

Homework 6

Your name: _____

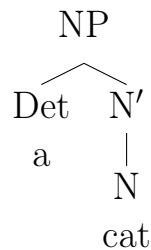
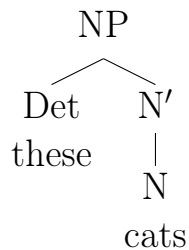
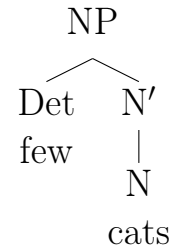
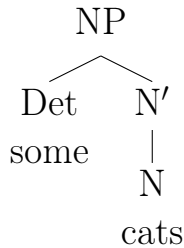
Due Tuesday Dec 6th

Feel free to print this and write your answers directly on the assignment itself, or you can write the answers on a separate sheet of paper. Remember to write clearly!

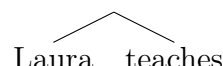
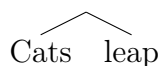
Question 1: What sort of meaning do determiners contribute to an NP? Think about the contrast in meaning across different determiners (using the sentences in (1) to guide you), and then give a denotation for each determiner, as well as for each NP (next to the relevant parts of the NPs drawn for you below).

A tip: It may be easiest to think about what denotation you want the whole NP to have and then see what you need to make the determiner mean in order to get there. There is no one right answer here. Be creative! Feel free to invent a new way for things to semantically compose. But do not change the basic meaning of nouns from Handout 8.

- (1) a. Cats sleep.
- b. Some cats sleep.
- c. These cats sleep.
- d. Few cats sleep.
- e. A cat sleeps.



Question 2: For every node in the following simplified trees (every node = the two words and then their combination), give its semantic denotation in formal notation.



Question 3: What kind of truth conditions do the following sentences have? For each sentence, say (i) whether or not the sentence has a compositional interpretation, and (ii) whether the truth conditions are situationally true/false, tautology, contradiction, anomaly, metaphor, or idiom. The same sentence might have several correct answers; you only need to give ONE (correct) answer per sentence.

- a. Laura's students will spread the word that linguistics is great.

- b. Laura has awesome students.

- c. Kittens are puppies.

- d. Semantics is a far cry from the most difficult topic in linguistics.

- e. Mammal babies are born.

- f. Semantics swept the happiness.

- g. Laura's students went over all the class handouts with a fine-toothed comb.

- h. Laura might bake more cookies for the final exam.

- i. Laura will bake cookies for the final exam, or she won't.

- j. Laura will bake cookies for the final exam, and she won't.

- k. Laura hopes her students won't have a cow if the final exam is challenging.

- l. Laura kicked Dan with her hand.

- m. Light blue is blue.