## M06 · Entailment

Course in Semantics · Ling 531 / 731 McKenzie · University of Kansas

Module M, Lecturelet 06

## 1 Key questions

Here are five questions you should be able to answer after you've seen the video.

- 1. What does it mean for one proposition to entail another?
- 2. How can we distinguish upward from downward entailment?
- 3. What are some expressions that trigger upward entailment?
- 4. What are some expressions that trigger downward entailment?
- 5. How can we characterize "Negative Polarity Items" in terms of entailment?

## 2 Exercise

1.

. F	For each of the following pairs propositions, indicate the correct relation				
1	. P : A Doberman is barking outside Q : A dog is barking outside				
	a) P upward entails Q	b) P downward entails Q	c) P does not entail Q		
2	2. P: Nobody at the party touched the punch. Q: No kids at the party touched the punch.				
	a) P upward entails Q	b) P downward entails Q	c) P does not entail Q		
3	. P : A Doberman is barking outside Q : A Doberman is barking				
	a) P upward entails Q	b) P downward entails Q	c) P does not entail Q		
4	. P : Ozzie ate a sandwich Q : Ozzie ate a meatball sub				
	a) P upward entails Q	b) P downward entails Q	c) P does not entail Q		
5	P: The Pope set foot in the Louvre Q: The Pope lived in Paris				
	a) P upward entails Q	b) P downward entails Q	c) P does not entail Q		
6	. P: The Pope set foot in the Louvre Q: The Pope set foot in France				

	a) P upward entails Q	b) P downward entails Q	c) P does not entail Q	
7.	P: Nobody at the party touched the punch. Q: No kids at the party touched the punch.			
	a) P upward entails Q	b) P downward entails Q	c) P does not entail Q	
8.	8. P : Our Doberman is barking outside Q : Our Doberman is barking in our backyard			
	a) P upward entails Q	b) P downward entails Q	c) P does not entail Q	
9.	P : One guest refused to sit anywhere. Q: One guest refused to sit at a table.			
	a) P upward entails Q	b) P downward entails Q	c) P does not entail Q	

- **2.** For each of the following propositions, provide one expression that it upward entails, and one that it downward entails. Mention which part of the proposition triggers the entailments.
  - 1. One guest refused to sit anywhere

UE: Someone refused to sit anywhere (one guest  $\Rightarrow$  someone)

DE: One guest refused to sit at a table (anywhere  $\Rightarrow$  at a table)

- 2. Every doctor prescribed amoxicillin
- 3. Terese had not noticed any children on her run