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### **Module 4 homework B**

#### Section 1

Sentence A: I believe this can be violating the maxim of quality. If the instructor is making claims without backing them up, then he is saying what he believes to be false or lacks evidence of. This maxim could be broken to either elevate one's own status or intellect or to push their own beliefs even if they are demonstrably false.

Sentence B: This instructor is violating the maxim of manner because there is a great deal of ambiguity in her statements. She could also be breaking the maxim of quantity because she is not being informative enough to define the tough words. These maxims could be broken in this situation because the speaker might be in too advanced a class, or the instructor is trying to wrap up a lesson before the end of the day/week.

Sentence C: This instructor is breaking the maxim of relevance. If he is not sticking to the material and going off on tangents he is not remaining relevant. This maxim could be broken because, though not entirely applicable, the instructor's experiences are genuinely fascinating to the class as a whole. This could also be breaking the maxim of manner, since the descriptions are not orderly

Sentence D: This instructor is breaking the maxim of quantity. Saying that someone is warm-blooded is not giving enough information (not being as informative as required) and leaving the student clueless. This maxim could be broken because the student is asking a biology question in an English class and keeps asking irrelevant questions, leading to, as the speaker says, a lack of thorough responses (in this case the asker would be breaking the maxim of relevance).

Sentence E: He was breaking the maxims of manner and quantity. Manner in that he used a hard to understand expression (prolixity) and quantity because he repeated himself and said the same thing twice. Effectively, he said “be brief (don’t be wordy)”. That’s the same thing.

Sentence F: The quality maxim could be broken if you are intentionally trying to mislead someone, if you are trying to bolster your own credibility or status, or if you are acting. For example, there are plenty of dubious YouTube channels that make false claims (about health and fitness/science/medicine and so on) but do so because they are sponsored by a product or company and want to get paid. Another example would be someone in a group setting (with friends, at a party, or in class) making grandiose claims in order to sound smart by making statements about things the other students wouldn’t likely know or be able to look up quickly. Finally, actors and actresses break this maxim all the time—by playing a character you are stating what you as an actor/actress know to be false but the character believes or must say.

## Section 2

A: In this context the man was in a hurry and needed to know whether he was on time for the bus or not. Asking a large group at once is most likely to get a positive and immediate response. “I need to know if I missed my bus; can someone please use their watch to let me know what time it is since I forgot my own?” The speaker is making a request, as he wants to know the time from anyone who has a watch. Felicity conditions require the speaker to not yet know the time and believes the hearers are willing to do what he asks.

B: The jeweler is asking a probing question in hopes of finding someone who does not have a watch. By so doing she can persuade them to buy one. This also applies to members of the group who do have a watch, as she can possibly show them that her products are superior to their own. “Would any of you be interested in buying a high quality watch?” The speaker is asking a question in hopes of finding someone

who does not have a watch (or an inferior watch) to sell to. Felicity conditions require the speaker not to know who has a watch already and believes that the customers can provide that information.

C: People often place major items in the trays but forget personal items and jewelry. He is trying to make sure the travelers place everything in the box the first time to keep the line moving and avoid delays. “If you have any jewelry or personal belongings on your body, be sure to place them in the tray before passing the metal detector”. The guard is performing an order or request speech act. The question is a felicity check in that the speaker wishes for the traveler to remove the watch (and jewelry) he is asking about.

D: The child wishes to prove and test their newfound ability and is looking for an adult they can show-off to. “Want to see how well I can tell time? Show me your watch and I will tell you what time it is”. The child is asking a question and for it to be felicitous the child must believe that the hearer can answer the question.