

# Introduction to Linguistics (CL1.102)

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Taught by Prof. Aditi Mukherjee

## Sense Relations – Sentences

Sentences are propositions, and the relation between them is examined in terms of truth values.

There are two kinds of truth: empirical (aka synthetic; related to the real world) and logical (aka analytic; in the context of other sentences).

As with word relations, we will not consider the empirical world and only talk about relations between the semantic values of sentences.

1. Synonymy: X and Y are synonymous if they have the same truth values. For example, *I own the phone* and *The phone belongs to me*.
2. Entailment: X entails Y if the logical relation  $X \implies Y$  holds. For example, *She bought a new car* entails *She bought a new automobile*. Hyponymy is a common source of entailment.
3. Contradiction: X is invariably false. For example, *This bachelor has a pretty wife*.
4. Presupposition: It appears to be like entailment, but it borders on the realm of real world content – the presupposed statement is always true. For example, *I found the meeting boring* presupposes *I attended the meeting*; but so does *I did not find the meeting boring*.  
The above are positive presuppositions – the presupposed statement is assumed to be true. Examples of negative presupposition are *I wish you had worked harder for the test*, which assumes *You did not work hard for the test*.

Another important difference between presupposition and entailment is that entailment only applies to assertions, while presupposition can hold between other types of utterances as well.