

1. For each group of words, state what semantic features they share (the same feature for all words in A and in B) and how the A words and the B words are related within their groups (what is particular for A words, but not for B words, etc.). List as many features as possible. (Use the + and – values of such features as ‘animate’, ‘male’, ‘human’, ‘concrete’, ‘solid’.)

Example:

A. husband, son, monk, chief [+animate, +male, +human]

B. bull, stallion, ram, rooster [+animate, +male, -human]

Tasks:

- a. A. book, house, mountain, road, car
B. peace, love, sincerity, fear, bravery
- b. A. lamp, pen, desk, house, ship, bike
B. wine, alcohol, rice, jam, mud

2. Identify the following opposites (synonyms, antonyms, etc.). For antonyms specify if they are gradual, relational, etc.

good – bad, expensive – cheap, false – true, parent – offspring, beautiful – ugly, lessor – lessee, pass – fail, hot – cold, legal – illegal, poor – rich, fast – slow, asleep – awake, husband – wife, before – after.

3. The following sentences are structurally and/or lexically ambiguous. Paraphrase all the possible interpretations of each sentence.

- a. I saw her dancing near the bank.
- b. I said I would file it on Tuesday.

4. What is one obvious presupposition of a speaker who says:

- a. The President of the US is tall.
- b. John regrets that he broke your window.
- c. The pregnant teacher went on holiday.

5. Explain the abnormality of the following exchange.

Hint: You are expected to use the term ‘speech act’ in your answer. Also, do not forget to explain, what the Speaker A implies (really wants to say) and how the Speaker B (mis)interprets her words.

Speaker A: Excuse me, I’m looking for the English Department.

Speaker B: That’s very nice of you, go ahead.

6. For the following sentence draw 3 situations (possible worlds) where this sentence is true and 3 situations where it is false. Enumerate the situations (worlds) and list those that constitute the denotation of the sentence.

A house has two windows.

7. Determine which of the following are performative sentences by inserting 'hereby' and seeing whether they sound right (if you are unsure, try to google the combinations).

- a. I testify that she met the agent.
- b. I know that she met the agent.
- c. I suppose the Yankees will win.
- d. He bet her \$2,500 that Romney would win.
- e. I dismiss the class.
- f. I teach the class.
- g. We promise to leave early.
- h. I owe the IRS \$1 million.
- i. I bequeath \$1 million to the IRS.
- j. I swore I didn't do it.
- k. I swear I didn't do it.