

Examples of Discourse

Example 1

dis·course (dîs'kôrs', -kôrs') n. **1.** Verbal exchange; conversation. **2.** A formal discussion of a subject, either written or spoken. –v. (dî-skôrs', -kôrs'). –**coursed**, –**coursing**. To speak or write formally and at length. [Med. Lat. Discursus.]

Kind of discourse: _____

Characteristics or “rules”: _____

Example 2

Hey Bruce,
Great to hear from you. The baby is doing well. Sleeps through the night, now. TG! How was your break? Restful? Yeah right. Give me a ring when you make it back to Chi-Town.
Toodles, Joey XXXOOO

Kind of discourse: _____

Characteristics or “rules”: _____

Example 3

Do not use if you have ever had an allergic reaction to this product or any of its ingredients.

Kind of discourse: _____

Characteristics or “rules”: _____

Example 4

Popovers

2 cups flour
3 eggs

1 2/3 cups milk
2 tablespoons melted butter

1/2 teaspoon salt

Sift flour; measure and add salt. Sift again.

Beat eggs until light and add milk and melted butter.

Add liquid slowly to dry ingredients, beating thoroughly with electric beater or rotary egg beater (about 2 minutes).

Grease custard cups or muffin tins. Heat these in oven before filling with batter.

Fill tins half full of batter.

Bake at 450° for 20 minutes, then reduce heat to 350° for the last 20 to 25 minutes.

This makes 14-16 popovers.

Mrs. Ishmeil Martin, *Conestoga, Ont., Can.*

Kind of discourse: _____

Characteristics or "rules": _____

Example 5

Hi, you've reached the Ryan/McComiskey residence. Please leave a message after the beep.

Kind of discourse: _____

Characteristics or "rules": _____

Example 6

This honor is bestowed upon Helena McComiskey in recognition of exemplary behavior and valuable services rendered to Vestavia Hills Elementary Central.

Kind of discourse: _____

Characteristics or "rules": _____

Example 7

Happy Birthday!
Cheers to you!
It's your special day!
You're the greatest!

Kind of discourse: _____

Characteristics or "rules": _____

Example 8

Hey diddle diddle
The cat and the fiddle
The cow jumped over the moon
The little dog laughed to see such sport
And the dish ran away with the spoon

Kind of discourse: _____

Characteristics or "rules": _____

Example 9

1. Place part A face down on a flat surface.
2. Insert part C into the vertical slot on part A.
3. Fasten with clamp B.

Kind of discourse: _____

Characteristics or "rules": _____

Example 10

Bill: Hello?
Jacky: Hi, Bill, it's Jacky.
Bill: Hi Jacky, how's it going?
Jacky: Great, how 'bout you?
Bill: Not bad. What's up?
Jacky: Well, I heard from Susan.
Bill: You did? What'd she say?
Jacky: She said "yes."
Bill: That's cool. I...
Jacky: She wants... Sorry, go ahead.
Bill: That's okay, what were you saying?
Jacky: She wants to meet you at Vick's, seven-thirty, okay?
Bill: Sounds great. And Jacky, thanks a million. I really owe you.
Jacky: Yes, Bill, you do. Have fun, okay?
Bill: Okay, thanks. Bye.
Jacky: Bye.

Kind of discourse: _____

Characteristics or "rules": _____

Example 11

so much depends
upon

a red wheel
barrow

glazed with rain
water

beside the white
chickens.

Kind of discourse: _____

Characteristics or "rules": _____

Example 12

Coolidge, Ga. – Authorities are hoping state investigators and a cash reward will help uncover the cause of a fire that destroyed a historic school being renovated in this south Georgia town. The old Coolidge School, which closed in 1958, is mostly in ashes. “The gym is the only thing left standing, and it is severely damaged,” said Coolidge Police Chief Bill Pierce.

Kind of discourse: _____

Characteristics or “rules”: _____

Example 13

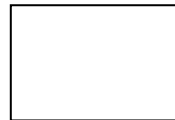
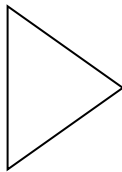
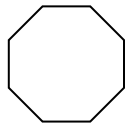
RED

The ultimate expression of a woman

Kind of discourse: _____

Characteristics or “rules”: _____

Example 14



Kind of discourse: _____

Characteristics or “rules”: _____

Example 15

Bill: Hello?
Jacky: Susan said “yes.”
Bill: Who is this? Jacky?
Jacky: Gotta go.

Kind of discourse: _____

Characteristics or “rules”: _____

Example 16

1. Place part A face down on a flat surface. I said a flat surface, jerk. No, your lap is not flat! Put the stupid part on the floor. Okay—finally!
2. Now, insert part C into the vertical slot on part A. Hey, is that the *vertical* slot? I said vertical, not horizontal. Oh, this is gonna take forever.
3. Read all instructions *carefully* before assembling this product. Duh!

Kind of discourse: _____

Characteristics or “rules”: _____

Example 17

Blue
It smells okay

Kind of discourse: _____

Characteristics or “rules”: _____

Bruce McComiskey
EH 459/559 Discourse Analysis
Examples of Discourse: Answer Key

Example 1

Dictionary definition (*American Heritage Dictionary*, third edition)

Example 2

Personal note (email)

Example 3

Product warning (Claritin)

Example 4

Recipe (popovers: these are delicious, by the way)

Example 5

Telephone message memo

Example 6

Award certificate

Example 7

Birthday card

Example 8

Nursery rhyme

Example 9

Instructions

Example 10

Telephone conversation

Example 11

Poem: William Carlos Williams, "The Red Wheel Barrow"

Example 12

Newspaper article from the *Birmingham News*

Example 13

Perfume advertisement

Example 14

Traffic signs

Example 15

Telephone conversation that violates the rules of politeness

Example 16

Instructions that violate the rules of objectivity

Example 17

Advertisement that violates the rules of praise