

## Puzzle 1: general feedback

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If you are turning in Puzzle 1 for assessment on 20 April 2023, you need to make sure your revised version addresses all of the following (in addition to any issues I may have pointed out in your personalised feedback):

Generally, the answers that I saw had more or less severe versions of problems with systematicity, thoroughness, accuracy, and explicitness. More concretely:

### Question 1

Be **thorough** in this answer by laying out at the beginning what our theory says about the semantics of *books*: what is the syntactic structure of a noun phrase with *books* in it, and what meaning does it result in? Be **accurate** and fully **explicit** here—the tools you were given in class allow you to be very precise, and you should be as precise as they allow you to be.

Be **systematic** in discussing the evidence that points one way or another: which evidence argues in favour of [–atomic], if any? Help your reader see how the evidence indeed points in that direction. Likewise, which evidence argues against it, if any? Again, help your reader see this. Be **explicit**: if something plays a role in your argument, don't leave it unsaid.

Nowhere in this question does it say you need to solve a problem if you find one, the key is to explain very well that there is no problem if there isn't one/to explain very well that there is a problem, if indeed there is one.

### Question 2

Start by making sure you provide a syntax (i.e., a syntactic tree). Doing that will force you to be very **explicit** about NumberP, that is, to make decisions about NumberP: where it is, whether it is there, what feature(s) it contains, and whether there's more than one NumberP. Take your inspiration from the syntactic trees provided in Handout 1. Then, given your syntax, explain how the meaning associated with it can result in the fact that the sentence in (1) means that one or more lions slept.

Being **explicit** about these questions will result in you proposing a syntactic and a semantic analysis of general number in Bayso. Make sure that that analysis is compatible with the fact that Bayso also has singular and plural number, as exemplified in (2) and (3).

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Ideas for developing Puzzle 1 into (part of) your final assignment (deadline: 9 May 2023):

1. Find a solution to the problem posed by [–atomic] plurals in question 1.
2. How big is the problem that sentence (1) from question 1 presents? For example, does it arise only with negation? In other types of sentences? What are they like? What's the generalisation? Points 1 and 2 can be combined and addressed in the same submission
3. Bayso has a so-called paucal number, in addition to singular, plural and general number. You could try to account for the paucal too (that is, for the whole number system in this language). You'd need to do some additional reading and I'd need to tell you about an additional number feature not covered in class, so bring this up in your individual meeting with me if you are interested.