

Introduction to Linguistics: Quiz 5 (Semantics) Practice questions

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Your Name: _____

Write a sentence that is entailed by sentence (a). **Make sure that only Sentence (a) entails Sentence (b) and Sentence (b) does not entail (a). In other words, do not write an equivalent paraphrase sentence** [2 points each; 10 points].

- (1) a) I ate turkey at Thanksgiving.
b) *I ate turkey. / There was Thanksgiving.*
- (2) a) Susan closed the door.
b) *Susan closed something. / The door was closed.*
- (3) a) Fifi is a poodle.
b) *Fifi is a dog. / Fifi is an animal.*
- (4) a) I speak Russian.
b) *I can speak. / I understand Russian.*
- (5) a) At least 20 people will come to the party.
b) *At least 10 people will come to the party.*

What semantic feature (meaning) is shared by all six nouns in each set below? For each set, what semantic feature differentiates the three nouns in (a) from the three nouns in (b)? [3 points each; 9 points]

(6) Example:

- a) *niece, daughter and sister*
b) *nun, woman, and girl*

Shared features: *female*

Different features: *(a) is family (b) is non-family*

- (7) a) *brake, chip, crack, crash, fracture, shatter, snap*
b) *hit, bang, batter, beat, drum, kick, slap*

Shared properties: *contact*

Different features: *(a) is causing a change of state, but (b) is not.*

- (8) a) *admiration, appreciation, joy, esteem, love, support, trust*

b) *despise, distain, dislike, fear, hatred, pity, regret*

Shared properties: **feeling**

Different features: (a) is positive feeling and (b) is negative feeling

Choose the appropriate lexical relationship for the following word pairs. Use the abbreviation in the table below. [1 point each; 15 points]

Table 1: Lexical semantics: word relationships

<i>S</i> : synonym	<i>AC</i> : complementary antonym	<i>AG</i> : gradable antonym
<i>HY</i> : hyponym	<i>HP</i> : homophone	<i>HN</i> : homonym
<i>P</i> : prototype	<i>C</i> : collocation	<i>SC</i> : scalar antonyms

- (9) cat - feline *S* or *HY* or *P*
- (10) visible - invisible *AC*
- (11) strong computer - powerful computer *C*
- (12) scorching - hot - warm - sunny - chilly - cold - freezing *SC*
- (13) married - unmarried *AC*
- (14) married - bachelor *AG*
- (15) pupil (at school) - pupil (in the eye) *HN*
- (16) desk - furniture *P*
- (17) meet - meat *HP*
- (18) rich - poor *AG*
- (19) true - false *AC*
- (20) male - female *AC*
- (21) huge - big - large - normal-size - small - tiny - miniscule *SC*
- (22) sew - so *HP*
- (23) race (contest) - race (ethnic group) *HN*
- (24) dog - poodle *HY*

Identify the thematic roles of the NPs in the following sentences. Use the following abbreviations: **Agentive** (A); **Instrumental** (I); **Locative** (L); **Theme** (T); **Source** (S); **Experiencer** (E) [1 point each; 6 points]

- (25) Jack ate pizza. A
- (26) Jack ate pizza. T
- (27) Jack cooked dinner. T
- (28) Elizabeth fears snakes. E
- (29) The key opened the door. I
- (30) This Italian restaurant serves the best pizza. L