

Semantics

Denotation
Intension
Extension

Ambiguity
The proposition and truth conditions
Entailment
Linguistic relativity
Semantic primes



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Lexical meaning

Denotation

Set membership.

The entities, actions, or qualities in the world picked out by words or phrases.

Connotation

Experiential implications

The feelings, attitudes, moods, implied by a term or phrase

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Denotation/Connotation Lexical Elaboration Quiz

Breast

Shoulder

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**Lexical meaning
Denotation**

| Phrase | Extension | Intension |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Homer's daughter | Lisa Simpson Maggie Simpson | Female progeny of Homer Simpson |
| The assistant to Monty Burns | Smithers | The individual paid to assist Montgomery Burns |
| Selma's secret under-garment | Rocket bra | An article of Selma's clothing that is intimate and known only to a few. |

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**Lexical meaning
Denotation**

| Phrase | Extension | Intension |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| PM of Canada | Brian Mulroney Jean Chretien Paul Martin Stephen Harper | Leader of Canada's governing party |
| Stanley Cup Champions | Hurricanes Red Wings Penguins | Winners of Canada's annual summer NHL tournament* |
| Capital of Manitoba | Winnipeg | City containing provincial legislature of Manitoba |

*Except for the summer of 05 when the fatcats were fighting office.

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English 306A Crier

Farmer Bill Dies in House!

Twas bring and the slithy toves did wimb in the gra. he. The grabe was wimbled in by the slithy toves on bring day. Twas bring and the slithy toves did wimb in the gra. he. The grabe was wimbled in by the slithy toves on bring day.

Iraqi Head Seeks Arms!

Twas bring and the slithy toves did wimb in the gra. he. The grabe was wimbled in by the slithy toves on bring day. Twas bring and the slithy toves did wimb in the gra. he. The grabe was wimbled in by the slithy toves on bring day.

Prostitutes Appeal to Pope!

Twas bring and the slithy toves did wimb in the gra. he. The grabe was wimbled in by the slithy toves on bring day. Twas bring and the slithy toves did wimb in the gra. he. The grabe was wimbled in by the slithy toves on bring day.

Deer Kills 17,000!

Twas bring and the slithy toves did wimb in the gra. he. The grabe was wimbled in by the slithy toves on bring day. Twas bring and the slithy toves did wimb in the gra. he. The grabe was wimbled in by the slithy toves on bring day.

British Left Waffles on Falkland Islands!

Twas bring and the slithy toves did wimb in the gra. he. The grabe was wimbled in by the slithy toves on bring day. Twas bring and the slithy toves did wimb in the gra. he. The grabe was wimbled in by the slithy toves on bring day.

Drunken Drivers Paid \$1000!

Twas bring and the slithy toves did wimb in the gra. he. The grabe was wimbled in by the slithy toves on bring day. Twas bring and the slithy toves did wimb in the gra. he. The grabe was wimbled in by the slithy toves on bring day.

Hospital Sued by Seven Foot Doctors!

Twas bring and the slithy toves did wimb in the gra. he. The grabe was wimbled in by the slithy toves on bring day. Twas bring and the slithy toves did wimb in the gra. he. The grabe was wimbled in by the slithy toves on bring day.

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks!

Twas bring and the slithy toves did wimb in the gra. he. The grabe was wimbled in by the slithy toves on bring day. Twas bring and the slithy toves did wimb in the gra. he. The grabe was wimbled in by the slithy toves on bring day.

Winnipeg is the Capital of Manitoba!

Twas bring and the slithy toves did wimb in the gra. he. The grabe was wimbled in by the slithy toves on bring day. Twas bring and the slithy toves did wimb in the gra. he. The grabe was wimbled in by the slithy toves on bring day.

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Prostitutes Appeal to Pope

V_{COMP} **S** **DOING**

NP **VP**

| / \

N **V** **P** **N**

| | | |

Prostitutes Appeal to Pope

Agent Patient

V_{COMP} **S** **EXPERIENCING**

NP **VP**

| / \

N **V** **P** **N**

| | | |

Prostitutes Appeal to Pope

Patient Experiencer

Polysemy: appeal

1. be attractive to
2. make (attractive) argument to

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Farmer Bill Dies in House

V₁ **S** **HAPPENING**

NP **VP**

| / \

N **V** **P** **N**

| | | |

Farmer Bill Dies in House

Patient Location

V₁ **S** **HAPPENING**

NP **VP**

| / \

N **N** **V** **P** **N**

| | | | |

Farmer Bill Dies in House

Patient Location

Homonymy: Bill, bill

Polysemy: die; house (House)

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Iraqi Head Sells Arms

V₂ **S** **DOING**

NP **VP**

| / \

A **N** **V** **N**

| | | |

Iraqi Head Sells Arms

Agent Patient

V₂ **S** **DOING**

NP **VP**

| / \

A **N** **V** **N**

| | | |

Iraqi Head Sells Arms

Agent Patient

Polysemy: head

1. Top of body appendage
2. Top of state person

Polysemy: arms

1. Lateral appendages
2. Weapons

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British Left Waffles on Fauklands

V_{COMP} **S** **DOING**

British Left Waffles ...
Agent

V_{T-COMP} **S** **DOING**

British Left Waffles ...
Agent Patient

Polysemy: *waffles*
 1. Food stuff with lots of declivities
 2. To changes position multiple times

Homonymy: *left*

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Drunken Drivers Paid \$1000!

TRANSFERRING

V₂ **S** **HAVING**
MOVING_{DOING}

Drunken Drivers Paid \$1000
 Possessor Patient
 Source Patient
 Agent Patient

TRANSFERRING

V₂ **S** **HAVING**
MOVING_{HAPPENING}

Drunken Drivers Paid \$1000
 Possessor Patient
 Goal Patient
 Receiver Patient

Semantic roles: *drivers*, Agents vs. Patients, Sources vs. Goals

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Hospital Sued by Seven Foot Doctors

S **HAPPENING**

V_{COMP}

... Sued by Seven Foot Doctors
 Agent
 (Patient = hospital)

S **HAPPENING**

V_{COMP}

... Sued by Seven Foot Doctors
 Agent
 (Patient = hospital)

polysemy: *foot*

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Deer Kills 17,000!

V_{COP} S **BEING**

NP VP

Deer Kills (equal) 17,000

Patient Essive

V₂ S **DOING**

NP VP

Deer Kills 17,000

Agent Patient

Polysemy: kill
 cause to be not alive
 cause to be not viable

NOTE: This one is a bit tricky because of the implicit verb (headline-ese) and the non-be copula; exam questions will not involve structures this complex.

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Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

V₂ S **DOING**

NP VP

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

Agent Patient

V_{COP} S **BEING**

NP VP

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

Patient Essive


Polysemy: make
 1. Construct
 2. Can become

NOTE: This one is a bit tricky because of the non-be copula; for exams, assume be is the only copula, and that the BEING Schema always involves main-verb be.

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Propositions/Sentences

The cat is on the mat.
 Homer eats crap.
 Marge really makes the best gelatine towers.
 Patty and Selma have a secret undergarment.



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"The cat is on the mat"

$\exists x(Cx) \ \& \ \exists y(My) \ \& \ xyO$

On the mat, is the cat.

On the mat is where the cat is.

It is the case that the cat is on the mat.

Circumstances are thus: the cat is on the mat.

The aforesaid cat ... yada, yada, yada

The feline is on the mat.

On the mat, is the feline, ... yada, yada, yada

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Truth conditions

The cat is on the mat.

- ✓ There exists a cat.
- ✓ There exists a mat.
- ✓ The cat is located on the mat.



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Truth conditions

The cat is on the mat.

- ✓ There exists a cat.
- ✓ There exists a mat.
- ✓ The cat is located on the mat.

True



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Truth conditions

The cat is on the mat.

- ✓ There exists a cat.
- ✓ There exists a mat.
- ✗ The cat is located on the mat.



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Truth conditions

The cat is on the mat.

- ✓ There exists a cat.
- ✓ There exists a mat.
- ✗ The cat is located on the mat.

False



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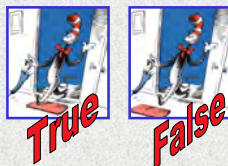
Truth conditions

Proposition



World

The cat is on the mat.
 $\exists x(Cx) \ \& \ \exists y(My) \ \& \ xyO$
On the mat, is the cat.
On the mat is where the cat is.
It is the case that the cat is on the mat.
Circumstances are thus: the cat is on the mat.
The aforesaid cat ... yada, yada, yada



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Entailment

A relation between the propositions underlying sentences (X, Y), such that if the proposition underlying sentence X is true, the proposition underlying sentence Y must be true.

(Conversely, it is impossible for the proposition underlying sentence Y to be false and the proposition underlying sentence X be true)



Entailment

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Entailment

A relation between sentences (X, Y), such that if sentence X is true, sentence Y must be true.

(Conversely, it is impossible for Y to be false and X be true.)



Entailment

X =

I saw Maggie at the rave.

Y's =

There was a rave.

Maggie was there.

I saw Maggie.

I have eyes.

There was light at the rave.

...



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~~Entailment~~

X =

I saw Maggie at the rave.

Y's =

The rave was on Tuesday.

The rave was in Mr. Burns's rec room.

Maggie is Homer's daughter.

Raves are so cool.

Raves are so nineties.

...



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Mutual entailment

X entails Y, Y entails X.

X's and Y's =

I saw Maggie at the rave.

Maggie, I saw at the rave.

It was Maggie I saw at the rave.

Maggie was seen by me at the rave.



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