

# ELL101: Semantics practice (Entailment)

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- (a) Fifi is a dog.
- (b) Fifi is an animal.

(a) entails (b)

(a) Fifi is a dog.

(b) Fifi is a poodle.

(b) entails (a)

(a) Fifi is a dog.

(b) Fifi barks.

no entailment

(a) Fifi is a dog.

(b) Fifi is brown.



no entailment.

(a) Fifi is a dog.

(b) Fifi is a domesticated carnivorous mammal that typically has a long snout, an acute sense of smell, and a barking, howling, or whining voice.

(a) entails (b) and (b)  
entails (a) (equivalent)

(a) Fifi is dead.

(b) Fifi was alive.

(a) entails (b)

(a) Rose is married to Tom.

(b) Rose is married.

(a) entails (b)

(a) Rose is married to Tom.

(b) Rose and Tom are married.



(a) entails (b)

(a) Rose is married to Tom.

(b) Rose and Tom married two yeras ago.

no entailment

(a) David is an unmarried adult male.

(b) David is a bachelor.

equivalent

(a) David is an unmarried adult male.

(b) David is unmarried.

(a) entails (b)

(a) David is an unmarried adult male.

(b) David is going to get married tomorrow.



(b) entails (a)

(a) This knife is too dull to cut the rope.

(b) This knife doesn't cut the rope.

no entailment

(a) This knife is too dull to cut the rope.

(b) I want to cut the rope.

no entailment

(a) Victoria likes to sing.

(b) Victoria sings.

(a) entails (b)

(a) Victoria likes to sing.

(b) Victoria sings well.



no entailment

(a) Victoria likes to sing.

(b) Victoria likes a form of performance art.

(b) entails (a)

(a) Harold has been here for an hour.

(b) Harold was here 30 minutes ago.

(a) entails (b)

(a) Mr Bond has given up smoking.

(b) Mr. Bond smoked before.

(a) entails (b)

(a) Mr Bond still smokes.

(b) Mr. Bond smoked before.



(a) entails (b)

- (a) Oil paintings are more expensive than watercolors.
- (b) Watercolors are cheap.

no entailment

- (a) The Carlson Hotel is more than a century old.
- (b) The Carlson Hotel existed 100 years ago.

equivalent

(a) Alice invited some friends to lunch.

(b) Alice has friends.

(a) entails (b)

(a) Alice invited some friends to lunch.

(b) Alice is going to have lunch.



(a) entails (b)

(a) Alice invited some friends to lunch.

(b) Alice is going to have lunch with friends.

no entailment

- (a) The anarchist assassinated the emperor.
- (b) The emperor died.

(a) entails (b)

- (a) The anarchist assassinated the emperor.
- (b) The anarchist intended to kill the emperor.

(a) entails (b)

(a) The anarchist killed the emperor.

(b) The anarchist intended to kill the emperor.



no entailment

What will be entailed by  
"I regret having left London."

Answer varies.

What will be entailed by  
”This room holds 10 people.”

Answer varies.

What will be entailed by  
"I wonder what happend with Daniel."

Answer varies.

What will be entailed by

”Dave is angry because Jim crashed the car.”



Answer varies.

What will be entailed by  
”John insulted me, so I hit him.”

Answer varies.

What entails this sentence?

”I regret having left London.”

Answer varies.

What entails this sentence?

”This room holds 10 people.”

Answer varies.

What entails this sentence?

”I wonder what happend with Daniel.”



Answer varies.

What entails this sentence?

”Dave is angry because Jim crashed the car.”

Answer varies.

What entails this sentence?

”John insulted me, so I hit him.”

Answer varies.

What entails this sentence?

”Have you stopped watching daytime TV yet?”

Answer varies.

What entails this sentence?

”John regrets sending a defamatory e-mail to the whole list.”



Answer varies.

What entails this sentence?

”The workers knew that the management were  
lying.”

Answer varies.

What entails this sentence?

”John read the article before he went down the  
pub.”

Answer varies.

What entails this sentence?

”John accused Harry of writing the letter.”

Answer varies.

# Bibliography I

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