

Lexical relationships 1

Two sorts of relationship

- 1) How many well-formed (i.e., **grammatical, not meaningful**) sentences can you make from the following table, using one item from all six areas. For example, taking the first item in each row produces:

He slowly considered a beautiful car

which may not make much sense but is grammatically flawless.

He	slowly	considered	a/an	beautiful	car
The old man	passionately	opened	half	disgusting	keyboard
Who	friendly	got	that	unfortunate	ouch!
Suspiciously	more often	behaved	our	stick	happiness
That unicorn		problem		red, circular	child
She					

- 2) Now make a list of the words / phrases that you were **not** able to use:

- 3) **Why** couldn't you use them?

Discuss your answers and then present them.

- 4) Now look at this table. What are the characteristics of the words you can choose from?
(You can make over 1000 correct sentences – don't list them!)

a	b	c	d	e	f
The mansion	slowly	fell	in	the	winter
The house	gradually	collapsed	during	a/an	summer
The shed	quickly	disintegrated	over	that	autumn
The cabin	steadily	crumbled	throughout	our	spring

- 5) What is the relationship **vertically** within each column?

- 6) What is the relationship **horizontally** within each row?

Your answer to 5) describes paradigmatic relationships.

Your answer to 6) describes syntagmatic relationships.