Lab 6: Cliffhangers

October 19th 2017

In this lab you'll reclaim your humanity by flexing your own language dexterity. This assignment is due by midnight on 10/26/17.

In our first class, we looked at the sentence "`I made her duck`" and the myriad interpretations that result from alternate meanings of the word "`duck`." On its own, this sentence is a cliffhanger. There is no way to absolutely discern its meaning without the context of the sentences that came before or after it. That being said, you could just as absolutely resolve its meaning with a subsequent sentence:

`I made her duck...But next time I'll throw it when she's not looking.`

Your assignment is to create 3 more of these cliffhangers. That is, 3 sentence pairs in which the first sentence produces at least two, equally plausible interpretations, followed by a second sentence that absolutely resolves that ambiguity. Each cliffhanger must focus on a unique, semantically ambiguous word, and obviously the word "`duck`" is off the table.

You be graded on:

- Total ambiguity of the first sentence. (12 points)

- Total unambiguity of the second sentence. (12 points)

- Style. (9 points)

There are many ways to achieve style here. One is the amount of detail in the first sentence. The sentence "`I made her duck`" gets a lot of its ambiguity from its brevity and general ubiquity of all the words involved. The more detail you include in the sentence, the harder it is to remain ambiguous, so points for longer, more detailed sentences (provided that the added detail isn't overt fluff). I also appreciate a good bait-and-switch. The multiple interpretations of your first sentence must be equally *plausible*, but not necessarily equally *probable*. So a second sentence that reveals a far less probable interpretation of the first sentence wins you some clever points.

Step 7

Submit your solutions:

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provide comp150nlp cliffhanger cliffhanger.txt
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