

C2.1 – MTS

(Week 7)

APPLYING BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE TO TEXT INTERPRETATION

TASK 1: SILLY SYLLOGISMS/KOOKY CONCLUSIONS

Worksheet 1:

Determine whether the conclusion drawn from the preceding two premises in each case is logically true or false.

1. Some castles are cabbages. All cabbages love Marlboro Lights. —Therefore, all castles love Marlboro Lights.
2. All alligators can dance the tango. All skyscrapers are alligators. — Therefore, all skyscrapers can dance the tango.
3. Some radishes are bicycles. Some bicycles play the saxophone. — Therefore, some radishes play the saxophone.
4. No two types of dogs look alike. Dobermans and collies look exactly alike. — Therefore, Dobermans and collies are not two types of dogs.
5. All dentists are art critics. Some art critics live in caves. — Therefore, some dentists live in caves.
6. Nobody who has green eyes can be a doctor. All people have green eyes. Therefore, nobody can be a doctor.

***Now try to determine which of the conclusions given in each case is correct.
More than one solution (or no solution at all) may be correct.***

7. Some people are Americans. Americans have three eyes.
 - a) Some people have three eyes.
 - b) Americans who are people sometimes have three eyes.
 - c) People with two eyes are not Americans.
 - d) Americans are people with three eyes.
 - e) Americans with two eyes are sometimes people.
8. Flowers are colorless balloons. Flowers drink martinis.
 - a) All colorless balloons drink martinis.
 - b) All colorless balloons are flowers.
 - c) Some colorless balloons drink martinis.
 - d) Flowers that drink martinis are colorless balloons.
 - e) Colorless balloons are not flowers.
9. All ladybugs are unable to waltz. All ladybugs have legs.
 - a) Ladybugs with no legs can waltz.
 - b) Some ladybugs have no legs.
 - c) No ladybugs with legs can waltz.
 - d) Ladybugs cannot waltz because they have legs.
 - e) Ladybugs have legs and cannot waltz.
10. Every rectangle is round. All rectangles are blue. Some corners are round.
 - a) Rectangles with blue corners exist.
 - b) Rectangles with round corners exist.
 - c) Round, blue corners exist.
 - d) The corners of rectangles are round and blue.
 - e) Blue rectangles have round corners.

TASK 2: NONSENSE WORDS



Text 1: Read the following text and then go on to Worksheet 2.

JABBERWOCKY

*'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.*

*"Beware the Jabberwock, my son!
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun
The frumious Bandersnatch!"*

*He took his vorpal sword in hand:
Long time the manxome foe he sought—
So rested he by the Tumtum tree,
And stood awhile in thought.*

*And as in uffish thought he stood,
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,
Came whiffling through the tulgey wood,
And burbled as it came!*

*One, two! One, two! And through and through
The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!
He left it dead, and with its head
He went galumphing back.*

*"And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?
Come to my arms, my beamish boy!
O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!"
He chortled in his joy.*

*'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.*

Worksheet 2:

The poem above, extracted from Through the Looking-Glass, by Lewis Carroll (pen name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (1832-98), contains a great deal of nonsense words. These words have been underlined for you in the poem. For each one, determine the part of speech it represents (noun, verb, adjective, adverb, interjection)

brillig = _____

frumious = _____

slithy = _____

Bandersnatch = _____

toves = _____

vorpal = _____

gimble = _____

manxome = _____

wabe = _____

Tumtum tree = _____

mimsy = _____

uffish = _____

borogroves = _____

whiffling = _____

mome raths = _____

tulgey = _____

outgrabe = _____

frabjous = _____

Jabberwock = _____

Callooh! = _____

Jubjub bird = _____

Callay! = _____

TASK 3: EXPERIMENTAL TEXTS

Text 2:

Read the following text, and then go on to Worksheet 3.

Business had been slow since the oil crisis. Nobody seemed to want anything really elegant anymore. Suddenly the door opened and a well-dressed man entered the showroom floor. John put on his friendliest and most sincere expression and walked toward the man.



Worksheet 3: *Briefly answer the following questions about Text 2.*

1. What is John's job?
2. What kind of business does the text refer to?
3. What clues did you find in the text which enabled you to answer the previous two questions?



Text 3:

Read the following text and then go on to Worksheet 4, below.

The procedure is actually quite simple. First you arrange things into different groups. Of course, one pile may be sufficient depending on how much there is to do. If you have to go somewhere else due to lack of facilities, that is the next step. Otherwise, you are pretty well set. It is important not to overdo things. That is, it is better to do too few things at once than too many. In the short run this may not seem important but complications can easily arise. A mistake can be expensive as well. At first the whole procedure will seem complicated. Soon, however, it will become just another facet of life. It is difficult to foresee any end to the necessity for this task in the immediate future, but then one can never tell. After the procedure is completed, one arranges the materials into different groups again. Then they can be put into their appropriate places. Eventually they will be used once more, and the whole cycle will then have to be repeated. However, that is part of life.



Worksheet 4: *Briefly answer the following questions about Text 3.*

1. What is the "procedure" described in the text?
2. What clues did you find in the text to help you answer the previous question?

TASK 4: UNFINISHED STORIES

 **Worksheet 5:** Write a conclusion (approx. 30 words) for each of the following unfinished stories.

Story 1: You have a date to meet your boyfriend/girlfriend at the movies. You arrive late, enter the dark theater, sit down next to someone who appears to be your boyfriend/girlfriend, and...

Story 2: It's your first day as a new university professor. You're terribly nervous as it is, but to make matters worse, you notice that your students are staring at you fixedly and giggling. You look down, and much to your dismay discover...

Story 3: As a teacher at the British Institute, you have been asked to supervise the listening comprehension part of an official Proficiency in English exam. Unfortunately, when you press the "play" button on the tape recorder...

Story 4: It is the first day of class at the university. You have just come from an insufferably boring class with a professor named Dr. Grant, and are sitting in the cafeteria with a group of fellow students. You begin complaining about what a dull, disorganized and altogether worthless lecturer Dr. Grant is, when a boy sitting on your left turns to you, smiles, looks you straight in the eyes and says...