

Uncategorized WSC Problems

1. I saw Jim yelling at some guy in a military uniform with a huge red beard. I don't know who he was, but he looked very unhappy. Who looked very unhappy?

Answers: The guy in the uniform

Comment: If you stop the second sentence at "I don't know [who/why] he was" you still have the same ambiguity, but it becomes very difficult to ask the question. "I don't know who *whowas*?" is perhaps best. Of course, either way there is a reading in which the two ``he" refer to different people, but it seems to me that that's considerably less preferred.

2. I saw Jim yelling at some guy in a military uniform with a huge red beard. I don't know why he was, but he looked very unhappy. Who looked very unhappy?

Answers: Jim.

Comment: If you stop the second sentence at "I don't know [who/why] he was" you still have the same ambiguity, but it becomes very difficult to ask the question. "I don't know who *whowas*?" is perhaps best. Of course, either way there is a reading in which the two ``he" refer to different people, but it seems to me that that's considerably less preferred.

3. Fred was supposed to run the dishwasher, but he put it off, because he wanted to watch TV. But the show turned out to be boring, so he changed his mind and turned it off. What did Fred turn off?

Answers: the television.

4. Dr. Adams informed Kate that she had retired and presented several options for future treatment. Who had retired?

Answers: Dr. Adams

5. My meeting started at 4:00 and I needed to catch the train at 4:30, so there wasn't much time. Luckily, it was short, so it worked out. What was short?

Answers: The meeting

6. My meeting started at 4:00 and I needed to catch the train at 4:30, so there wasn't much time. Luckily, it was delayed, so it worked out. What was delayed?

Answers: the train.

7. The police left the house and went into the garage, after they found the murder weapon.
Where did they find the murder weapon?

Answers: in the house.