

10. Übungsblatt - Abgabe (per email!): Teil 1 10.7.2014 (1600); Teil 2 13.7.2014 (2200)

Answers can be submitted in either English or German. **Contrary to previous assignments, please submit this one by email to: apalmer@coli.uni-saarland.de.**¹

Analogies and Metaphors

This exercise is a game with two stages. In the first, your objective is to create new analogies/similes and describe their meanings. In the second, your objective is to interpret other people's new analogies. For organizational reasons, the exercise must be submitted in two parts, as described above.

The points for this exercise are split between parts 1 and 2, such that to get full points for part 2 you need to be present in the exercise session (14.7.2014).

1: Inventing new analogies

Analogies are figurative comparisons. For this exercise we are dealing with analogies of the form "X is like a Y: [Explanation]" (*X ist wie ein Y: [Erklärung]*). The first task is as follows:

- Invent two *original* analogies of the form "X is like a Y: [Explanation]." Here are two examples (auf Deutsch):
 - Promovieren ist wie Ratten in der Wüste jagen: Man sucht überall, ist gequält vom Klima, die Wahrscheinlichkeit des Aufgebens ist extrem hoch, und das Ergebnis, das man beim Erfolg kriegt, will man vielleicht nicht mal unbedingt.
 - Mädchen sind wie Internet Domain-Namen: Die, die ich mag, sind schon vergeben.
- **Not important:** the length of the explanation and the complexity of X and Y (i.e. complexity of the constituents)
- **Important:**
 - The analogies must be *metaphorical*. So **not** "Die Wolken sind so weißwie Schnee." That would be a direct, literal comparison.
 - Don't use especially rare X and Y just for the sake of using rare words. Analogies with words that we don't understand (judges: Alexis for English, Andrea for German) will be disqualified.

¹Credit: Exercise design and examples from Michaela Regneri.

- Avoid explanations that are overly specialized or difficult to understand. One shouldn't need to know any personal circumstances to understand the analogies or their explanations. (Analogies about your siblings, for example, cannot possibly be correctly interpreted by others if they revolve around specific properties of the siblings.)

- **Very important:** The analogies must be “unused.” Analogies that can be found by searching with Google will be disqualified.

To complete this part of the exercise: send me your two analogies (including their explanations) **by email by Thursday 10. July, 1600**. If you're not sure about one of your analogies, feel free to send three for safety.

2: Interpreting analogies

When all the analogies from Part 1 have been submitted, you will get back from me an email with analogies from other students for you to interpret. In other words, you will be given the “X ist wie Y” part, and you need to guess the explanation. You'll get 2-4 analogies to interpret, depending on the number of participants. Whether your version matches the original explanation will be decided together with the creator of the analogy.

To complete this part of the exercise: send me your explanations **by email by Sunday 13. July, 2200**.

3: The competition

For motivation, Part 2 will be hosted as a small competition with prizes (2 chocolate bars, or something not sweet on request); of course the points given for the exercise are independent from results of the competition.

- One winner will be the student who does best at guessing the meanings of the new metaphors.
- The second winner is the student whose analogies inspire the greatest variety in guesses. The ideal case: inventing one especially simple and clear metaphor and one especially difficult metaphor.