

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*³¹ 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. <i>good--bad</i> : _____ | 9. <i>import--export</i> : _____ |
| 2. <i>pass--fail</i> : _____ | 10. <i>better than--worse than</i> : _____ |
| 3. <i>deciduous--evergreen</i> : _____ | 11. <i>easy--difficult</i> : _____ |
| 4. <i>expensive--cheap</i> : _____ | 12. <i>hot--cold</i> : _____ |
| 5. <i>parent--offspring</i> : _____ | 13. <i>legal--illegal</i> : _____ |
| 6. <i>beautiful--ugly</i> : _____ | 14. <i>asleep--awake</i> : _____ |
| 7. <i>false--true</i> : _____ | 15. <i>rude--polite</i> : _____ |
| 8. <i>lessor--lessee</i> : _____ | 16. <i>husband--wife</i> : _____ |

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: _____