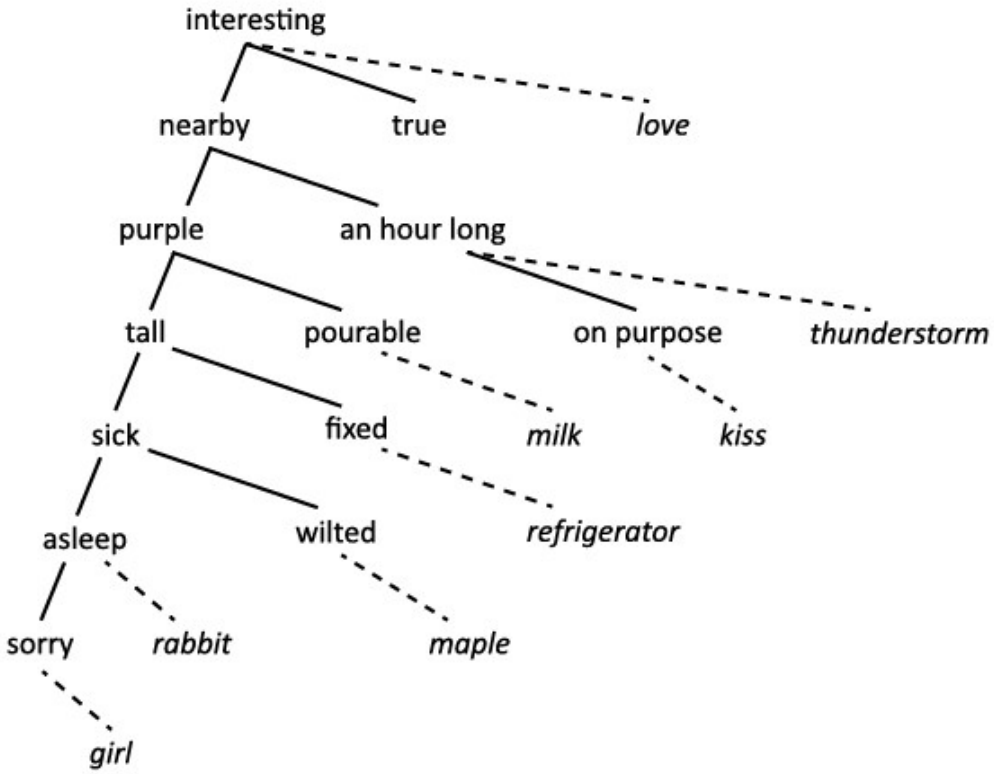
(D) Predicate Etiquette (1/3) [15 Points]

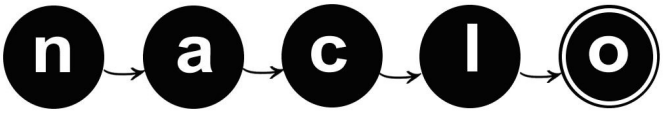
Sentences can be true, false, or, sometimes, truly nonsensical. For sentences of the form, "The [subject] is [predicate]", we can divide them into "sensible" and "nonsensical" groups:

sensible		**nonsensical**	
The moon is purple.	✓	The idea is purple.	*
The game is an hour long.	✓	The pig is an hour long.	*
The girl is sorry.	✓	The fear is sorry.	*

In 1959, philosopher Fred Sommers theorized that the predicates of any language were organized in a binary tree structure, according to which subjects they could be used sensibly with. In 1979, psychologist Frank C. Keil tested Sommers' tree theory by asking children whether given English sentences made sense or not and diagramming the results. He confirmed Sommers' theory, producing trees like this one:



Tree diagram adapted from: Frank C. Keil. *Semantic and Conceptual Development: An Ontological Perspective.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1979

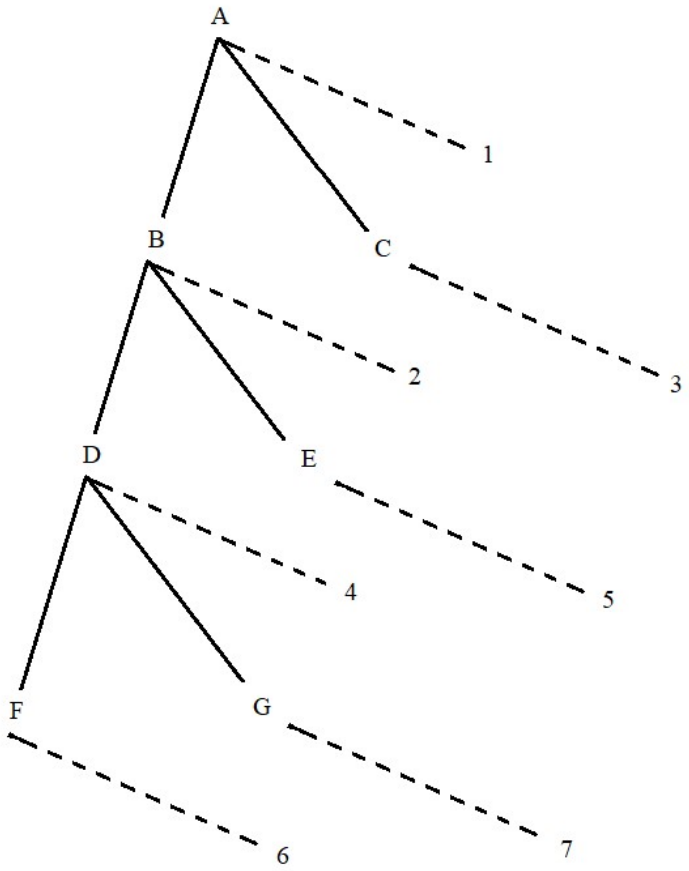


(D) Predicate Etiquette (2/3)

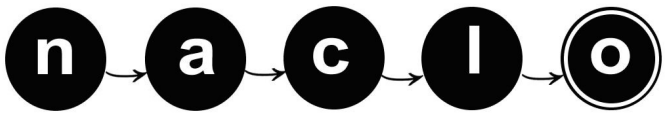
Here are some English sentences that use words you may not be familiar with:

The morkle is phlebular. ✓	The groob is brastic. ✓
The humbrid is phlebular. ✓	The vippage is molistic. *
The morkle is luctious. *	The quexor is molistic. *
The quexor is luctious. ✓	The thalf is molistic. ✓
The pladry is luctious. ✓	The humbrid is molistic. ✓
The groob is efrimious. *	The groob is frungent. *
The vippage is efrimious. ✓	The thalf is frungent. *
The pladry is frungent. *	The thalf is stibbly. *
The groob is stibbly. *	The groob is luctious. *

Here is a tree that shows the semantic structure of the words used in these sentences. Note that each number and letter in the tree corresponds to exactly one word.



Tree diagram typeset by Daniel Lovsted.



(D) Predicate Etiquette (3/3)

D1. Fill in the following table. Some of the answers have already been entered:

Predicate:	brastic	efrimious	frungent	luctious	molistic	phlebular	stibbly
Position:							G
Subject:	groob	humbrid	morkle	pladry	quexor	thalf	vippage
Position:					2		

D2. Mark each of the following sentences with ✓ or *

A. The humbrid is frungent. ☐

B. The morkle is stibbly. ☐

C. The pladry is phlebular. ☐

D. The groob is molistic. ☐

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