

General notes

Use and mention

When referring to linguistic expressions, I use *quotation marks*. This also signifies that the quoted expression is being *mentioned* rather than *used*. Thus

- (i) “Neil Armstrong” has thirteen letters

is an example of a case in which the expression is mentioned, and in which the first expression in the sentence stands for a linguistic expression, while

- (ii) Neil Armstrong was the first man to step foot on the moon

is an example of a case in which the expression is *used*, and in which the first expression in the sentence stands for a particular man.

Types and tokens

In the course of the book, I sometimes make use of what is known as the *type-token distinction*. Very roughly, this marks a distinction between sorts (i.e. types) of things, and instances (i.e. tokens) of sorts of things. Thus in

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(iii) blue

(iv) red

(v) Michael

(vi) blue

we have four word *tokens*, but three word *types*. (iii) and (vi) are *tokens of the same type*. Likewise, if Smith believes that Edinburgh is the capital city of Scotland and Jones believes that Edinburgh is the capital city of Scotland, we can say that Smith and Jones both token a belief of the same type.