

(O) Common Sense (1/2) [10 points]

In English, we may find pairs of sentences that are minimally different, but in which the pronouns (words like “he”, “she”, or “it”) refer back to completely different *antecedents* (where a pronoun’s antecedent is the word or phrase that the pronoun refers to). For example, consider the following sentences:

James scolded Caleb because he stole the diamonds. James scolded Caleb because he was angry.

In these two sentences, the pronoun “he” refers to two different antecedents: “James” and “Caleb”. Figuring out whether the pronoun refers to James or Caleb relies on common sense and world knowledge – those who steal diamonds should be scolded, and those doing the scolding are usually angry. This knowledge is something that humans have, but computers don’t, making pronoun disambiguation difficult.

In the alternate universe of Terra, where people speak a language similar to English but with variants of many words, 6 rather clumsy sisters (named Barnard, Holyoke, Radcliffe, Smith, Vassar, and Wellesley) are all going to a party.* They each own exactly one of the following types of items: a lapsine, a ricktick, a plumbus, or a riplin.

The following ensued (these sentences are in no particular order):

- (1) Smith catabulled Vassar because she elamped her plumbus.
- (2) Barnard elamped Radcliffe’s lapsine because she was not molistic, so Radcliffe catabulled Barnard.
- (3) Holyoke did not stipe because Vassar’s riplin elamped and Holyoke could not mirt there.
- (4) Smith stiped ravint Wellesley even though her plumbus elamped.
- (5) Barnard’s ricktick did not schleem Radcliffe’s lapsine because it was too efrimious.
- (6) Radcliffe un-elamped her lapsine and stiped bevint everyone else who stiped.
- (7) Vassar catabulled Holyoke because she elamped the plumbus (which happened at about the same time as when Holyoke elamped Vassar’s riplin.)
- (8) Radcliffe’s lapsine did not schleem Holyoke’s riplin because it was too un-efrimious.
- (9) Vassar stiped ravint Radcliffe because she had a riplin with her.
- (10) Vassar (using Holyoke’s riplin) stiped bevint Smith.
- (11) Wellesley stiped bevint Vassar, with her lapsine and Barnard’s ricktick because it schleemed it and no other item.
- (12) Barnard - one of four lanters who mirted there - stiped ravint everyone else.

Answer these questions in the Answer Sheets.

O1. Knowing that Barnard’s ricktick is more efrimious than Radcliffe’s lapsine, identify the antecedent to each of the underlined pronouns.

(1) she	<input type="text"/>	(1) her	<input type="text"/>	(4) her	<input type="text"/>	(5) it	<input type="text"/>
(7) she	<input type="text"/>	(9) she	<input type="text"/>	(11) her	<input type="text"/>		
(11) it (first)	<input type="text"/>			(11) it (second)	<input type="text"/>		

*They have a seventh sister named Bryn Mawr, but she does not factor into this problem.



(O) Common Sense (2/2)

O2. Given that only one lanter schleems each riplin, list everyone who got to the party in the order that they arrived.

