

CHAPTER 3

Solutions to the Even-Numbered Questions in the Text

3.1A

2. What movie shall we see?
 - a. Presupposes that we are going to a movie.
 - b. *The Defiant Warriors*.
 - c. We should skip the movies.

4. Have you stopped stealing cars?
 - a. Presupposes I have stolen cars.
 - b. Yes.
 - c. I have never stolen cars.

6. Why are Americans so unhappy, Mr. Sociologist? Just answer that.
 - a. Presupposes that Americans are unhappy.
 - b. Because our economy has stalled.
 - c. Americans are not universally unhappy.

8. Was it through stupidity or dishonesty that this Administration destroyed the independence of the Supreme Court?
 - a. Presupposes that this Administration has destroyed the independence of the Supreme Court.
 - b. It was through dishonesty.
 - c. This administration has not destroyed the independence of the Supreme Court.

10. Dear Gas Company: Can I have instructions on how to light the pilot light in my furnace?
 - a. Presupposes you have a pilot light.
 - b. Push the knob down, give it a half-turn, and light the gas with a match.
 - c. There is no pilot light in your furnace.

12. Daddy, does Santa Claus really exist?
 - a. No presuppositions.
 - b. Yes.
 - c. No corrective answer.

14. When did Mom say the train would arrive?
 - a. Presupposes Mom said when the train will arrive.
 - b. 10 pm.
 - c. Mom never told us when the train would arrive.

3.1B

2. The father isn't asking for information about his son, but is just telling the son that the son should be honest. Disguised imperative.
4. Barring context showing otherwise (e.g., as in 2. above) the father is asking a real question.
6. The father isn't asking his daughter what the motives of the other girl are, but telling the daughter what they are. Rhetorical question.
8. Not a question (literally) about where hearer's brain is. Abusive question.
10. The speaker is directing the listener to walk the dog. Disguised imperative.

3.1C

2. Why do you eat snails?
4. Why did you choose to study philosophy?
6. What movie shall we see?
8. Do you know how to factor this equation?
10. Where in this town can we have a good meal?

3.2A

2. {You believe in magic; you do not believe in magic}; select one; whether-question.
4. The burglary occurred at time X; fill in X; which-question.
6. X are instructions for lowering the roof; fill in X; which-question.
8. X is the capital of British Columbia; fill in X; which-question.
10. {You want the upper bunk; you want the lower bunk}; select one; whether-question.

3.2B

2. Simple.
4. Compound.
6. Simple.
8. Simple.
10. Compound.

3.3

2. No.
I hate you.
4. BASIC.
Computer programming is boring.
6. I'm not sure.
Dogs are very good swimmers.
8. Seven.
Taxi!
10. You've just got to find the right music.
I once heard about a dancing fish.

3.4A

2. This assumes that Southern Mortgage Company is different, but offers no proof.
4. Assumes without evidence that musicians are illogical.
6. This assumes that Americans no longer respect achievement, which is ludicrous—if anything, Americans worship achievement.

3.4B

2. Loaded.
4. Not loaded.
6. Loaded.