Tutorial -
"What does the sentence tell us?"

Overview

We want to teach the computer to understand human language. To do this, we need your help to collect information such as **"who did what to whom"** or **"when/where did someone do something"**, given what is claimed in an example sentence. Naturally, this kind of information can be captured by asking questions and answering them.
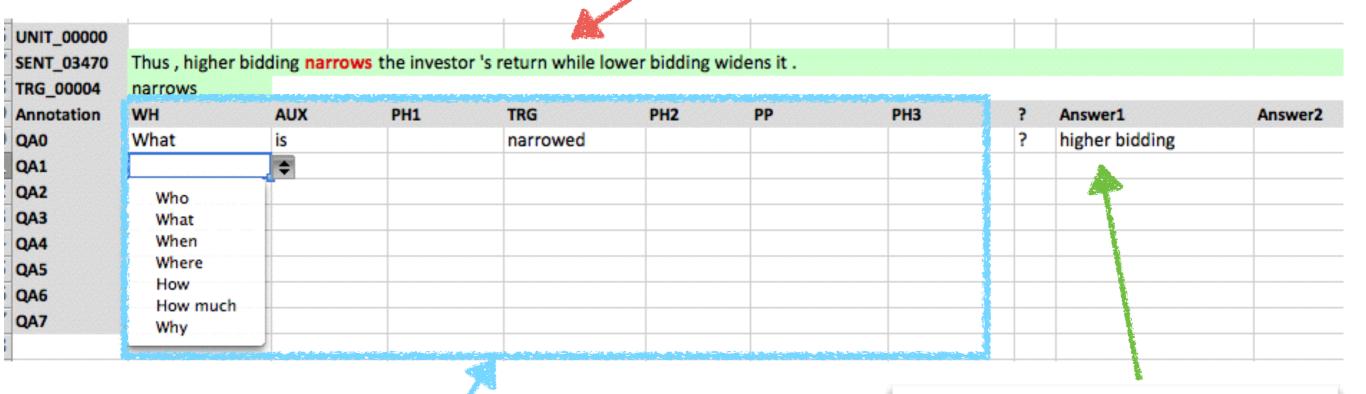
You will be presented with a **sentence** and a **target phrase** (most likely a verb) that occurs in the sentence.

For example, given the sentence
"Thus , higher bidding **narrows** the investor 's return while lower bidding widens it ."
and the target phrase "**narrows**"(as highlighted in the sentence), your job is to:

1. Read the sentence carefully, and make sure you understand its full meaning.

2. Write a question using the template we provide. Your question should be answerable given only the information the sentence provides. For example, "What is narrowed?".

3. Answer that question using only words from the original sentence. For example, "the investor 's return". When there is more than one correct answer, try to list them all.

Annotation Interface

Sentence with highlighted target word, and the target word in shown the next row

UNIT_00000										
SENT_03470	Thus , higher bidding **narrows** the investor 's return while lower bidding widens it .									
TRG_00004	narrows									
Annotation	**WH**	**AUX**	**PH1**	**TRG**	**PH2**	**PP**	**PH3**	**?**	**Answer1**	**Answer2**
QA0	What	is		narrowed				?	higher bidding	
QA1										
QA2	Who									
QA3	What									
QA4	When									
QA5	Where									
QA6	How									
QA7	How much									
	Why									

The template for writing questions. Each row is used to enter a different question-answer pair. Each cell contains a list of pre-defined words you can choose from.

Answers for the question. Only use words in the original sentence for answers.

Question Template Explained

To collect questions that computers can easily understand, we provide a template with seven slots, as shown below:

Drop-down Box	Description	Example options
WH *	Question words (wh-words).	who, what, where ...
AUX	Auxiliary verbs	is, was, have, had, could, won't ...
PH1	Place-holding words	something, someone
TRG *	Some form of the target word.	(if original word is built) builds, build, built, be built
PH2	Same as PH1	
PP	Prepositions	to, from, by, with, ...
PH3	Same as PH1 and PH2, with additional options such as "do something"	

*: WH and TRG are required drop-down boxes. The rest can be left empty when appropriate.

Very importantly, we want you to write down as many questions and answers as possible. For example, for the same sentence "Thus , higher bidding **narrows** the investor 's return while lower bidding widens it." and the same target phrase "narrows", we can also ask "What narrows something?" and answer "higher bidding".

You can write up to 8 questions. There are usually 2 to 5 different questions that can be asked depending on how much information the original sentence provides.

Examples (1) - Simple Sentences

UNIT_00000										
SENT_03470	Thus , higher bidding **narrows** the investor 's return while lower bidding widens it .									
TRG_00004	narrows									
Annotation	WH	AUX	PH1	TRG	PH2	PP	PH3	?	Answer1	Answer2
QA0	What			narrows	something			?	higher bidding	
QA1	What	is		narrowed				?	the investor 's return	
QA2										

UNIT_00001										
SENT_03470	Thus , higher bidding narrows the investor 's return while lower bidding **widens** it .									
TRG_00012	widens									
Annotation	WH	AUX	PH1	TRG	PH2	PP	PH3	?	Answer1	Answer2
QA0	What			widens	something			?	lower bidding	
QA1	What	is		widened				?	it	the investor 's return
QA2										

In the second example, there are two answers to the question "What is widened?". One answer is "it" because the sentence says "lower bidding widens *it* ". The other answer is "the investor 's return", because this is what "*it*" denotes to in the sentence.

Examples (2) - About uncertain events

UNIT_00010										
SENT_03696	One of the council 's goals , set in 1980 , was to see more than 60 % of adults under 65 years of age **getting** vigorous exercise by 1990 .									
TRG_00025	getting									
Annotation	WH	AUX	PH1	TRG	PH2	PP	PH3	?	Answer1	Answer2
QA0	Who	might		get	something			?	more than 60 % of adults	adults
QA1	What	might	someone	get				?	vigorous exercise	
QA2	When	might	someone	get	something			?	by 1990	
QA3										
QA4										

This sentence tells us that those adults might or might not get vigorous exercise by 1990. In this case, we can use the word "might" in the questions.

Examples (3) - Longer Sentences

UNIT_00045														
SENT_02751	Earlier yesterday , the Societe de Bourses Francaises was **told** that a unit of Framatome S.A. also bought Navigation Mixte shares , this purchase covering more than 160,000 shares .														
TRG_00009	told														
Annotation	WH	AUX	PH1	TRG	PH2	PP	PH3	?	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	Review
QA0	Who	was		told	something			?	the Societe de Bourses Francaises					
QA1	What	was		told		to	someone	?	that a unit of Framatome S.A. also bought Navigation Mixte shares , this purchase covering more than 160,000 shares					
QA2	When	was	something	told		to	someone	?	earlier yesterday					
QA3														
QA4														
QA5														
QA6														

Examples (4) - Tricky Cases

	WH	AUX	PH1	TRG	PH2	PP	PH3	?	Answer1	Answ	Answ	An:	Answ	Note
UNIT_00022														
SENT_04823	Now that the New York decision has been **left** intact , other states may follow suit .													
TRG_00008	left													
Annotation	WH	AUX	PH1	TRG	PH2	PP	PH3	?	Answer1	Answ	Answ	An:	Answ	Note
QA0	What	has		been left				?	the New York decision					What has been left intact?
QA1	How	has	something	been left				?	intact					
QA2	When	has	something	been left				?	Now					When has something been left intact?
QA3														

Sometimes (very rarely) it is difficult to come up with a good question with the given template. In this case, leave a word in the "Note" cell.

Tips

- **Do This**

  - Please make sure you understand the full meaning of the sentence before writing questions and answers.
    For example, in the sentence "Pat made a plan to build a robot next month", it's OK to ask "When will someone build something?" but NOT OK to ask "When did someone make something?" because the sentence doesn't tell you that.

  - Please make sure the questions you asked are grammatical and understandable.

  - Trust your understanding of the language! :)

  - Feedback is highly appreciated!

- **Be Careful Of**

  - There is often more than one way to ask the same question. For example, "Who was given something?" vs. "Who was given something by someone?". **Any equivalent question is acceptable but you should only provide one.** When this happens, any of the questions are acceptable.

- **Do Not**

  - Do not use words not in the original sentence for answer.

  - Do not change the tense/spelling of the words in the original sentence for answer. There is an automatic validator to check if the answer is a part of the original sentence. An easy way to input the answers is to copy-paste from the original sentence.