

Week 13

- Plurality, with Ryan Walter Smith!
- PS8 tense/aspect problem due Saturday

Next:

- PS8, talk reports due Saturday
- Please submit your module feedback! I will ask you about it over the weekend.

Exercise:

Discuss the following examples and questions below. What's strange?

(1) *Context: You call your friend Steph. Surprisingly, she says that she's currently in a forest in Russia. You get excited because you really like bears. Maybe she's seen some there.*

a. *She tells you: I saw bears! :)*

Q: What do we know about how many bears Steph saw?

b. *She tells you: I haven't seen bears! :(*

Q: What do we know about how many bears Steph saw?

c. *You ask her: Have you seen bears?*

Q: How does Steph answer if she's seen zero bears? one bear? two bears? etc.

d. *You tell her: If you see bears, please call me. She agrees.*

Q: Should she call you if she sees one bear? two bears? etc.

Compare to the following:

(2) *Context: You take care of the bears at the zoo. There are ten bears there. Your boss calls you at 3am.*

a. *She tells you: Some bears escaped!*

Q: What do we know about how many bears escaped?

b. *You tell her: I doubt that some bears escaped.*

Q: Would you be surprised if zero bears escaped? If one bear escaped? If two bears escaped? etc.

c. *You ask her: Did some bears escape? (And why the hell are you calling me at 3am?)*

Q: How does your boss answer if zero bears escaped? one bear? two bears? etc.

d. *You tell her: If some bears escape, please call me. She agrees.*

Q: Should she call you if one bear escapes? two bears escape? etc.