

# SEMANTICS

**Exercise 1:** For each group of words given below, state what **semantic features** are shared by the (a) words and the (b) words, and what **semantic features** distinguish between the classes of (a) words and (b) words. The first one is done as an example.

1. (a) *lobster, shrimp, crab, oyster, mussel*

(b) *trout, sole, herring, salmon, mackerel*

The (a) and (b) words are [+edible water animal].

The (a) words are [+shellfish].

The (b) words are [+fish].

2. (a) *widow, mother, sister, aunt, seamstress*

(b) *widower, father, brother, uncle, tailor*

The (a) and (b) words are \_\_\_\_\_

The (a) words are \_\_\_\_\_

The (b) words are \_\_\_\_\_

3. (a) *bachelor, son, paperboy, pope, chief*

(b) *bull, rooster, drake, ram, stallion*

The (a) and (b) words are \_\_\_\_\_

The (a) words are \_\_\_\_\_

The (b) words are \_\_\_\_\_

4. (a) *table, pencil, cup, house, ship, car*

(b) *milk, tea, wine, beer, water, soft drink*

The (a) and (b) words are \_\_\_\_\_

The (a) words are \_\_\_\_\_

The (b) words are \_\_\_\_\_

5. (a) *book, temple, mountain, road, tractor*

(b) *idea, love, charity, sincerity, bravery, fear*

The (a) and (b) words are \_\_\_\_\_

The (a) words are \_\_\_\_\_

The (b) words are \_\_\_\_\_

6. (a) *rose, lily, tulip, daisy, sunflower, violet*

(b) *ash, oak, sycamore, willow, beech*

(c) *pine, cedar, jew, spruce, cypress*

The (a) (b) and (c) words are \_\_\_\_\_

The (a) words are \_\_\_\_\_

The (b) words are \_\_\_\_\_

The (c) words are \_\_\_\_\_

7. (a) *book, letter, encyclopaedia, novel, notebook, dictionary*

(b) *typewriter, pencil, ballpoint, crayon, quill, charcoal, chalk*

The (a) and (b) words are \_\_\_\_\_

The (a) words are \_\_\_\_\_

The (b) words are \_\_\_\_\_

8. (a) *walk, run, skip, jump, hop, swim*

(b) *fly, skate, ski, ride, cycle, canoe, hang-glide*

The (a) and (b) words are \_\_\_\_\_

The (a) words are \_\_\_\_\_

The (b) words are \_\_\_\_\_

9. (a) *ask, tell, say, talk, converse*

(b) *shout, whisper, mutter, drawl, holler*

The (a) and (b) words are \_\_\_\_\_

The (a) words are \_\_\_\_\_

The (b) words are \_\_\_\_\_

10. (a) *alive, asleep, awake, dead, half-dead, pregnant*

(b) *depressed, bored, excited, upset, amazed,  
surprised*

The (a) and (b) words are \_\_\_\_\_

The (a) words are \_\_\_\_\_

The (b) words are \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 2 :** Are *the following pairs of words binary antonyms?*

- (1) *chalk--cheese* Yes / No (4) *dead--alive* Yes / No  
(2) *same--different* Yes / No (5) *married--unmarried* Yes / No  
(3) *copper--tin* Yes / No (6) *cheap--expensive* Yes / No

**Exercise 3 :** Are *the following pairs of words relational antonyms?*

- (1) *below--above* Yes / No (4) *grandparent--grandchild* Yes / No  
(2) *love--hate* Yes / No (5) *greater than--less than* Yes / No  
(3) *conceal--reveal*<sup>31</sup> Yes / No (6) *own--belong to* Yes / No

**Exercise 4 :** State whether *the following pairs of antonyms* are *binary, gradable or relational* by writing B (*binary*), G (*gradable*) or R (*relational*):

1. *good--bad*: \_\_\_\_\_ 9. *import--export*: \_\_\_\_\_  
2. *pass--fail*: \_\_\_\_\_ 10. *better than--worse than*: \_\_\_\_  
3. *deciduous--evergreen*: \_\_\_\_\_ 11. *easy--difficult*: \_\_\_\_\_  
4. *expensive--cheap*: \_\_\_\_\_ 12. *hot--cold*: \_\_\_\_\_  
5. *parent--offspring*: \_\_\_\_\_ 13. *legal--illegal*: \_\_\_\_\_  
6. *beautiful--ugly*: \_\_\_\_\_ 14. *asleep--awake*: \_\_\_\_\_  
7. *false--true*: \_\_\_\_\_ 15. *rude--polite*: \_\_\_\_\_  
8. *lessor--lessee*: \_\_\_\_\_ 16. *husband--wife*: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 5 :** Explain *the lexical ambiguity* in each of the following sentences by providing two sentences that paraphrase its two different meanings.

The first one is done as an example.

1. *They were waiting at the bank.*

Meaning one: *They were waiting at the financial institution.*

Meaning two: *They were waiting at the shore of the river.*

2. *The long drill is boring.*

Meaning one: \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning two: \_\_\_\_\_

3. *When he got the clear title to the land, it was a good deed.*

Meaning one: \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning two: \_\_\_\_\_

4. *The proprietor of the fish store was the sole owner.*

Meaning one: \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning two: \_\_\_\_\_

5. *We like the ball.*

Meaning one: \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning two: \_\_\_\_\_

6. *They passed the port at night.*

Meaning one: \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning two: \_\_\_\_\_

7. *The captain corrected the list.*

Meaning one: \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning two: \_\_\_\_\_

8. *He was knocked over by the punch.*

Meaning one: \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning two: \_\_\_\_\_

9. *The camel swallowed the chocolate and then ate it.*

Meaning one: \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning two: \_\_\_\_\_