

Answers to Pause and Reflect Boxes for Chapter 6 Semantics

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Pause and Reflect 6.1

Poetic language frequently breaks semantic rules of putting words together to create novel and unexpected combinations. In everyday communication, to say that *so much depends on a wheelbarrow* may be odd. However, the phrases fit together to make a meaningful whole. The overall meaning of the poem is so elusive because the literal meaning and the figurative meaning together work on each reader's personal imagination.

Pause and Reflect 6.2

The order of the words has changed, including the adjective *fat* and the complementizer *that*. Examples (1a) and (1c) are simple clauses while (1b) is a noun phrase.

Pause and Reflect 6.3

The reference of the pronoun *it* is the source of ambiguity in the Bentley murder case. It may refer to the gun or to a bullet. The first reference is interpreted as a command to give up the gun; the second—to pull the trigger. Pragmatics does play a role in the interpretation, since it is common knowledge that bullets are inside guns and they kill.

Pause and Reflect 6.4

The type of meaning alluded to in the question is more philosophical and general: pondering the meaning of life is pondering why we live on Earth. However, it can also be interpreted as what is the meaning of the word “life”, which the answer addresses. We are talking of lexical meaning here.

Pause and Reflect 6.5

homo- means “the same”; *poly-* means “many”; *ant(i)-* means “opposed to, against”; *hyp(o)-* means “under”; and *syn-* means “united action or considered together”.

Pause and Reflect 6.6

The two words are historically related, but *to doctor* a document means to change a document in order to deceive people and is not related to the work of a physician. We are dealing with two homonyms. When words change category they often change meaning as well.

Pause and Reflect 6.7

Unaccusative: *depart, spread, sit, stand, appear, expire, happen, die*, etc. Unergative: *run, cough, laugh, fly, sing, yawn, swim*, etc.

Pause and Reflect 6.8

In sentences such as in (7c): the silent but implied object can only be the meal appropriate for the time of day, say breakfast or lunch; it cannot mean the speaker just ate a shoe.

Pause and Reflect 6.9

For most people, the prototypical chair is the wooden kitchen chair. These perceptions are testable and variations will be found.

Pause and Reflect 6.10

The mention of *melon, elephant, house, fat purse, mint* all suggest growth in the body and pregnancy. In the second part of the poem, the metaphors speak of inevitability, sourness and helplessness.

Pause and Reflect 6.11

The exit row refers to the people sitting in the exit row, not the seats. It could be uttered by flight attendants on a plane before take-off.

Pause and Reflect 6.12

Jane saw the guy through her binoculars OR Jane saw the guy who had binoculars.

Pause and Reflect 6.13

In the sentence *He demanded that she be fired*, the verbal form *be* after the subordinate clause subject signals the subjunctive. Another way of expressing the same proposition is *He demanded that she should be fired*.

Pause and Reflect 6.14

If Homer drew apples and oranges, then he certainly drew some object or other, as well as either apples or oranges separately. However, drawing an object doesn't amount to being an artist.

Pause and Reflect 6.15

This answer does obey the Maxim of Quality, if it is True. However, it does not obey Quantity, because it is not informative enough. *A bicycle* would be an informative answer. In this sense, the answer is also not relevant enough, thus breaking the Maxim of Relation.

Pause and Reflect 6.16

Experiencer Subject: *fear*

Experiencer Object: *frighten, please, delight*