

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

1. Figure out which *it/its* in each sentence is in the scope of the quantifier in **boldface**.

Note, the sentence doesn't have to be very realistic or smooth-sounding; here we are just looking for possible scope.

- (1) The artist sent every painting with a copy of its provenance certificate.

 The artist sent every painting with a copy of its provenance certificate.
- (2) Every cat fooled a child with its own collar and took its bone from a dog.

 Every cat fooled a child with its own collar and took its bone from a dog.
- (3) It remained a mystery why the dog chased every cat with its own collar and brought a mouse with it.

 It remained a mystery why the dog chased every cat to its own house and brought a mouse with it.
- 2. Create a scenario that gives the universal quantifier in each sentence a **wide scope** reading, with respect to the other scope-bearing expression in **boldface**.
 - (4) Every doctor checked a patient.

There are 10 doctors in the clinic, and there were plenty of patients today, so each one managed to check at least one patient.

(hint: every doctor is such that they checked a patient)

- (5) We almost beat every team in the conference.
 - We are in a 10-team conference, and played each other team once. We lost all 9 games, but each game was very close. (hint: every team in the conference is such that we almost beat it)
- **3.** Create a scenario that gives the universal quantifier in each sentence a **narrow scope** reading, with respect to the other scope-bearing expression in **boldface**.
 - (6) Every doctor checked a patient.

There are 10 doctors in the clinic, and there were plenty of patients, but there was this one patient whose case was so mysterious that each of the doctors checked him out.

(hint: there is a patient such that every doctor checked him.)

(7) We almost beat every team in the conference.

We are in a 10-team conference, and played each other team once. We won 8 out of 9 games, some close some blowouts. But one team eluded our grasp.

(hint: it is almost the case that we beat every team in the conference)

- 4. In sentences (4-7), which ones have surface scope, and which ones have inverse scope?
- (4) and (7) have a surface scope reading, while (5) and (6) have inverse scope