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**Title:** Nominal coordination and numeral modifiers

### Abstract

Noun phrases with coordinated nouns, such as "five linguists and philosophers", exhibit a range of unusual syntactic and semantic properties. Syntactically, unexpected agreement patterns result when coordinated nouns share a determiner: in examples like "this/a man and woman", a singular determiner must be used, even though the full phrase behaves like a plural phrase ("this/\*these man and woman are/\*is my friends"). Semantically, such examples can display several readings. A simple boolean reading is available for an example like "my friend and colleague" when it refers to a single individual, or for "five linguists and philosophers" when it refers to five individuals, each of whom is both a linguist and a philosopher. Many but not all such examples have a reading paraphrasable by repeating the determiner, as in an example like "a man and woman", which refers to two individuals and can be paraphrased as "a man and a woman"; in a parallel way, "five linguists and philosophers" can refer to a group of five linguists and five philosophers. A third reading is also available: "five linguists and philosophers" can refer to five individuals, some of whom are linguists and the rest philosophers. This threefold ambiguity is not accounted for by most theories, and calls for a rethinking of the semantic treatment of coordinate structures and a reexamination of coordination at the syntax-semantics interface.