

1.3.x. Exercise questions

1. For each of the following sentences, give a sentence it implies and a sentence it implicates (but does not imply) in the context described:
 - a. *My plate is clean*, as reported by a small boy who has been told to finish his vegetables by a parent saying, “Clean your plate.”
 - b. *There is a cooler in the trunk*, said in reply to someone’s expressed wish to have a beer.
 - c. *I saw the director’s last movie*, said in reply to someone who asked whether the speaker has seen a certain new movie.
2. Many philosophers would argue that the sentence *I’m Adam*, when true, expresses the same proposition as *I’m me* (*I’m I* if you prefer) or *Adam is Adam*; that is, if it is true at all, it is true in every logically possible world. Tell how the phenomenon of indexicality or deixis could help to explain how *I’m Adam* could be informative even if these philosophers are correct and it expresses a tautology if it is true at all. What information can be derived from a sentence like *I’m Adam*?
3. J. L. Austin, the philosopher who made people aware of the variety and importance of speech acts, suggested a way of identifying them. Look for verbs that can fit in the context *I hereby ...* (e.g., *I hereby assert that ...* or *I hereby apologize*)—that is (in grammarians’ jargon), verbs which can be used in “first person indicative active sentences in the simple present tense” along with the adverb *hereby*. Austin suggested that there are such verbs (he called them **performative verbs**) for most speech acts (and that they number “on the order of 10^3 ”). Find half a dozen as varied in character as possible.