

Linguistic Perspectives on English Grammar, ENG 595G, 2007

Study Questions #4

Due in your first class section, week 5 (Tuesday, Oct. 30th or Friday, Nov. 2nd)
Reading: Berk, Chapters 2 and 3

NOTE: There is a lot of detailed information about the use of determiners, pronouns, genitives, etc. in chapter 2 of Berk. Please do not feel that you have to memorize all of this information this week. Just read through the chapter and answer the following questions. We will be going over much of this material again at various points throughout the course.

1. Give one example of each of the following types of pronoun in English:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| a. Personal pronoun: | b. Reflexive pronoun: |
| c. Demonstrative pronoun: | d. Indefinite pronoun: |
| e. Interrogative pronoun: | f. Reciprocal pronoun: |

2. Each of the following sentences is ambiguous. For each one, indicate whether its ambiguity is lexical, structural, or both:

- a. I saw her duck. _____
- b. This drill is boring. _____
- c. Flying airplanes can be dangerous. _____
- d. Police kill mentally deranged man with knife. _____

3. The following sentence is structurally ambiguous. On a separate sheet, draw two box diagrams corresponding to its two meanings:

I saw a man with a telescope.

4. Most English verbs have five inflectional forms. In the chart below, identify the forms in the first column, and fill in the correct forms for each of the verbs at the top in the other columns:

Verb: Verb form:	"to eat"	"to sing"	"to bring"	"to give"	"to dive"
a.					
b.					
c.					
d.					
e.					

5. The following is a verb that I just made up: "to ming." It means "to jump up and down, and turn around at the same time." Invent five sentences that contain this verb. Each sentence should illustrate one of the five inflectional forms of English verbs.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

6. What are the seven uses of the so-called "present tense" mentioned by Berk? Give an example sentence for each one. Try to think of examples not mentioned in class or in the text.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.
- g.

7. Indicate whether the verb phrases in the following examples are finite or nonfinite (HINT: Verb phrases with finite auxiliaries are finite, even if the semantically "main" verb is not):

Example: *Driving* like that must be dangerous.
nonfinite *finite*

- a. He had started on a ship going out to Canada.
- b. He held her hand, and she knew that he was speaking to her.
- c. As she mused, the pitiful vision of her mother's life laid it's spell on the very quick of her being.
- d. It was a life of common sacrifices closing in final craziness.
- e. Leaning against the railing, she struggled to remember the odour of dusty cretonne.