

# Categories and particles: the material of language

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## **Lecture 1: Categorisation and categories**

This talk begins from the prominent noun-verb distinction and moves on to discuss and revise the approaches to lexical categorisation in Baker (2003) and Panagiotidis (2015). It concludes by recasting this distinction as one that goes beyond dedicated nominal and verbal features.

## **Lecture 2: Roots in syntax**

The role of roots as elements that participate in the combinatorial process is closely examined; a coherent account is offered along the lines of roots being abstract differential indices, and the consequences for their acquisition are explored.

## **Lecture 3: Understanding formal features**

This third talk revisits fundamental questions of what formal features are, what they do, and how many of them there are. It offers a framework that paves the way towards articulating a coherent theory of features, one that is currently sorely missing from linguistic theory.