

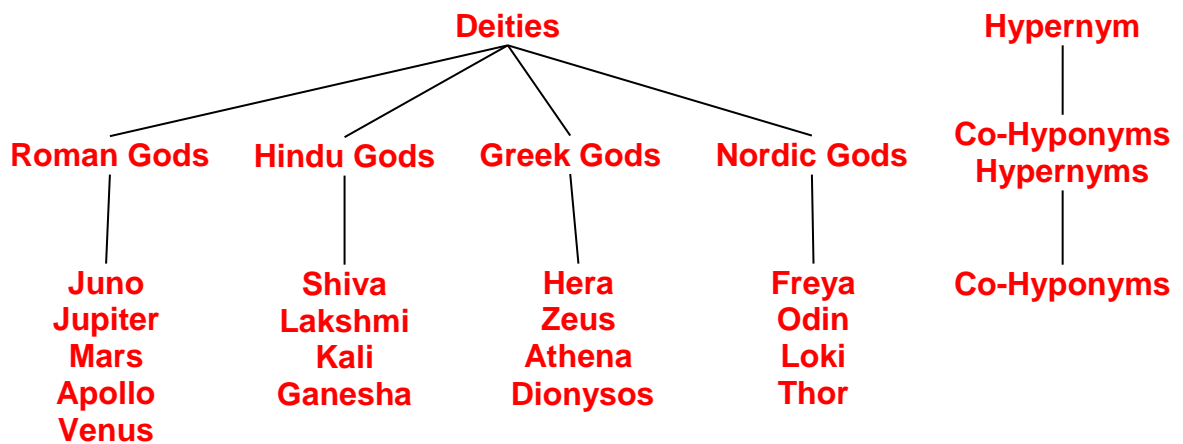
Semantics Exercises

Categorisation of Meaning

1. Which ones of the lexemes in the box are hypernyms, which ones are hyponyms?

Apollo , Athena, Deities, Dionysos, Freya, Ganesha, Greek gods, Hera, Hindu gods, Juno, Jupiter, Kali, Lakshmi, Loki, Mars, Nordic gods, Odin, Roman gods, Shiva, Thor, Venus, Zeus

2. Draw a tree showing the various levels of hypernymy/hyponymy.



3. Fill in the missing symbols in the following semantic matrix.

	liquid	savory	Western	vegetarian	main meal	dairy-free
cock-a-leakie soup	+	+	+	-	-	+
strawberry icecream	-	-	+	+	-	-
haggis	-	+	+	-	+	+
hotdog	-	+	+	-	+	+
pizza	-	+	+	+/-	+	-
tandoori chicken	-	+	-	-	+	+
lassi	+	-	-	+	-	-
chocolate soufflé	-	-	+	+	-	+
pint of Guinness	+	-	+	+	-	+
roesti	-	+	+	+	+	+
fondue	+	+	+	+	+	-
Spaghetti al tonno	-	+	+	-	+	+
gefilte fish	-	+	+	-	+	+
raita	+	+	-	+	-	-
chicken lap	-	+	-	-	-	+
crème brûlée	+	-	+	+	-	-

paella	-	+	+	-	+	+
black pudding	-	+	+	-	-	+
mango chutney	+/-	+/-	-	+	-	+

4. Find the lexeme that is not a synonym in these series and explain which feature(s) it does not possess.

- a) dependable, trustworthy, **hard-working**, reliable, conscientious (**-reliability**)
- b) amble, mosey, mooch, **stride**, saunter (**-leisurely pace**)
- c) **directive**, aim, goal, purpose, intention, aspiration (**+instruction from outside**)
- d) friendly, kindly, **charitable**, affable, pleasant (**- friendly**)
- e) upbringing, education, schooling, teaching, **training** (**- guided teaching**)
- f) support, assure, **demonstrate**, prove, confirm (**- assurance**)
- g) left-wingers, socialists, **anarchists**, communists, reds (**-political defined position**)

5. Find opposites (antonyms) and mark those pairs that are gradable.

	antonym	gradable?		antonym	gradable?
aimless	focused	-?	intelligent	stupid	+
careful	careless	+	married	single	-
eccentric	conventional	+	obscure	well-known	+
frantic	calm/relaxed	+	optional	mandatory	-
grumpy	cheerful	+	religious	secular	-
inedible	edible	-	unique	common	-

Meaning Relatedness

Determine the meaning relationship between the following lexical pairs/sets.

<i>flare</i> / <i>flair</i>	homophony
<i>book</i> (v) / <i>book</i> (n)	polysemy (both related to something written in a book)
<i>lug</i> (n) / <i>lug</i> (v)	homonymy (“lug” as “ear” vs. “to be pulled along with exertion”, but etymology makes it potentially polysemous)¹
<i>launch</i> (a ship) / <i>launch</i> (=begin)	polysemy
<i>fast</i> (quick) / (stuck) <i>fast</i>	homonymy
<i>wring</i> / <i>ring</i>	homophony
<i>row</i> (v) / <i>row</i> (v)	homography
<i>row</i> (n) / <i>row</i> (n)	homonymy
<i>strict</i> (controls) / <i>strict</i> (translation)	polysemy
<i>try</i> (a criminal) / <i>try</i> (something new)	polysemy
<i>dry</i> (desert) / <i>dry</i> (humour) / <i>dry</i> (v)	polysemy (metaphorical meaning)
<i>die</i> / <i>dye</i>	homophony

¹ http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?allowed_in_frame=0&search=lug&searchmode=none

Beyond word meaning

Characterise the italicised phrases in the following sentences (6.2.4)

1. What do a pig's tail and 3:30 am have in common? They are both <i>twirley</i> .	pun/homophone
2. We have had <i>uninvited</i> guests.	oxymoron
3. The Ulster Loyalists are loyal to the <i>Crown</i> , not to <i>Westminster</i> .	synecdoche
4. The <i>Pentagon</i> has no plans for an invasion.	synecdoche/metonymy
5. The farmer had 25 <i>heads</i> of cattle.	synecdoche/metonymy
6. The captain got the officers to assemble all <i>hands</i> on deck.	synecdoche/metonymy
7. That's <i>a fine mess</i> you have gotten me into. (Oliver Hardy)	oxymoron
8. She had teeth like the Commandments, ten and all of them broken. (Mike Harding)	simile
9. She gave him her answer, a <i>firm maybe</i> .	oxymoron
10. Santa's helpers are <i>subordinate Clauses</i> .	pun/homonym
11. No sensible man would go to the ball with her wearing a bikini; so she went with a little moron.	pun/homonym
12. John talks the <i>hindlegs off a donkey</i> , you just can't get a word in <i>edgeways</i> .	metaphor
13. I'm <i>at the end of my tether</i> .	metaphor
14. How can you stop an elephant <i>charging</i> ? – Take away his credit card.	pun/homonym
15. He's a serious musician but country music is his <i>bread and butter</i> .	synecdoche/metonymy
16. He'll be able to <i>do the speech off the cuff</i> .	metaphor
17. He tickled the <i>ivories</i> . (played piano).	synecdoche/metonymy
18. He said he was being <i>cruel to be kind</i> .	oxymoron
19. He is conservative, fundamentalist and anti-liberal, a real <i>redneck</i> .	metonymy
20. He got out <i>faster than greased lightning</i> .	simile/ "greased lightning" metaphor
21. He felt lower than a millipede with fallen arches.	simile
22. Everything is <i>clear as mud</i> .	oxymoron
23. Certain political groups in Britain are keen on leaving <i>Europe</i> .	synecdoche
24. blonde to make a bishop kick a hole into a stained glass window (Raymond Chandler)	simile
25. Atheists form <i>non-prophet</i> organisations.	pun/homophone
26. A nose like a sharp autumn evening, inclined to be frosty towards the end. (Dickens)	simile
27. "Time flies like an arrow. <i>Fruit flies like a banana</i> ."(Groucho Marx)	pun/homonyms
28. "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me <i>your ears</i> ."	metonymy/ synecdoche (but with "lend..." metaphor