Pragmatics deals with questions of **use**.

A stereotypical pragmatic question would be; *Is it appropriate to utter [sentence/phrase] in a given situation?*

It's problematic when trying to determine the truth value of this statement;

"The King of France was born in Paris."

The definite article *'the'* is a presupposition trigger that, in this case, requires the prior context to include the information that there is a king in France. However, since it is common knowledge that France abolished the monarchy as a result of the French Revolution, this presupposition conflicts with the context. Because the presupposition is not satisfied, we cannot evaluate the truth value of the at-issue content of the sentence.

Presupposition: the pieces of information that the speaker assumes (or acts as if they assume) in order for their utterance to be meaningful in the current context.

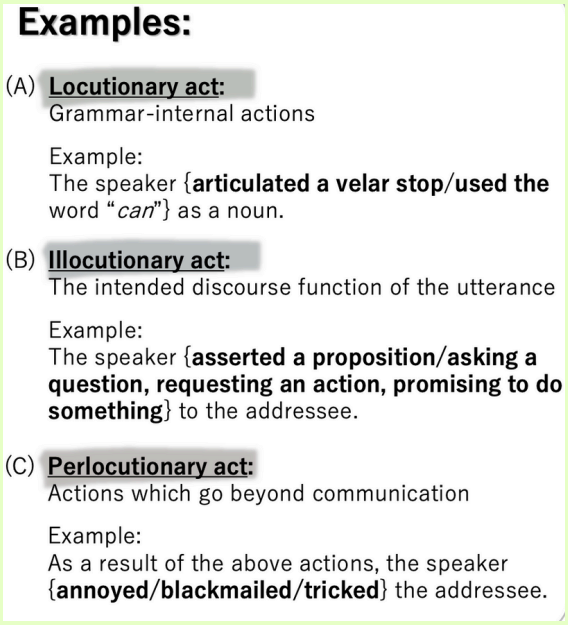
Key Point: In order to correctly determine the trigger and its presuppositions, try negating the sentence first.

Semantics	Pragmatics
• Semantics cares for the information derived from a sentence. • Some sentence contains not only an at-issue meaning (main message; the target of Truth value judgment) but also a presupposition (background information).	○ Pragmatics concerns how a presupposition and an at-issue meaning interact with a **context**

Presupposition Triggers: expressions introducing a specific presupposition; "a" vs. "the"

Holes	Plugs
• Semantic operator that allows presuppositions to slip through it, even as that operator targets the at-issue content.	○ Semantic operator that blocks off the projection of presuppositions.
→ Both nullify a presupposition (disappears)	

Speech Act Theory and it's three different recognized levels (taken from lecture slides):



Examples:

(A) **Locutionary act:**
Grammar-internal actions

Example:
The speaker {**articulated a velar stop/used the** word "*can*"} as a noun.

(B) **Illocutionary act:**
The intended discourse function of the utterance

Example:
The speaker {**asserted a proposition/asking a question, requesting an action, promising to do something**} to the addressee.

(C) **Perlocutionary act:**
Actions which go beyond communication

Example:
As a result of the above actions, the speaker {**annoyed/blackmailed/tricked**} the addressee.

Felicity Condition: pragmatic criteria that determine whether a speech act works as intended. Examples include:

- Speaker's authority
- Appropriateness of the context
- Acceptance of the audience to validate the speech act

→ A failure to meet felicity conditions can lead to misunderstandings or perceived insincerity in communication.

Performative Sentences

- The truth of the sentence depends on the scenario you are in.
  - Truth Condition: None
  - Dynamic Update: Yes
  - Semantics describes the change in question
- Ex: I name this ship the Q.E.

Constative Sentences

- The very act of uttering the sentence makes the sentence true.
  - Truth Condition: True or False
  - Dynamic Update: Yes
  - Semantics used to update the context
- Ex: I named this ship the Q.E.

Important Tools within the Discourse Model:

1. *(Possible) world*: a unit of possibility
2. *Context set*: a set of worlds
3. *Common Ground*: a set of propositions
4. *Proposition*: a set of worlds

Flow:

Each proposition denotes a set of possible worlds.

Context Set is updated, by being intersected with the set of worlds denoted by the proposition.

Common ground is a set of propositions shared by discourse participants.

Presupposition Accommodation:

When a speaker **presupposes** a thing that has not already been established in the common ground, s/he is implicitly asking the other discourse participants to **accommodate** that information by adding it to the common ground.

Structured Discourse Context

A model of the discourse context which has an internal structure with multiple components, each of which stores information relevant for our communication.

+ Notes regarding Conversational Implicature to be added after Class 13