

1 Generating examples

When trying to figure out a pattern, it is often useful to be able to come up with example sentences to test that have specific properties. So this problem is practice for that scenario.

Here's an example. Consider the circumstances in which the anaphor *themselves* is possible. The examples below make the case for an anaphor needing to be c-commanded by its antecedent. In (2), the subject DP is plural (*friends*) and c-commands *themselves*, so this is ok (where *themselves* refers to *his friends*). In (3), the subject DP is singular and the plural is inside the DP—so *their* does not c-command *themselves* and the sentence is bad. In (5), *them* does not c-command *themselves*, but in (1) it does. And in (4) there is nothing that can serve as antecedent to *themselves*.

- (1) They_i saw themselves_i.
- (2) His friends_i saw themselves_i.
- (3) * Their_i friend saw themselves_i.
- (4) * He saw themselves.
- (5) * Themselves_i saw them_i.

Now we'll extend the pattern by testing some cases. The task here is to create an example sentence for each of the following specifications. **NOTE:** some of them will be ungrammatical. It is the pattern of grammaticality that will be the basis of the argument one might make on the basis of these examples. Also note: We won't actually make the argument within this homework, but I'll discuss it later.

- 1. An infinitive having *themselves* as subject embedded under *want*
- 2. An infinitive having *themselves* as subject embedded under *try*
- 3. An infinitive having *themselves* as subject embedded under *want* using *for*
- 4. A simple clause with *they* as subject and *a picture of themselves* as object
- 5. A simple clause with *they* as subject and *my picture of themselves* as object
- 6. A simple *wh*-question with *they* as subject and *which picture of themselves* as object
- 7. The *wh*-question from above, but as an embedded clause in a declarative statement.

8. The same *wh*-question again, but as an embedded clause in a yes-no question.
9. A simple *wh*-question with *they* as subject and *whose picture of themselves* as object
10. A *wh*-question with *they* as its subject and with an embedded declarative clause that has a singular subject and *which picture of themselves* as its object.
11. A *wh*-question with *they* as its subject and with an embedded declarative clause that has a singular subject and *whose picture of themselves* as its object.

2 Ambiguity

2.1 There

Your task: Draw two trees for the following sentence, corresponding to the two meanings it can have, and briefly describe the meaning for each one.

- (6) When did you say that we should leave?

2.2 Not there

Now, consider (7). This question is not ambiguous. Draw the one valid tree for (7) and then briefly explain why there is only one valid tree (thus: why the question is not ambiguous in the way that (6) is).

- (7) When did you wonder if we should leave?

3 Islands

The following sentences are ungrammatical. They are ungrammatical due to there being an island. Name the type of island, and draw a box around the part of the sentence that is the island. Don't draw trees, just indicate and name islands. A couple of these have valid but weird readings. Those valid but weird readings arise from moving a *wh*-phrase from a position outside the island. So, what we care about here is the readings where, e.g., Tracy fixed the car in some way we're inquiring about. We aren't interested in, e.g., how Pat asked.

- (8) Who did you write the story which first revealed that the senator hired?
- (9) How did Pat ask if Tracy fixed the car?
- (10) With what did Pat laugh after Tracy fixed the car?

- (11) What did Chris thank the man who gave to Tracy?
- (12) What did Pat ask who brought?
- (13) What did Pat hallucinate after ingesting?