# **Semantics**

### (1) Structural and/or semantic ambiguity?

- a. Squad Helps Dog Bite Victim
- b. Milk Drinkers Are Turning to Powder
- c. Dr. Ruth to Talk about Sex with Newspaper Editors
- d. Stolen Painting Found by Tree
- e. Reagan Wins on Budget, but More Lies Ahead
- f. Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
- g. Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
- (2) Polysemy or homophony? (Textbook §1.1)
  - a. Grendel's dam | The Three Gorges Dam
  - b. Arthur and his driving license expired last Thursday.
  - c. I went after him with a baseball bat. | Bats are surprisingly cute and furry.
  - d. I married a gorgeous rat. | Ratatouille, the first Disney rat.
  - e. You need **paper** to make origami. | I read it in yesterday's **paper**.
  - f. We needed someone to play bass. | Bass are lovely if you cook them right.
  - g. The moon is bright tonight. | He's very bright.
  - h. Moles are small burrowing mammals. | Moles are informants in place.

# (3) Paraphrase, entailment or contradiction? (Textbook \$1.2)

- a. I have a clinical fear of the number 13. | I suffer from triskaidekaphobia.
- b. I'm a Global Affairs major at Yale. | I'm a student.
- c. I have a tuxedo cat. | My cat is black with a white shirtfront and white socks.
- d. I did one of the homework problems. | I have started doing the homework.
- e. It was only yesterday that I found out. | I found out yesterday.
- f. It's snowing hard. | It's springtime.

## (4) Describe the intensions and extensions of each of these phrases. (Textbook \$1.3)

- a. The time-space coordinates of our review session
- b. Boxing Day
- c. The queen of France
- (5) Predicate/First-order logic
  - a. Hobbes is a tiger.
  - b. Mary Poppins gave Hobbes to Calvin.
  - c. Hobbes is lazy but brilliant.
  - d. When Calvin and Hobbes fight, Calvin loses.
  - e. Hobbes eats everything.
  - f. Hobbes wears nothing.
  - g. Someone can babysit Calvin.
  - h. There is at least one kind of food that Calvin and Hobbes both eat.
  - i. Calvin hates all girls.

#### (6) Book recommendations

- a. General. The Language Instinct: How the mind creates language by Steven Pinker
- b. Phonetics. Accents and dialects for stage and screen by Paul Meier.
- c. Syntax. The Atoms of Language: The mind's hidden rules of grammar by Mark C. Baker
- d. Recursion, culture. Don't Sleep, There Are Snakes: Life and language in the Amazonian jungle by Daniel L. Everett

### (7) Common issues in Homework 6

- 9c) ... a student asked whether the eclipse would occur.
- 10f) Do pigs fly? 11b) Who should call the director?

*Extra credit.* (a) Where do you<sub>i</sub> want PRO<sub>i</sub> to go? (b) Who<sub>i</sub> do you want  $t_i$  to go to the store?