H. This problem is pretty//easy

Introduction: There are two things going on in the example sentences that are given in the problem statement. One is a change in meaning that is potentially disastrous:

1. You don't need to come // early.
2. Take the turkey out at five // to four.
3. I got canned // peaches.

The second is a confusion factor caused by a change in sentence structure:

4. All Americans need to buy a house // is a lot of money.
6. Fat people eat // accumulates in their bodies.

H1: Example sentences (5 points)

Your example sentences need to meet some minimal criteria:

1. The part before // should be a complete sentence.

2. The full sentence has a different meaning than the part before //.

2a. The part before // should not already be ambiguous.

H2: Ranking (4 points)

You were asked to rank two sentences that you made up along with sentences 4, 5, and 6.

4. All Americans need to buy a house // is a lot of money.
5. Melanie is pretty // busy.
6. Fat people eat // accumulates in their bodies.

If you take the confusion factor into account, 4 is the most confusing, followed by 6, and then 5.

H2: What makes a garden path sentence harder to process? (6 points)

All garden path sentences are either surprising or confusing, but what makes some harder than others? Looking at sentences 1-6, you might observe a number of things.

1. Change in part of speech: "fat" changes from an adjective in "fat people eat" to a noun in "fat accumulates in their bodies".

2. Change in structure: When you hear "fat people eat", you think that "eat" is the main verb of the sentence. When you hear "accumulates in their bodies", you realize that "people eat" modifies

"fat" and that the main verb of the sentence is "accumulates".

3. Missing words: 4 and 6 would become more clear if the word "that" were inserted:

All that Americans need to buy a house is a lot of money.
Fat that people eat accumulates in their bodies.

4. Intonation: 4 and 6 could be clarified with intonation.

5. Number of words before //: 6 has more words before // than 4 does.

6. Plausibility of the part before //: If you hear a complete and plausible sentence before //, you are less likely to expect more words. "All Americans need to buy a house" is a very plausible thing to say and is a complete sentence. "Fat people eat" is a generic statement, and you might be want to hear more, so you might be expecting more words.

7. Words change meaning: "canned" can mean "fired" or "stored in a can".

8. Level of surprise: "I got canned" meaning "I was fired" could be a very surprising thing to say, and it is quite different from talking about groceries such as "canned peaches".