LING 101 Problem Session
Semantics

1. Signs

1.1 Each word below is symbolic. State whether it is also iconic, also indexical, or only symbolic.

(a) table
(b) meow
(c) you
(d) tomorrow
(e) Turkish *şırıl şırıl*
(f) there

1.2 A dog says *hav hav* in Turkish, *woof* in English and *wan wan* in Japanese, although the animal sound is the same. Explain what this shows about iconic words.

2. Sense and Reference

2.1 For each expression, state whether it has a real-world referent and describe its sense in a few words.

Expression	Referent	Sense
Ankara		
the capital of Türkiye		
dragon		
the largest even number		
although		

2.2 *Ankara* and *the capital of Türkiye* have the same referent. Explain why this pair is a problem for the claim that meaning is the same as reference.

3. Entailment and the Sense of a Word

3.1 Decide whether each sentence is a contradiction. Write C (contradiction) or OK.

(a) X is a puppy, but X is not a dog.
(b) X is a puppy, but X is not cute.
(c) X is a puppy, but X is not young.
(d) X is a puppy, but X is not small.

3.2 Based on your answers, state the sense of *puppy*: "If X is a puppy, then X . . . "

3.3 Apply the same test to the verb *whisper*. Write C or OK.

(a) A whispered something to B, but A did not say anything.
(b) A whispered something to B, but A did not speak quietly.
(c) A whispered something to B, but it was not a secret.
(d) A whispered something to B, but B did not hear it.

4. Prototypes

4.1 Consider the category FRUIT. Rank the following members from the most typical to the least typical: *olive, apple, tomato, banana, coconut, strawberry*. State which features the least typical members lack.

4.2 Decide whether "X is a bird, but X cannot fly" is a contradiction. Explain what your answer shows about the feature *can fly*.

5. Antonymy and Hyponymy

5.1 Classify each pair of antonyms as gradable, complementary, reversive or relational.

(a) heavy / light
(b) present / absent
(c) tie / untie
(d) doctor / patient
(e) young / old
(f) enter / exit
(g) odd / even (of numbers)
(h) landlord / tenant

5.2 Compare the two sentences below. State which one is odd and explain why.

(a) This bag is neither heavy nor light.
(b) This student is neither present nor absent.

5.3 Arrange the following words in one hierarchy, from the most general to the most specific: *dog, penguin, animal, kangal, bird, sparrow, poodle*.

5.4 Complete the entailment: "X is a kangal" entails "X is a _____". Then state whether "X is a dog" entails "X is a kangal".

6. Homophony, Polysemy and Metaphor

6.1 Classify each pair as homophony or polysemy.

	Pair	Relation
(a)	*bark* (sound of a dog) and *bark* (skin of a tree)	
(b)	*foot* (of a person) and *foot* (of a mountain)	
(c)	Turkish *yüz* 'face' and *yüz* 'hundred'	
(d)	Turkish *dil* 'tongue' and *dil* 'language'	
(e)	Turkish *gül* 'rose' and *gül* 'laugh'	
(f)	Turkish *baş* 'head' and *baş* 'leader, chief'	

6.2 Each group of sentences is based on one conceptual metaphor. State the metaphor in the form A IS B.

(a) She attacked every weak point in my argument. He shot down all of my ideas. Your claim is hard to defend.

(b) Prices are rising. The number of students fell this year. Turn the volume up.

(c) *Zaman kazandık.* 'We gained time.' *Vaktimi boşa harcadım.* 'I spent my time for nothing.' *Bana biraz vakit ayırır mısın?* 'Can you set aside some time for me?'

7. Semantic Roles

7.1 Identify the semantic role of each underlined NP.

(a) Elif sent a postcard to Kerem.
(b) Emre cut the bread with a knife.
(c) The key opened the door.
(d) Ayşe felt tired after the exam.
(e) Deniz carried the bags for her grandmother.
(f) Kerem took the ferry from Kadıköy to Beşiktaş.
(g) Ayşe received an email this morning.

7.2 List the sentences in 7.1 in which the subject is not an agent. Explain what this shows.

7.3 Complete the table for the active and the passive sentence.

Sentence	NP	Grammatical role	Semantic role
The children broke the window.	the children		
	the window		
The window was broken by the children.	the window		
	the children		

8. Entailment and Presupposition

8.1 For each pair, decide whether B is an entailment of A, a presupposition of A, or neither. To decide, negate A and check whether B is still true.

	A	B	Relation	B if A is negated
(a)	Kerem broke the vase.	The vase broke.		
(b)	Deniz missed the bus again.	Deniz missed the bus before.		
(c)	Emre lives in Ankara.	Emre was born in Ankara.		
(d)	Ayşe stopped drinking coffee.	Ayşe used to drink coffee.		
(e)	Elif adopted a kangal.	Elif adopted a dog.		
(f)	Emre is still at the library.	Emre was at the library earlier.		

8.2 State the presupposition added by the underlined word.

(a) Deniz started learning Spanish.

(b) Ayşe finally found a flat.

(c) Even Emre liked the film.

8.3 Show that your answer to 8.2(a) is a presupposition and not an entailment.