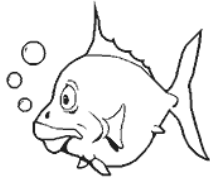


April 1, 2008



1.

What might the second speaker 'mean' in each of the following dialogues? Write a pragmatic paraphrase in each case, and think about how you inferred this meaning.

- (a) Virginia: Do you like my new hat?
Mary: It's pink!
- (b) Maggie: Coffee?
James: It would keep me awake all night.
- (c) Linda: Have you finished the student evaluation forms and the reading lists?
Jean: I've done the reading lists.
- (d) Phil: Are you going to Steve's barbecue?
Terry: Well, Steve's got those dogs now.
- (e) Annie: Was the dessert any good?
Mike: Annie, cherry pie is cherry pie.

2.

The content of the second speaker's utterance remains the same, but does the meaning remain the same? Write a pragmatic paraphrase for the second speaker's response in each dialogue.

- (a) Virginia: Try the roast pork.
Mary: It's pink!
- (b) Maggie: We went to see The Omen last night but it wasn't very scary.
James: It would keep me awake all night.
- (c) Linda: You look very pleased with yourself.
Jean: I've done the reading lists.
- (d) Phil: His garden looks awful.
Terry: Well, Steve's got those dogs now.
- (e) Annie: I thought the pie would cheer you up.
Mike: Annie, cherry pie is cherry pie.

3.

How do you think the first speaker would interpret the second speaker's response if you had the following extra information?

- (a) Pink is Mary's favourite colour and Virginia knows this.
- (b) James has to stay up all night to study for an exam and Maggie knows this.
- (e) Mike loves cherry pie. As far as he's concerned, no one can ruin a cherry pie, and Annie knows this.

4.

PAUL GRICE'S CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLE.

We assume that in a conversation the participants will co-operate with each other when making their contributions. Grice broke this principle down into four basic **MAXIMS** which go towards making a speaker's contribution to the conversation 'cooperative':

1. **RELEVANCE**: Make sure that whatever you say is relevant to the conversation at hand.
2. **QUALITY**: Do not say what you believe to be false. Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence.
3. **QUANTITY**: Make your contribution sufficiently informative for the current purposes of the conversation. Do not make your contribution more informative than is necessary.
4. **MANNER (or CLARITY)**: Do not make your contribution obscure, ambiguous or difficult to understand.

5.

1. 'Well, **to cut a long story short**, she didn't get home till two.'

2. Thank you Chairman. Jus – **just to clarify one point**. There is a meeting of the Police Committee on Monday and there is an item on their budget for the provision of their camera.

3. A I mean, **just going back to your point**, I mean to me an order form is a contract. If we are going to put something in then let's keep it as general as possible. B Yes.

4. A I'll ring you tomorrow afternoon then.
B Erm, I shall be there **as far as I know**, and in the meantime have a word with Mum and Dad if they're free. Right, bye-bye then sweetheart.
A Bye-bye, bye.

6.

When Sir Maurice Bowra was Warden of Wadham College, Oxford, he was interviewing a young man for a place at the college. He eventually came to the conclusion that the young man would not do. Helpfully, however, he let him down gently by advising the young man, 'I think you would be happier in a larger – or a smaller – college'.

7.

A Well, how do I look?
B Your **shoes** are nice...

Lynn Yes **I'm starving** too.
Martin Hurry up girl.
Lynn Oh dear, stop eating rubbish. You won't eat any dinner.

Remember that as a teenager you are at the last stage in your life when you will be happy to hear that the phone is for you.

A So what do you think of Mark?

B His flatmate's a wonderful cook.

Heckler We expected a better play.

Coward I expected better manners.

A Where are you off to?

B I was thinking of going out to get some of that funny white stuff for somebody.

A OK, but don't be long – dinner's nearly ready.

8.

A Does your dog bite?

B No.

A [*Bends down to stroke it and gets bitten*] Ow! You said your dog doesn't bite!

B That isn't my dog.

Husband: How much did that new dress cost, darling?

a) Wife: Less than the last one.

b) Wife: 'I know, let's go out tonight. Now, where would you like to go?'

c) Wife: 'A tiny fraction of my salary, though probably a bigger fraction of the salary of the woman that sold it to me'

9.

A What did you have to eat?

B Oh, something masquerading as chicken chasseur.

Pat: How's it going with Phil?

Melanie: One of us thinks it's OK.