

**Preparatory course for beginning M.Sc. students:
Pragmatics 1: Discourse and Reference
Exercises 06.10.2009**

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1. Search the web/a newspaper and find five examples of context dependent meaning.

2. Which of the three rhetorical relations CONTRAST, RESULT, and EXPLANATION holds between the sentences and clauses (indicated by square brackets) in each of the examples below? Are there any linguistic cues signalling this relation? If so, do these cues always signal the relation or can you think of contexts where they don't?

1. [Although it was raining], [they decided to go for a picnic.]
2. [Peter was late for the cinema]. [He had missed the bus].
3. [The message was softly spoken], [yet clear.]
4. [Paula had finished her work early.] [So she could go to the cinema.]
5. [Siobhan is a painter.] [Her sister works as a hospital nurse in York.]
6. [Cedric knocked over the vase.] [It fell to the ground and broke.]
7. [Laura may not make it to the party tonight,] [as she has a lot of work to do.]
8. [The heavens opened just when he left the house.] [He got totally soaked.]

3. Below is a text about a patient in an Australian hospital. All expressions referring to the patient have been replaced by “_____”. Read the text and decide which of the referring expressions listed below is appropriate in which context and why. Each expression from the list can be used more than once and there are several good solutions.¹

- the patient
- the 24-year-old man
- an Italian tourist
- man
- he
- him

Doctors save _____ with vodka drip

Australian doctors have kept _____ alive by feeding _____ vodka through a drip for three days, medical staff in Queensland say.

_____, who had swallowed a poison in an apparent suicide attempt, was treated while in a coma.

Doctors set up the drip after running out of medicinal alcohol, used as an antidote to the poison.

Medical staff said _____ had made a full recovery, and the hangover had worn off by the time _____ woke up.

_____ had been taken to hospital in the northern Queensland town of Mackay after swallowing ethylene glycol - a poison contained in anti-freeze.

”_____ was drip-fed about three standard drinks an hour for three days in the intensive care unit,” Dr Todd Fraser said in a statement.

”Fortunately for _____ _____ was in a medically induced coma for a good portion of that. By the time _____ woke up I think his hangover would have well and truly gone.” _____ spent 20 days in hospital before being discharged.

¹Check <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/7037443.stm> for the original text.