

TASK 4: SEMANTIC ROLES IN ENGLISH SENTENCE

Group no.: School:

Participants:

1.
2.
3.

*In linguistics, a **semantic role** is a role that the arguments (subject, object) play in a sentence. Look at the examples of five semantic roles presented in the table below:*

An agent – an initiator or doer of the action. It should be alive and able to make a conscious decisions.	e.g.: Jack was running.
An experiencer – it experiences some state. It may be a subject but also an object. It is characterised as “aware of something”.	e.g.: Jean felt cold.
A goal – the entity towards which the motion proceeds.	e.g.: John threw the ball to the basket .
An instrument – whatever is being used to perform the action.	e.g.: Mum chopped the tomato with a knife .
A source – indicates the place or object where the movement expressed by the verb starts.	e.g.: John received the book from Mary

TASK:

Identify the underlined semantic roles displayed in the sentences below, then put them in the table with the appropriate heading below the sentences. There should be **four** examples of each kind.

1. Tony pushed the cart to the wall.
2. John annoyed Mary.
3. Steve loves Melisa.
4. Peter told Ann the story.
5. Jack sees the fish.
6. Mark drove towards Warsaw.
7. The key opened the door.
8. Helen was freed form the prison.
9. John fell off the chair.
10. Josh stirs the soup with a wooden spoon.
11. Max gave flowers to his grandma.
12. The smell of fried onion filled Sam's nostrils.

An agent (4)	An experiencer (4)	A goal (4)	An instrument (2) / A source (2)

TASK 4: KEY

An agent (4)	An experiencer (4)	A goal (4)	An instrument (2) / A source (2)
Tony	Mary	the wall	the key
Mark	Steve	Ann	the prison
Max	Jack	Warsaw	the chair
Josh	Sam	grandma	a wooden spoon

+ Peter

NOTE: There were 5 agents, although only 4 were required (and 4 were enough to get the maximal number of points).