

Getting familiar with . . . ambiguity and vagueness

Identify each of the following sentences as lexically ambiguous, syntactically ambiguous, or vague. Rewrite each sentence, resolving the ambiguity or vagueness.

1. "He was assaulted by the lab mice."
2. "The man in the corner office is too tall."
3. "The doctor gave her a prescription for pain."
4. "We have an outlet shortage."
5. "They were discussing cutting down the tree in her house."
6. "The road is long."
7. "That test was unfair!"
8. "Hey, grab that mouse."
9. "She is a nice person."
10. "You are a good teacher."
11. "He saw her duck."
12. "The interrogator snapped his fingers."
13. "The President is doing a terrible job."
14. "The Senator's most recent policy is ineffective."
15. "John Locke was a great philosopher."
16. "She called him in the shower."
17. "Although he looked for an hour, he could not find the match."
18. "Walk this way."
19. "My uncle, the priest, married my father."
20. "She heard the man with the microphone."