

Homework # 6
Due April 24, 2007

a. Make a syntactic tree for each meaning of the ambiguous sentences below.

1. Oscar chased the girl with a bicycle.
2. Jane likes green eggs and ham.

Below is a list of Phrase Structure Rules you may want to use:

AdjP → Adj
Conj → and
NP → N
NP → Det N
NP → AdjP N
NP → AdjP NP
NP → NP Conj NP
NP → NP PP
PP → P NP
S → NP VP
VP → V NP
VP → VP PP

b. For each of the sentences below, describe why they are garden path sentences. Assume they are spoken sentences, and that there are no prosodic (intonation) markers to help with ambiguity resolution. State at what point the sentence becomes disambiguated.

1. While Ronald bathed the baby crawled away.
2. The students challenged by the homework went to the tutoring center.
3. Howard told George and Ralph informed Mary.

c. Consider a situation where you hear a native English speaker say the word [bɑdəl], 'bottle'. For each of the written words below, write the word in IPA. Then say whether the word was activated when you heard 'bottle'. Give an explanation for each of your answers.

1. waddle
2. sofa
3. bottom
4. baby