

Definites, Indefinites and Groups: Homework
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1 Kearns

Chapter 6. 1 [b,d], 2[c], 7, 8, 9(i), 10,11, 12.

Remember; “A collection is like a forest. Although it is composed of individual, it is itself an individual.” (Kearns, p. 132)

2 Specificity

Following the lecture notes, give logical formulae representing the specific and non-specific readings of each of the following sentences

- (1)
 - a. Karen wants to visit an island.
 - b. Sue Ann didn't meet a Norwegian.
 - c. Poppie might buy a sloop.
 - d. Every violinist played a concerto.

3 NPIs and downward entailing contexts

1. Identify which of the italicized phrases are in a downward entailing context. In each case, give an example in which a downward entailment succeeds or fails.
 - (2)
 - a. John never saw *an elephant*.
 - b. *An elephant* never saw John.
 - c. Few Italians eat *meatballs*
 - d. Few *Italians* eat *meatballs*
 - e. Fred saw *seven dwarves*.
 - f. *Fred* saw seven dwarves.