

R. One, Two, Tree (1/5)

R-1

- a. *[[ice cream] soda]*
- b. *[[science fiction] writer]*
- c. *[[customer service] representative]*
- d. *[state [chess tournament]]*
- e. *[[Mars Rover] landing]*
- f. *[plastic [water cooler]]*
- g. *[[typeface design] report]*

R-2

[[country song] [platinum album]]

R-3

Default answer: A drama about control freaks (i.e., freaks about control), performed during a space mission (i.e., a mission to space).

Many other answers are possible as long as each of the bracketings is correctly defined. Below are examples of correct answers for each bracketing:

For "*[control freak]*":

- a person who is obsessive about having things his way

For "*[[control freak] show]*":

- a show that is run by control freaks
- a show that contains control freaks (i.e., the actors are control freaks)
- a show that is designed for or intended for control freaks
- a display of behavior by a control freak

For "*[space mission]*":

- a mission into space



R. One, Two, Tree (2/5)

For "[[*space mission*] [[*control freak*] show]"]:

- a control freak show that is broadcast to audiences on space missions
- a control freak show that is set on a space mission
- a control freak show that is about space missions
- a display of behavior by control freaks; the display is witnessed on a space mission

Some examples of incorrect answers:

- the show contains control freaks that are interested in space missions
- the show contains control freaks who run or are on a space mission

These are incorrect because they attach "*space mission*" to "*control freak*" instead of attaching it to "*control freak show*". For these answers to be correct, the bracketing would have to be "[[[*space mission*] [*control freak*]] show]".

R-4

[[[[*family* [*board game*]] [*togetherness effect*]] [*government study*]] *author*].

Although the following might also be defensible:

[[[[*family* [[*board game*] *togetherness*]] *effect*] [*government study*]] *author*]

Or even perhaps:

[[[[[[*family* [*board game*]] *togetherness*] *effect*] [*government study*]] *author*]



R. One, Two, Tree (3/5)

R-5

$$\begin{aligned}f(5) &= 14 \\f(6) &= 42 \\f(7) &= 132\end{aligned}$$

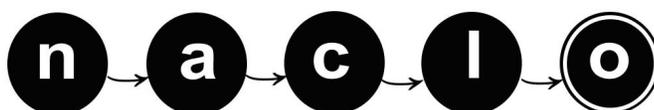
There are $f(5)$ bracketings of *togetherness effect government study author* — whatever $f(5)$ turns out to be! Similarly there are $f(3)$ (= 2) bracketings of *family board game*. So you have to list $f(3) \cdot f(5)$ bracketings that split the 8-word sequence into 3 words + 5 words like this. But the full list for $f(8)$ must also consider other splits, such as 1 word + 7 words. The general principle is that

$$f(n) = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} f(k) \cdot f(n-k) \text{ for any } n > 1$$

You can therefore compute each line in the table from the previous lines. By the way, the resulting sequence of numbers is called the Catalan numbers: you can look it up.

R-6

To get $[[big\ fluffy]\ pancake]$, we'd need adjective + adjective = adjective. To get $[[samurai\ short]\ sword]$, we'd need noun + adjective = adjective or noun + adjective = noun.



R. One, Two, Tree (4/5)

R-7

a. There are only 3 bracketings (fewer than $f(4)=5$ because the rules from R-6 are “missing”):

[roasted [red [potato pancake]]] - a roasted red pancake made of potatoes

[roasted [[red potato] pancake]] - a roasted pancake made of red potatoes

[[roasted [red potato]] pancake] - a pancake made of roasted red potatoes

Note that the 4th logical possibility, a red pancake made of roasted potatoes, is not consistent with this word order: you'd have to call it a *red roasted potato pancake*.

b. There are 7 bracketings (fewer than $f(5)=14$):

[[crazy monkey] [[cheap cider] house]] - the house of crazy monkeys serves cider that is cheap

[[crazy monkey] [cheap [cider house]]] - the house of crazy monkeys that serves cider is cheap

[crazy [monkey [[cheap cider] house]]] - the crazy house of monkeys serves cider that is cheap

[crazy [monkey [cheap [cider house]]]] - the crazy house of monkeys that serves cider is cheap

[crazy [[monkey [cheap cider]] house]] - the crazy house serves cheap cider that's for monkeys

[[[crazy monkey] [cheap cider]] house] - the house serves cheap cider that's for crazy monkeys

[[crazy [monkey [cheap cider]]] house] - the house serves crazy, cheap cider that's for monkeys

Again, there are logical possibilities that are not consistent with the word order, such as a house of monkeys that serves crazy, cheap cider.

R-8

a. 0

b. 1

c. 5. This generalizes R-7a. There are 5 ways to divide *Adj Adj Adj Adj* into an initial group that modifies the 2nd noun and a final group that modifies the 1st noun. Groups may be empty.

d. 14. First suppose that the nouns are bracketed as $[[Noun\ Noun]\ Noun]$. Then there are 10 ways to divide *Adj Adj Adj* into 3 groups which will respectively modify the 3rd, 2nd, and 1st noun (There are $4+3+2+1=10$ ways to place two vertical dividers into this sequence. If the left divider falls before the first *Adj*, there are 4 positions for the right divider. If it falls before the second *Adj*, there are 3 positions for the right divider; and so on.) Alternatively, suppose that the nouns are bracketed as $[Noun[Noun\ Noun]]$. Then no adjective can modify the 2nd noun (it can only modify the whole $[Noun\ Noun]$ compound), so then we divide *Adj Adj Adj* into only 2 groups as before; there are 4 ways to do this.



R. One, Two, Tree (5/5)

R-9

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. 7
- e. 12
- f. 30

Let $g(n)$ be the number of bracketings of an alternating n -word sequence ending in *Noun*. Clearly, $g(1)=1$. To find $g(n)$, we can proceed as in R-5 and consider the ways of splitting the sequence into two shorter sequences, whose bracketings we count by applying g recursively. However, we have to leave out the splits where the first sequence ends in an adjective (i.e., where the second sequence has odd length), unless it's a single adjective (i.e., the first sequence has length 1). Thus, for odd $n>1$,

$$g(n) = g(n-2)g(2) + g(n-4)g(4) + \dots + g(1)g(n-1),$$

while for even $n>1$,

$$g(n) = g(n-2)g(2) + g(n-4)g(4) + \dots + g(2)g(n-2) + 1 \cdot g(n-1)$$

We can therefore compute

$$\begin{aligned} g(2) &= g(1)g(1) &&= 1 \\ g(3) &= g(1)g(2) &&= 1 \\ g(4) &= g(2)g(2) + 1 \cdot g(3) &&= 2 \\ g(5) &= g(3)g(2) + g(1)g(4) &&= 3 \\ g(6) &= g(4)g(2) + g(2)g(4) + 1 \cdot g(5) &&= 7 \\ g(7) &= g(5)g(2) + g(3)g(4) + g(1)g(6) &&= 12 \\ g(8) &= g(6)g(2) + g(4)g(4) + g(2)g(6) + 1 \cdot g(7) &&= 30 \end{aligned}$$

Notice that these formulas are much faster than *listing* all the bracketings, which is important since $f(25) = 1,289,904,147,324$ and even $g(25) = 50,067,108$. The approach here can be generalized into a single powerful technique for rapidly counting the number of bracketings of *any* given word sequence.

Closely related algorithms are used to rapidly find the most likely bracketing or “parse” of a given sentence so that a computer can understand or translate it.

