**Exercises**

**1. Which utterance does not contain a performative verb?**

a. *I deny your charge*.

b. *I bequeath you my gold watch*.

c. *I sentence youto three years in prison*.

**d. *I know you*.**

e. *I resign*

f. *I apologise*.

**2. Identify the type of maxim floated in each of the following.**

A: “Would you like to go out with Beatrice?”

B: “Is the Pope Catholic”?

**Maxim of Relevance–Intentional**

A: “So tell me, do you like what I did to my hair?

B: “Er . . . what’s on TV tonight?”

**Maxim of Relevance–Intentional**

A: “So what color are you painting your house?”

B: “The walls are going to be off-white to contrast with the black sofa and Regency armchairs that I inherited from my great-aunt. (Bless her soul, she passed away last year after a long but distressing marriage to a man who really wasn’t able to appreciate her extraordinary love of the visual and performing arts.) Then the trim will be peach except near the door,which Alice said should be salmon because otherwise it will clash with the yellow, black, and red Picasso print that I brought back from Spain–I vacationed in Spain in August of, let’s see, 2002, and I bought it then. Or was it July? I forget, actually, Gosh! Time goes fast, don’t you think? Oh, never mind. And the stairway leading to the bedrooms will be a pale yellow . . .”

**Maxim of Quantity–Unintentional**

4.: “Would you like to hear my rendition of ‘Feelings’?”

B: “Yes, of course. I’d love to.” [it’s actually the last thing you want to hear]

**Maxim of Quality–Intentional**

A: “How are your son and daughter doing?”

B: “Cindy is in her second year of med school–she’s doing fine.” [silence follows]

**Maxim of Quantity**

A: “How can I develop a great body like yours?”

B: “Choose your parents carefully.”

**Maxim of Manner–Intentional**

A: “You’re soaked! It must be raining pretty hard outside”

B: “You’re a regular Sherlock Holmes.”

**Maxim of Relevance–Intentional**

9. : “Hmmmm, I thought I left my watch in my desk drawer before I left for Spring Break.”

B: “Well I definitely didn’t take it. Absolutely not. There’s no way I would take someone else’s property. Besides, I already have my own watch. And I would never steal from someone, never.

**Maxim of Quantity–Unintentional**

10.: “I wonder why Dave didn’t answer the phone. I know he’s home.”

B: “It’s Thursday night. ER is on.”

**Maxim of Relevance–Intentional**

“Let’s stop and get something to eat. The kids must be hungry.”

B: “Okay, but not M-C-D-O-N-A-L-D-S”

**Maxim of Manner–Intentional**

A: “Hey, Kenny! What are you reading?”

B: “A book.” [abrupt silence]

**Maxim of Quantity–Intentional**

13. “Kathy’s cooking tonight”

B: “Better stock up on Alka Seltzer.”

**Maxim of Relevance–Intentional**

14.: “So here we are–look up. That’s the Sear’s tower.”

B: “That’s an awfully small building!”

**Maxim of Quality–Intentional**