

*Understanding English Grammar*

**Linguistic Problem of the Month, January 2011**

**Parse this!**

*Inspired by John Blatz and Jason Eisner*

The following sentence, though bizarre and deliberately confusing, is perfectly grammatical:

"The weasel that the dog that trees the cat thinks loves smiles eats skins."

Answer the following questions. In some cases, the answer may be "nothing in this sentence".

- a. What is the Subject of this sentence? (Give a single-word answer.)
- b. How many verbs are there in the sentence?
- c. What trees what?
- d. What thinks what?
- e. What loves what?
- f. What smiles?
- g. What eats what?
- h. What skins what?
- i. What is the main Verb of this sentence?