



TASK 1: 'Garden path' sentences

Group no.: School:

Participants:

1.

2.

3.

TASK: Once you start doing the exercise below, you will immediately notice that sentences 1 – 10 are a bit awkward and difficult to process (but they are all grammatically correct). Linguists call these sentences 'garden paths'. This name refers to the saying "to be led down the garden path", meaning "to be misled". We start to process a garden path sentence and at some point our processing crashes and we are forced to backtrack the sentence and look for its other possible structures/interpretations. It may take some rereading to correctly reanalyze garden path sentences. Your task is to read each sentence twice. Under the first reading, you will most likely arrive at the wrong (ungrammatical/improbable) structure/interpretation. Under the second reading, try to sort out the correct structure/interpretation. Then, answer a related question. Only one answer is correct in each question.

Questions:

1. THE DOG THAT I HAD REALLY LOVED BONES.

IN THE **CORRECT** STRUCTURE/INTERPRETATION OF THIS GARDEN PATH SENTENCE:

- A) 'THAT I HAD REALLY LOVED BONES' IS A RELATIVE CLAUSE¹
- B) 'THAT I HAD' IS A RELATIVE CLAUSE
- C) 'THAT I HAD REALLY LOVED BONES' IS A SUBORDINATE CLAUSE²
- D) 'REALLY' BELONGS TO A RELATIVE CLAUSE

2. EVERY WOMAN THAT ADMIRES A MAN THAT PAINTS LIKES MONET.

IN THE **CORRECT** STRUCTURE/INTERPRETATION OF THIS GARDEN PATH SENTENCE:

- A) 'LIKES MONET' IS A VERBAL PREDICATE³ OF THIS SENTENCE
- B) 'PAINTS LIKES MONET' IS A VERBAL PREDICATE OF THIS SENTENCE
- C) 'ADMIRE A MAN THAT PAINTS LIKES MONET' IS A VERBAL PREDICATE OF THIS SENTENCE
- D) WOMEN ADMIRE MEN WHO PAINT LIKE MONET

3. THE OLD LADY GAVE THE BOY THE PUPPY CHASED SOME CANDY.

IN THE **CORRECT** STRUCTURE/INTERPRETATION OF THIS GARDEN PATH SENTENCE IT IS TRUE THAT:

- A) THE BOY CHASED A PUPPY WHO GOT SOME CANDY FROM THE OLD LADY

¹ zdanie podrzędne względne pozbawione zaimka względnego takiego jak 'which', 'who', 'that'.

² zdanie podrzędne

³ orzeczenie



- B) 'THE PUPPY' IS A COMPLEMENT⁴ OF THE VERB 'GIVE'
- C) 'SOME CANDY' IS A COMPLEMENT OF THE VERB 'GIVE'
- D) 'THE PUPPY CHASED SOME CANDY' IS A COMPLEMENT OF THE VERB 'GIVE'

4. THE STUDENT KNEW THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION WAS WRONG

IN THE **CORRECT** STRUCTURE/INTERPRETATION OF THIS GARDEN PATH SENTENCE IT IS TRUE THAT:

- A) 'THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION' IS A COMPLEMENT OF THE VERB 'KNOW'
- B) 'THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION WAS WRONG' IS A COMPLEMENT OF THE VERB 'KNOW'
- C) 'THE QUESTION WAS WRONG' IS AN INDEPENDENT CONSTITUENT
- D) WHAT THE STUDENT KNEW WAS THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION

5. THE LOGS FLOATED DOWN THE RIVER SANK

IN THE **CORRECT** STRUCTURE/INTERPRETATION OF THIS GARDEN PATH SENTENCE:

- A) THE SENTENCE CONSISTS OF A NOUN PHRASE 'THE LOGS' AND OF A VERB PHRASE 'FLOATED DOWN THE RIVER SANK'
- B) THE SENTENCE CONSISTS OF A NOUN PHRASE 'THE LOGS FLOATED DOWN THE RIVER' AND OF A VERB PHRASE 'SANK'
- C) 'FLOATED DOWN THE RIVER' FUNCTIONS AS A VERBAL PREDICATE OF THIS SENTENCE
- D) 'THE RIVER SANK' FUNCTIONS AS A COMPLEMENT OF THE VERB 'FLOATED DOWN'

6. DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG COWS SHOULD BE MILKED?

IN THE **CORRECT** STRUCTURE/INTERPRETATION OF THIS GARDEN PATH SENTENCE:

- A) 'LONG COWS' FUNCTIONS AS AN INDEPENDENT NOUN PHRASE
- B) 'HOW' IS A QUESTION WORD WHICH RELATES TO THE MANNER OF MILKING LONG COWS
- C) 'HOW LONG' IS A QUESTION WORD WHICH RELATES TO THE TIME OF MILKING LONG COWS
- D) 'HOW LONG' IS A QUESTION WORD WHICH RELATES TO THE TIME OF MILKING COWS

7. THE STUDENT READ A BOOK IS GOOD FOR THE MIND

IN THE **CORRECT** STRUCTURE/INTERPRETATION OF THIS GARDEN PATH SENTENCE IT IS TRUE THAT:

- A) 'A BOOK' IS A COMPLEMENT OF THE VERB 'READ'
- B) 'A BOOK IS GOOD FOR THE MIND' IS A COMPLEMENT OF THE VERB 'READ'
- C) 'IS GOOD FOR THE MIND' IS A RELATIVE CLAUSE MODIFYING A NOUN PHRASE 'A BOOK'
- D) THE FACT THAT THE STUDENT READ A BOOK IS GOOD FOR HIS MIND

8. THE BUTTER MELTED IN THE PAN TURNED BROWN

IN THE **CORRECT** STRUCTURE/INTERPRETATION OF THIS GARDEN PATH SENTENCE:

- A) FIRST, THE BUTTER TURNED BROWN AND THEN IT MELTED
- B) 'MELTED IN THE PAN' MODIFIES⁵ A NOUN PHRASE 'THE BUTTER'
- C) 'TURNED BROWN' MODIFIES A NOUN PHRASE 'THE BUTTER'
- D) THE PAN TURNED BROWN BECAUSE THE BUTTER MELTED

9. JOHN LIKE MARY AND PAUL LIKES SUE (NOTE: THIS SENTENCE IS CORRECT!!!)

IN THE **CORRECT** STRUCTURE/INTERPRETATION OF THIS GARDEN PATH SENTENCE:

- A) ONLY JOHN AND MARY LIKE SUE
- B) JOHN, MARY AND PAUL LIKE SUE
- C) JOHN IS THE ONE WHO LIKES MARY AND PAUL IS THE ONE WHO LIKES SUE
- D) 'AND' CONJOINS TWO INDEPENDENT SENTENCES

10. FAT PEOPLE EAT ACCUMULATES

⁴ dopełninie

⁵ modyfikuje, zmienia



IN THE **CORRECT** STRUCTURE/INTERPRETATION OF THIS GARDEN PATH SENTENCE:

- A) WHAT FAT PEOPLE EAT ACCUMULATES IN THEIR BODY
- B) WHAT FAT PEOPLE EAT ARE SPECIAL DIETARY PRODUCTS CALLED 'ACCUMULATES'
- C) 'FAT PEOPLE' IS A SUBJECT OF THE SENTENCE
- D) 'PEOPLE EAT' IS A REDUCED RELATIVE CLAUSE