

Basic Word Relations: Paradigmatic vs. Syntagmatic

- Paradigmatic: A & B have paradigmatic relation if they can be substituted for each other (i.e., A & B are in the same class)
 - E.g., “cat” and “dog”; “Monday” and “Tuesday”
- Syntagmatic: A & B have syntagmatic relation if they can be combined with each other (i.e., A & B are related semantically)
 - E.g., “cat” and “sit”; “car” and “drive”
- These two basic and complementary relations can be generalized to describe relations of any items in a language