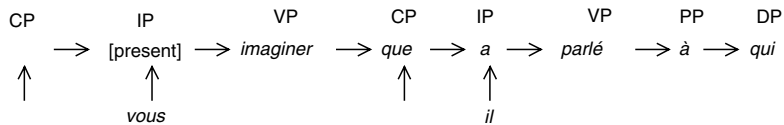
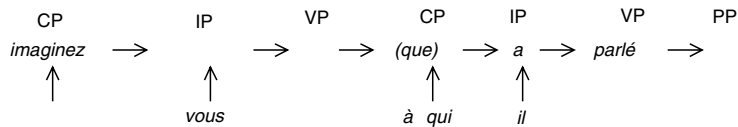


In this representation, VP = verb phrase, PP = prepositional phrase, DP = determiner phrase (i.e. a phrase involving a determiner or, as here, a proper name), CP = complementizer phrase, typically containing a subordinator. The only phrase that is slightly strange in the diagram is IP, inflectional phrase, a marker of tense, here the present; in some cases it can be occupied by an auxiliary. As will be seen, positing the existence of such a phrase helps explain certain things. Each phrase has at most one vertical arrow, from its subject, and can point an arrow at its complements.

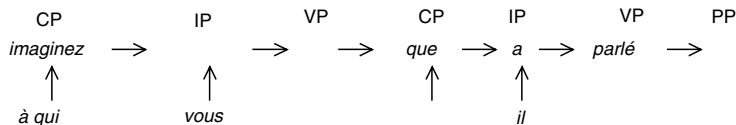
By means of this sort of representation, movements like those which happen in the shaping of questions can be simply and neatly described. Questioning is indicated by the insertion of a complementizer phrase on top of the structure:



In Chomsky's view (Chomsky 1995: 290), the presence of the complementizer phrase in a language like French will attract the verb and the questioned element. If the questioned element stops halfway, the result is as follows:



The subordinating *que* is replaced by the pronoun *qui* (though in certain registers it is maintained: *Vous savez à qui qu'il a parlé?*). The prepositional phrase *à qui* can continue its drift towards the subject of the first complementizer phrase:



In the case of (2) the movement of *à qui* in two stages is blocked from the outset by the presence of the pronoun *que* in the position of the subject of the second complementizer phrase, which makes formation of the