1. “What did you get on the last test?” “A grade.”

The response “A grade” violates the rule of quantity and manner. The answer does not supply enough information to answer the question. It is safe to say that the question elicited a more detailed response as it is obvious that “a grade” will always be the outcome of a test. This answer is too ambiguous to be helpful.

1. “Did you like her singing?” “Her costume was beautiful.”

I believe this response violates the rule of relevance. The answer does not provide an informative contribution in relation to the question. The opinion of the costume irrelevant in relation to a question about singing.

1. “The governor has the brains of a three-year-old.”

While is unclear if this a response, I think it would still violate rules of politeness and charity. It does seem clear that this statement is meant as an insult.

1. “The Lone Ranger rode into the sunset and jumped on his horse.”

I believe this statement violates that rule of Manner. It seems that the Lone Ranger would need to jump on his horse before riding into the sunset. This would make the statement out of order.

1. “Without her help, we’d be up a creek without a paddle.”

This statement does not appear to break any of the rules. Though, I suppose the phrase “up a creek without a paddle” could be considered obscure in the right circles. In that case, it would violate the rule of Manner, specifically obscurity of expression.

1. “Where is Palo Alto?” “On the surface of the Earth.”

Much like question 1, this answer violates both quantity and manner. Through ambiguity, the response does not contribute enough information to answer the question.

1. “It will rain tomorrow.” “How do you know?” “I just guessed.”

The response “I just guessed” lacks adequate evidence to support the idea that it will rain tomorrow. For that reason, this violates the quality rule.

1. “Does the dog need to go out for a W-A-L-K[spelled out]?”

I’m not sure if I’m being unreasonable or not, but this statement assumes that the listener can spell the word “walk”. If this was done with a much longer word say “Czechoslovakia”, I think it would be reasonable to say that some people may have difficulty understanding the statement. Therefore, I’d say this statement violates manner by not avoiding obscurity of expression.

1. “Why did the chicken cross the road?” “To get to the other side.”

I can’t believe I’m saying this, but I don’t think this violates any rules. The closest I can come to an argument for a violation is there is not enough evidence of the motivation of the chicken. But that would also assume that the person answering the question wasn’t some sort of chicken phycologist or possessed some other expertise on the minds of chickens.

1. Psychiatrist: “You’re crazy.” Patient: “I want a second opinion.” Psychiatrist: “Okay. You’re ugly, too.”

This one violates politeness with the “ugly” comment (and probably the “crazy” comment) at the end. Past being a Psychiatrist, no evidence is given for either statement either. We can check off quality as well! At least the psychiatrist was brief and orderly.

1. It’s getting a little chilly in here. (Said by a visitor in your home)

The speaker is implying that the area they are in is starting to feel cold and/or uncomfortable. As a guest, the speaker may also be implying a request to change the environment somehow, maybe by getting a blanket or turning up the thermostat.

What is literally said is just a statement about the temperature of the area they are in. The implication is that the speaker is has some degree of dissatisfaction with the state of the environment.

1. Do you mind if I borrow your pen? (Said to a friend while studying)

The speaker is implying a wish to borrow a pen to write something, perhaps for the during of their study session.

The speak uses a turn of phrase to ask for a pen. The speaker probably isn’t interested in the listeners thoughts on lending out a pen, they just want to know if the lister will lend it out.

1. We are out of soda. (Said by a child to her parents)

The child is implying that they are thirsty and would like a soda, however there are none left. Furthermore, the speaker is probably also implying that they would like the parents to help them remedy the situation somehow.

The statement literally says a there is a shortage in beverage supplies! What it is intended is that the child wants the parent to help them with their thirst, probably with soda.

1. I got here before he did. (Said in a ticket line)

The speaker is implying that they should receive service next. Or at least the speaker believes that his/her position on the queue is before the “he” being referred to.

The speaker is attempting to urge the person at the ticket counter to give them service first. Simultaneously, the speaker is asking the man to respect the speaker’s opinion about the queue position.

1. Don’t blame me if you get in trouble. (Said by someone who advised you not to do it)

The speaker is implying that the listener’s intended course of action will have negative consequences. Ultimately, the speaker is trying to warn the listener against something. There is also the possibility that the speaker is attempting to absolve themselves of any responsibility for what will happen.

The speaker is literally stating that they are not responsible for anything that goes wrong in a specific situation. However, the implied meaning is that “if you do A:” then bad things will happen. The statement is a warning that sounds like an “I told you so”.

1. Has this seat been taken? (Said in a theater before a show)

The speaker is asking if they can sit in a specific seat. If no one is sitting there, they speaker can take use the seat.

The speaker’s literal statement is a question about he occupancy of a theater seat. But the real question is “can I sit here”.

1. These sweet potatoes are very filling. (Said when the cook asks if you want more)

The speaker is saying that they do not wish to eat anymore food or that they have had their fill.

The literal meaning of the speaker’s statement is about a food being filling. It doesn’t answer the question directly but implies that because the food is filling, that they do not want more.

1. Don’t ask me. (Said in response to a question)

The speaker is implying that they do not know the answer to a question. And possibly that they have no expertise in the subject of the question.

The literal meaning of the speaker’s statement is they do not wish to be asked questions. This is short “don’t ask me about this subject because I do not know the answer”.

1. Does your dog bite? (Said to a man standing next to a dog)

The implied question is whether a dog is dangerous to strangers. The answer is likely to dictate the speaker’s next actions.

The literal question is a little silly because or course the dog bites. The question short for “does the dog bite people”.

1. I will be out of town that day. (Said in response to a party invitation)

The speaker is implying that they will be unavailable at a specified time.

The literal meaning of the statement is simply that the speaker will be leaving town on a specified day. Through this statement, it is inferred that they will not be able to attend the party.

1. “What did you get on the last test?” “A grade.”

The speaker is implying that, to some degree, is not interested in discussing their grade. This is done by intentionally breaking quantity and manner. The speaker not only omits relevant information but is does it through purposeful ambiguity.

1. “Did you like her singing?” “Her costume was beautiful.”

The implication is a little unclear as it does not seem to address the original question at all. On the surface it is straight forward, the speaker admires the singer’s costume. But I can only speculate why the speaker would have choose violate the rule of relevance.

1. “The governor has the brains of a three-year-old.”

The implication is that the speaker does not respect the governor’s intelligence. The speaker is doing so by stating obvious falsehoods about the state of the governor brain.

1. “Does the dog need to go out for a W-A-L-K[spelled out]?”

The speaker is implying that it is time to go for a walk. The speaker is doing this by asking an obvious question in which the answer is assumed.

1. Are you going to vote for a Republican? I just might.

The speaker is indicating they will probably vote Republican. While the implication doesn’t not suggest certainty, it does point towards the speaker already given the question consideration and leaning towards a decision for a Republican vote.

1. Are you going to vote for a Republican? You can bet on it.

The speaker is implying a much more direct affirmation than the previous question. The speaker is literally saying that the listener can safely gamble on his/her vote being Republican.

1. Are you going to vote for a Republican? Not unless hell freezes over.

A very direct response, this time in disaffirmation of a Republican vote. The speaker is saying that they will not vote Republican unless something impossible happens. This translates to the listener that it is impossible for the speaker to vote Republican.

1. Are you going to vote for a Republican? Don’t be silly.

The speaker is implying that simply by asking the question, the listener is joking. This implication works by suggesting that the speaker would not seriously consider voting Republican.

1. Are you going to vote for a Republican? I am voting for an independent.

The speaker is implying that they are not going to vote for either major party. The speaker is doing a couple of things here, first they are responding to the question, second, they are deflecting follow up statements about voting for a Democrat. This answer works because saying simply that the speaker is voting for a different party implies that they are not voting Republican.

1. Are you going to vote for a Republican? There is no other choice.

The speaker is implying that they will for sure be voting Republican. This works because the speaker is saying that for them, there is only one choice and that is voting Republican.

1. Did you vote for a Republican? Maybe yes, maybe no.

Taking this at face value, the speaker is implying that they are unsure of their decision. This works because the speaker specifically saying maybe to both possible outcomes.

1. Did you vote for a Republican? I voted for the winner.

The speaker is implying who they voted for based on who won the election. Or if the election hasn’t been decided yet, the speaker is expressing their confidence in their choice. In both cases they speaker is depending on the listener having prior knowledge.