

## Garden Path Sentences

Below are some 'garden path' sentences. They are alike in that, when one reads them, one frequently experiences some confusion and has to restart the parse; the metaphor is 'being led down the garden path'. This can happen in several ways.

1. The prime number few.
2. Fat people eat accumulates.
3. The cotton clothing is usually made of grows in Mississippi.
4. Until the police arrest the drug dealers control the street.
5. The man who hunts ducks out on weekends.
6. When Fred eats food gets thrown.
7. Mary gave the child the dog bit a bandaid.
8. The girl told the story cried.
9. I convinced her children are noisy.
10. Helen is expecting tomorrow to be a bad day.
11. The horse raced past the barn fell.
12. I know the words to that song about the queen don't rhyme.
13. She told me a little white lie will come back to haunt me.
14. The dog that I had really loved bones.
15. That Jill is never here hurts.
16. The man who whistles tunes pianos.
17. The old man the boat.
18. Have the students who failed the exam take the supplementary.
19. The raft floated down the river sank.
20. We painted the wall with cracks.
21. The tycoon sold the offshore oil tracts for a lot of money wanted to kill JR.

For each sentence, describe the problem and the structures that contribute to it. Do the sentences fall into classes based on structural characteristics?

Be sure to notice in each case whether the garden-path phenomenon is restricted to reading, or whether it is also present when the sentence is spoken aloud.

I.e, how much of this phenomenon is automatically disambiguated by intonation, stress, and rhythm in ordinary speech?