Psych56L/ Ling51
Fall 2008
Review Questions: Lexical Development

(1) Terms/concepts to know: lexicon, lexicon entry, referential, context-bound, general nominals, noun bias, overextension, underextension, vocabulary spurt, word spurt, production vocabulary, comprehension vocabulary, phonological memory, word segmentation, mapping problem for word learning, fast mapping, whole-object assumption, mutual-exclusivity assumption, explicit parental correction, syntactic bootstrapping hypothesis

(2) What does it mean for words to be referential? Is it true that all words in language are referential? Why or why not?

(3) Sigmund has heard that English children have a noun bias in their early vocabularies. What does that mean? Is it true for all children of the world?

(4) Are children's production vocabularies smaller than their comprehension vocabularies? Why might this be?

(5) What is phonological memory? How might it help learning new words?

(6) Briefly describe the mapping problem children face when learning the meaning of words, and give an example of a mapping problem scenario. (Hint: Think about what Quine said.)

(7) Give explicit examples for how the whole-object assumption and the mutual-exclusivity assumption would help with the mapping problem.

(8) How do social cues help with the mapping problem? Give an example of a social cue that helps children solve the mapping problem, and an example of that social cue helping a child solve a particular mapping problem.