probably a mammal)</p>
	<p>X be snake</p>
	<p>X be hand; (generally) X be the prototypical part its species uses to manipulate the environment</p>
	<p>X be food for Y</p>