

2.1

- a. The speaker is referring to Nairobi Airport.
- b. The speaker is not referring; they lack everything in the class of items known as “food”.
- c. The speaker is referring to the particular pair of shoes that fell out of the cupboard.
- d. The speaker is not referring; Henry is going to make something in the class “cake”.
- e. The speaker is not referring; Doris passed through the office like any whirlwind, not a particular one.
- f. The speaker is referring to the particular bus that ran “him” over.
- g. The speaker is not referring; any army of volunteers would do.

2.2

- a. Kiev
- b. Tony Blair
- c. December 25
- d. The United States Capital
- e. Mount Everest or Mauna Kea (depending on your definition of “tall”)¹

I don’t immediately see a problem with referential theory. The fact that some of these can depend on when the utterance was made or how you define some words in the reference just means that you can’t be an absolutist about it. Like in the rest of this field, you have to incorporate context.

¹I got this info, appropriately, from the START natural language question answering system from MIT.

2.3

- a. Karl Marx was the author of The Communist Manifesto. Karl Marx was a German economist.
- b. Alexander Graham Bell invented the Telephone (news to me). Alexander Graham Bell was a scottish scientist and engineer.
- c. Confucius was a Chinese philosopher. Confucius was the founder of the system of philosophy “Confucianism”.
- d. James Joyce was an Irish writer. James Joyce wrote Ulysses.
- e. Alexander the Great was a Macedonian military commander. Alexander the Great conquered a lot of places.
- f. Indira Gandhi was the prime minister of India. She isn’t related to Mahatma Gandhi.

I have knowledge of these people (except for Bell, Hoyce, and Gandhi, who I had no knowledge of) through social osmosis. At least that was the case with Confucius and Alexander; I have studied economics and the Russian revolution, so I know about Marx from those. Alexander the Great’s fable has presumably been around for 2500 years, passed down through social chains.

2.4

I’ll use the notation $A \rightarrow B$ to mean both “B is a necessary condition for A” and “A is a sufficient condition for B”.

Note that while some of these may share the given properties, the implications are unique. For example, a biscuit can be hard, but being a biscuit does not imply being hard, so biscuit and cracker are distinct.

- a. **cake** \rightarrow frosting; **biscuit** \rightarrow unraised; biscuit or roll or bun \rightarrow **bread**; **roll** \rightarrow rounded; **bun** \leftrightarrow roll (synonyms, as far as I can tell); **cracker** \rightarrow hard.
- b. **boil** \rightarrow water; **fry** \rightarrow oil; **broil** \leftrightarrow broiler (yeah, redundant, but it’s distinguishing and correct); **sauté** \rightarrow quickly; **simmer** \rightarrow low heat; **grill** \leftrightarrow a grill; **roast** \rightarrow closed oven (disputable with broil).

2.5

For the following concepts, I kept finding my explanation for why the atypical example was atypical to be “if you asked somebody to draw it, that is very unlike what they would draw”. The atypical examples lack many of the attributes listed for the concept, but somehow they are still in that class (or “sort of”/“mostly” in that class). This imagery definition seems to be pretty good; if someone says “mother”, you start sketching the attributes in your head and refining them as more information comes in.

- a. A VEHICLE moves, has wheels, has a cabin, has a driver or pilot. A car is prototypical, a plane a little less so, a robotically-guided hover board quite unprototypical.
- b. A HOME has residents, a roof, walls, a yard. A prototypical home is my house; an atypical home is a cardboard box.
- c. A WORK has employees, has cubicles, pays money, consumes the daytime on weekdays. A prototypical workplace is Microsoft (I’m guessing); an atypical workplace is the homeless shelter.
- d. A MOTHER has a son or daughter, makes cookies, nags, kisses. A typical mother is the Brady Bunch mom; an atypical mother is a mother lizard (because it abandons its young and doesn’t make cookies).
- e. A SCIENCE uses mathematics, causes explosions, attracts mad geniuses, draws refutable conclusions based on evidence. A typical science is Chemistry; an atypical science is Christian Science (zing), or Philosophy.