

Brandeis Examples for KB Evaluation

Brandeis TARSQI Team
Department of Computer Science
Brandeis University
{jamesp,roser}@cs.brandeis.edu

1. StatesWest Airlines withdrew its offer to acquire Mesa Airlines.

Q: Was an offer made to acquire Mesa Airline?
YES
STRICT
LINGUISTIC

Q: Did StatesWest ever plan to acquire Mesa Airlines?
YES
STRICT
LINGUISTIC

Q: Did StatesWest acquire Mesa Airlines?¹
NO
PLAUSIBLE
LINGUISTIC

Source: TimeBank (wsj_0321_orig.tml)
StatesWest Airlines, Phoenix, Ariz., said it **withdrew** its **offer** to acquire Mesa Airlines because the Farmington, N.M., carrier didn't respond to it. (FACTIVE)

2. Steynar Gil welcomed the release of prisoners imprisoned during the October 15-16 riots.

Q: Have prisoners imprisoned during October 15-16 riots been released?
YES
PLAUSIBLE
LINGUISTIC

Source: Google

3. Program trading is hurting the market's efforts to bring back small investors.

Q: Are there any efforts to bring back small investors?
YES
STRICT

¹ Given the local context of information from this sentence alone, the strength of the judgment “no” is actually “strict”. However, given that additional information might change the polarity, we mark it as only “plausible”.

LINGUISTIC

Source: TimeBank (wsj_0585_orig.tml)

Joseph Hardiman, president of the National Association of Securities Dealers, which oversees trading on Nasdaq, agree that program trading is **hurting** the market's **efforts** to bring back small investors. (FACTIVE)

4. Thirty-two of the 159 U.N. members were honoring the sanctions against Iraq.

Q: Were there sanctions against Iraq?

YES

STRICT

LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (AP900816-0139.tml)

Thirty-two of the 159 U.N. members had filed compliance reports by Wednesday, and all were **honoring** the **sanctions** [against] Iraq. (FACTIVE)

5. Herbicide use in some areas of the U.S. was delayed earlier in the year by heavy rains.

Q: Were herbicides delayed in all areas of the U.S. this year?

NO

STRICT

LINGUISTIC

Q: Were herbicides used this year in the U.S.?

Yes

STRICT

LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (wsj_0918_orig.tml)

A spokesman said herbicide **use** in some areas of the U.S. was **delayed** earlier in the year by heavy rains, thus increasing sales in the third quarter. (MODAL)

6. The US is bolstering its military presence in the Gulf.

Q: Does the US have a military presence in the Gulf.

YES

STRICT

LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (PRI19980205.2000.1890.tml)

The US is bolstering its military presence in the gulf, as President Clinton **discussed** the Iraq **crisis** with the one ally who has backed his threat of force, British prime minister Tony Blair.

7. The unemployed took to the streets of the German capital, Berlin, mirroring protests around the country.

Q: Were the protests only in Berlin?

NO

STRICT

LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (PRI19980205.2000.1998.tml)

Chanting Helmut Kohl must go, the unemployed took to the streets of the German capital, Berlin, **mirroring protests** around the country.

8. The court nullified a standstill agreement between DPC Acquisition and Dataproducts.

Q: Was there any agreement between DPC Acquisition and Dataproducts?

YES

STRICT

LINGUISTIC

Q: Is there any agreement between DCP Acquisition and Dataproducts?

NO

PLAUSIBLE

LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (wsj_0661_orig.tml)

They had not yet seen a suit filed in federal court by DPC Acquisition that seeks to **nullify** a standstill **agreement** between DPC Acquisition and Dataproducts. (FACTIVE)

9. Sardar Patel faced imprisonment for the first time when he was assisting Gandhiji in the Salt Satyagraha.

Q: Was Sardar Patel ever in prison?

UNKNOWN

PLAUSIBLE

LINGUISTIC

Q: Was Sardar Patel ever convicted of a crime?

YES

STRICT

LINGUISTIC

S: Google

When he was assisting Gandhiji in the Salt Satyagraha, he faced imprisonment for the first time.

10. Darryl Strawberry recently avoided imprisonment when a judge sentenced him to a drug treatment center for violating his probation.

Q: Was Darryl Strawberry ever in prison?

UNKNOWN

STRICT

LINGUISTIC

Q: Was Darryl imprisoned for violating his probation?

NO

STRICT

LINGUISTIC

S: Google

Former New York Yankees player Darryl Strawberry recently avoided imprisonment when a judge sentenced him to a drug treatment center for violating his probation.

11. Three patients declined further surgery.

Q: Did the patients have any surgeries?

YES

STRICT

LINGUISTIC

S: Google

Three patients declined further surgery.

S: TimeBank (wsj_0674_orig.tml)

Jim Pattison Industries, a holding company with annual sales of about C\$1.9 billion, largely from car dealerships and grocery stores, didn't elaborate on the statement, and a company official **declined** further **comment**. (COUNTER_FACTIVE)

12. Foodstuffs are being blocked from entry into Iraq.²

Q: Are foodstuffs getting into Iraq?

UNKNOWN

PLAUSIBLE

LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (AP900816-0139.tml)

Foodstuffs are among the goods being **blocked** from **entry**; Iraq imports about three-quarters of its food. (COUNTER_FACTIVE)

13. The new space allowed Compaq to increase the manufacturing capacity of its plant in Erskine, Scotland.

Q: Did Compaq increase its manufacturing capacity in the Erskine plant?

YES

STRICT

LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (wsj_0904_orig.tml)

Mr. Swavely said the new space **allowed** Compaq to **increase** the manufacturing capacity of its plant in Erskine, Scotland. (MODAL)

14. Holders of more than a majority of the stock of the company have approved the transaction by written consent.

² This is similar to the sentence "Accidents were prevented at the plant". One cannot conclude that all accidents were prevented, hence we cannot answer "Were there accidents at the plant?" with "NO".

Q: Has the transaction taken place?
YES
PLAUSIBLE
LINGUISTIC + WORLD KNOWLEDGE

S: TimeBank (wsj_0122_orig.tml)
Young's Market Co., a wholesaler of spirits, wines and other goods, said it will merge with a new corporation formed by the Underwood family, which controls Young's. (...) The Underwood family said that holders of more than a majority of the stock of the company have **approved** the **transaction** by written consent.

15. The transaction has been approved by Kyle's board but requires the approval of the company's shareholders.

Q: Has the transaction taken place?
NO
STRICT
LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (wsj_0923_orig.tml)
Kyle Technology Corp. said a Seattle investor has signed a letter of intent to buy the company for about \$3.1 million, or \$1.20 a share. The investor, Donald A. Wright, plans to run the company, said a spokesman for Kyle. 3. The transaction has been approved by Kyle's board but requires the approval of the company's shareholders.

16. The company's board authorized the purchase of up to an additional one million shares.

Q: Have the company purchased additional shares?
UNKNOWN
PLAUSIBLE
LINGUISTIC + WORLD KNOWLEDGE (extensive)

S: TimeBank (wsj_0520_orig.tml)
In addition, the company's board **authorized** the **purchase** of up to an additional one million shares.

17. The purchase was subsequently rejected by regulators.

Q: Did the purchase take place?
NO
PLAUSIBLE
LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (wsj_0938_orig.tml)
Last April, Mr. Drabinsky and a group of financial backers planned to acquire up to 30.2% of Cineplex for C\$17.50 a share from Bronfman associates. Mr. Drabinsky, who would have had the right to vote those shares for two years, said the **purchase**, subsequently **rejected** by regulators, was aimed at consolidating his control of the company. (COUNTER_FACTIVE)

18. Analysts were predicting 1990 BellSouth earnings in the range of \$3.90 a share.

Q: Has BellSouth experienced earnings in 1990?
UNKNOWN
PLAUSIBLE
LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (wsj_0584_orig.tml)
Analysts were predicting 1990 BellSouth earnings in the range of \$3.90 a share, but now those estimates are being scaled back. (MODAL)

19. Milton Roy disclosed in May that it was approached for a possible acquisition by Thermo Electron.

Q: Was Milton Roy approached by Thermo Electron?
YES
STRICT
LINGUISTIC

Q: Has Milton Roy been acquired by Thermo Electron?
UNKNOWN
PLAUSIBLE
LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (wsj_0570_orig.tml)
Milton Roy **disclosed** in May that it was **approached** for a possible acquisition by Thermo Electron. (EVIDENTIAL)

20. Analysts noted that over the past 20 years, Mr. Fournier has built his company through astute stock-market activity.

Q: Has Mr. Fournier built his company through astute stock-market activity?
YES
STRICT
LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (wsj_0810_orig.tml)
Analysts **noted** that over the past 20 years, Mr. Fournier has **built** his company through astute stock-market activity. (EVIDENTIAL)

21. I was pleased that Ms. Currie's lawyers stated unambiguously this morning that she's not aware of any unethical conduct.

Q: Is Ms. Currie aware of any unethical conduct on her part?
UNKNOWN
STRICT
LINGUISTIC

Q: Have Ms. Currie's lawyers stated she's not aware of any unethical conduct?
YES
STRICT

LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (NYT19980206.0466.tml)

I was **pleased** that Ms. Currie's lawyers **stated** unambiguously this morning _ unambiguously _ that she's not aware of any unethical conduct. (FACTIVE)

22. President Clinton and Blair will stand together on arresting the terrorists suspected of blowing up Pan Am flight 103 over Scotland.

Q: Has there been an explosion of a Pan Am flight over Scotland?

YES

STRICT

LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (APW19980227.0476.tml)

President Clinton says he and Blair will stand together not just on Iraq but also on arresting the terrorists **suspected of blowing up** Pan Am flight 103 over Scotland. (FACTIVE)

23. The accord helps RJR pay off debt.

Q: Does RJR have any debt?

YES

STRICT

LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (wsj_0675_orig.tml)

The accord **helps RJR pay** off debt and boosts Nestle's 7% share of the U.S. candy market to 12%.

24. 48 Kuwaiti jet fighters managed to escape the Iraqi invasion.

Q: Did any Kuwaiti jet fighters escape the Iraqi invasion?

YES

STRICT

LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (WSJ900813-0157.tml)

The Saudis even have in their possession 48 Kuwaiti jet fighters, virtually the entire Kuwaiti air force, which **managed to escape** the Iraqi invasion, Saudi officials said. (FACTIVE)

25. It appears that allied troops haven't yet fully engaged Iraq's Republican Guard.

Q: Have allied troops engaged Iraq's Republican Guard?

NO

PLAUSIBLE

LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (WSJ910225-0066.tml)

Perhaps more important, it **appears** that allied troops haven't yet fully **engaged** Iraq's vaunted Republican Guard.

26. British police officers concluded Howes had probably been killed soon after being captured.

Q: Did Howes die?
YES
PLAUSIBLE
LINGUISTIC

Q: Was Howes killed soon after being captured?
YES
PLAUSIBLE
LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (APW19980219.0476.tml)
In January this year, British police officers who had been searching for Howes **concluded** he had probably been **killed** soon after being captured.

27. The police allowed the crowd to demonstrate on nearby streets.

Q: Did the crowd demonstrate on nearby streets?
YES
PLAUSIBLE
LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (APW19980308.0201.tml)
The police barred the crowd from reaching the Yugoslavian consulate in downtown Istanbul, but **allowed** them to **demonstrate** on nearby streets.

28. In Pakistan, the Taliban have forbidden women to work.

Q: Do the Taliban want women to work in Pakistan?
NO
PLAUSIBLE
LINGUISTIC

Q: Do women work in Pakistan?
NO
PLAUSIBLE
LINGUISTIC + WORLD KNOWLEDGE (basic)

S: TimeBank (VOA19980305.1800.2603.tml)
Women have become the sole support of their families. Yet, the Taliban have **forbidden** them to **work**.

29. The Administration is trying to decide whether Saddam Hussein has WMD.

Q: Is the administration deciding whether Saddam Hussein has WMD?
YES

STRICT
LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (WSJ900813-0157.tml)

Thus, administration aides will be **trying** to **calculate** whether Saddam Hussein's proposed diplomatic formula for getting out of Kuwait represents the first sign he is searching for a way out or simply is a public relations stunt.

30. Helicopters are trying to locate people stranded without food.

Q: Are helicopters locating people stranded without food?

UNKNOWN
PLAUSIBLE
LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (ed980111.1130.0089.tml)

Helicopters are flying over northern New York today **trying** to **locate** people stranded without food, heat or medicine.

31. MCA agreed to wait on purchasing Cineplex.

Q: Is MCA waiting to purchase Cineplex?

YES
STRICT
LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (wsj_0938_orig.tml)

MCA and Cineplex's other major shareholder, Montreal-based financier Charles Bronfman and his associates, have **agreed** to **tender** their holdings to an offer by Mr. Drabinsky unless a higher offer is made by another bidder.

32. MGM Grand Inc. has agreed to pay \$93 million to buy 117 acres of land in Las Vegas.

Q: Has MGM Grand Inc. paid \$93 million to buy 117 acres of land in Las Vegas?

UNKNOWN
PLAUSIBLE
LINGUISTIC

S: TimeBank (wsj_0981_orig.tml)

MGM Grand Inc. has **agreed** to **pay** \$93 million and nearly 1.8 million common shares to buy 117 acres of land along the Las Vegas, Nev., Strip as a site for its planned movie-studio and theme-park resort.