**Ambiguous Requirements:**

Ambiguity is the property of being ambiguous, where a word, term, notation, sign, symbol, phrase, sentence, or any other form used for communication, is called ambiguous if it can be interpreted in more than one way. In either case, [ambiguous requirements lead to confusion](http://searchsoftwarequality.techtarget.com/feature/Writing-requirements-Common-sense-measures-for-success), wasted effort and rework.

Ambiguous functional requirements are any requirements that have any kind of ambiguity or have more than one type of interpretation. Any task in requirements that can have more than one correct output that is contingent on a different understanding of the task is ambiguous.

**Example#1:**

**Math’s Problem:**

I will start with a simple example from a grade 1 class:

An ambiguous task can be as simple as dividing 8 in a half. What is half of 8? The correct answer us 4 but other answer like 0 and 3 may be the correct answer to this question as well. If depends on how you define “a half”.

**Example#2:**

**Online Brain Game For Software Testing:**

From any word related to software testing, create another word randomly by adding 3 letters. As a result, the following is one of the online questions created by the application:

Cross out 3 letters so that a familiar software testing vocabulary word will remain bcdecdeug.

To find the correct answer, note that you need to cross out 3 letters as many times as they can be found in the word above. Cross cde two times and you will be left with the word.

**Example#3:**

**Synonyms:**

In English class, we were often taught to use synonyms to describe the same word; this helped make our writing more interesting and varied.

Unfortunately, when it comes to technical specifications, using a synonym Y*Y* to describe a word X*X* can be a source of confusion. For example:

The background task constructs a list of words for use by the game engine. The process then uses the list of words when creating anagrams for the user.

**Conclusion:**

If we want to decrease the ambiguous requirements we should write complete requirements and also use precise language that communicates information across domain to reader**.** We need to monitor the effectiveness of our communication, and balance that with the amount of time.

**References:**

[**http://extremesoftwaretesting.com/Humor/AmbiguousRequirements.html**](http://extremesoftwaretesting.com/Humor/AmbiguousRequirements.html)

[**https://shane.io/2013/04/22/ambiguity-in-software-specs.html**](https://shane.io/2013/04/22/ambiguity-in-software-specs.html)

[**http://tynerblain.com/blog/2006/06/12/writing-unambiguous-requirements/**](http://tynerblain.com/blog/2006/06/12/writing-unambiguous-requirements/)