

Guessing Meaning and Breaking it Down (with NACLO Problems)

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I saw her duck.

1) “Context” is useful for determining meaning

- ① A pack of clowns were throwing tomatoes at Sally. *I saw her duck.*

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- ① A pack of clowns were throwing tomatoes at Sally. *I saw her duck.*
- ② Sally, who owns many pet animals, invited me over. *I saw her duck.*

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A pack of clowns were throwing *cupicasts* at Sally.

- ① Cupicasts can probably be held in a clown's hand
- ② Cupicasts are probably light enough for a clown to hold

My tomato enjoys watching TikTok videos.

2) Words can be broken down into “semantic features”

	<i>tomato</i>	<i>horse</i>	<i>boy</i>	<i>man</i>	<i>girl</i>	<i>???</i>	<i>calf</i>
<i>animate</i>	-	+	+	+	+	+	?
<i>human</i>	-	-	+	+	+	+	?
<i>female</i>	-	-	-	-	+	+	?
<i>adult</i>	-	+	-	+	-	+	?

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<i>adult</i>	-	+	-	+	-	+	?

- +human words can probably enjoy TikTok videos
- Can break words down to features, and features can be used to guess words

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- ② Meaning can be broken down into semantic features
- ③ NACLO problems typically ask you to do both (for nonsense/non-English words)

Remainder of today

- 1 Walkthrough of “Vloxes”
- 2 “Predicate Etiquette”
- 3 “Yumology”
- 4 “Family Ties” (if time allows)