

Name: _____
 Section: _____

Linguistics 001
Spring 2009
Homework 4
Due: Wed, Feb 25 @ 12pm

I. Adjectives

Categorize the adjectives in the following noun phrases. Some adjectives will fit into more than one category.

	Intersective	Subjective	Privative
A <u>red</u> dog			
A <u>famous</u> linguist			
A <u>phony</u> phone			
A <u>fast</u> bike			
The <u>smartest</u> Kindergartner			

II. Polysemy/Homophony

Identify each word as polysemous or homophonous (over just the definitions supplied)

- a) *leech*: a bloodsucking worm; a hanger-on who seeks advantage
- b) *range*: a cooking stove; a series of mountains
- c) *race*: the act of running competitively; a cultural construct identifying common ancestry

III. Predicate Logic

Using the functions and arguments described below, answer parts (a) and (b).

predicates:

- breaks
 - B1: given x and y, x breaks y
 - B2: given x, x breaks
- kicks
 - K1: given x and y, x kicks y
 - K2: given x, x kicks

dramatis personae:

- J: John (an AGENT)
- V: the vase (a THEME)

logical operators:

- AND = true iff P is true and Q is true
- OR = true if P is true,
if Q is true,
or if both are true

facts about the world:

- objects don't have legs
- people don't break
- John destroys pottery

(a) Evaluate the following statements (true/false), and translate them into natural language

B1(J,V) =
translation:

B2(V) =
translation

K2(V) AND K2(J) =
translation

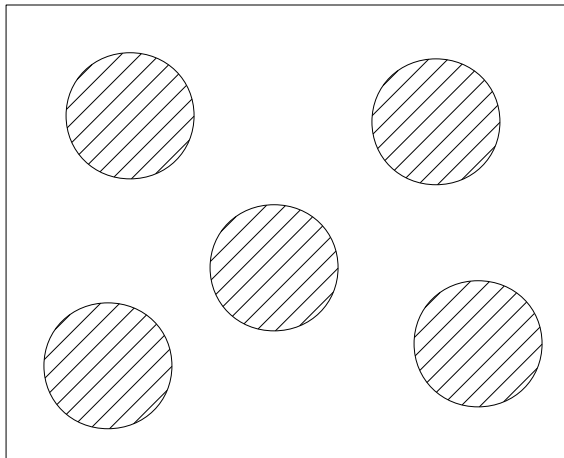
K1(J,V) OR K1(V,J) =
translation

B2(J) =
translation

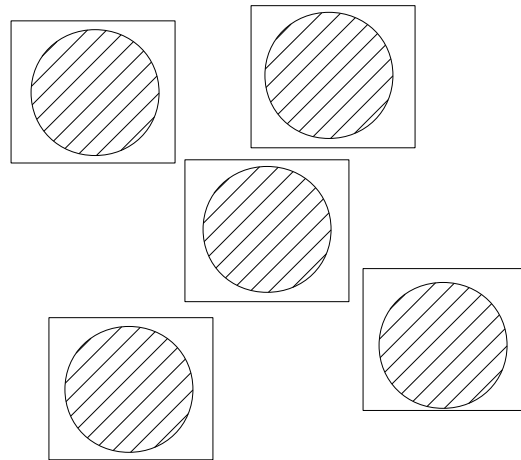
(b) What is the crucial difference between the one-place predicates K2 and B2?

IV Quantifier Scope:

GROUP A



GROUP B



“All circles are inside a square”

Below is one reading of this phrase. Look at the two groups above and identify

- the group that this reading refers to
- the arguments x and y.

Hint: x and y represent entities. The only two entities we're dealing with are “circles” and “squares”

$\exists y. \forall x. \textit{inside}(x,y)$

Group:

x =

y =