

Answers Unit 7

1. The adult presupposes that the child is aware that some specification of the calendar date is expected. This is the conversational implicature left implicit in the question. The child, however, is not yet aware of this implicature and answers the question according to his or her own interpretation. The child violates the maxim of relation: his or her answer is not relevant. Note that the maxim of quality is not violated. It is, after all, the truth that the child is going to be three years old on his or her third birthday.
2. *like* functions as a discourse particle/interjection in the following passages:

First she hires me n- like, the Friday before school starts

It is used as a quotative, to introduce a quotation or a paraphrase, especially if the quote is being recited from short-term memory and therefore may or may not be exact:

First they're like,

So, they do shit like, first they tell me, like

I'm like great

You know, towards the last couple of days I'm like, I put up a list of rules.

It is used as a hedge, to indicate that the following phrase will be an approximation or exaggeration, or that the following words may not be quite right, but are close enough:

and they've put like, all these third-grade students in there

You know, it's like really hard for me

3. 5. *Get out of this room!*
6. *You'll get out of this room.*
1. *Could you get out of this room?*
2. *Couldn't you get out of this room?*
3. *Get out of this room, could you please?*
4. *So you're staying, are you?*

The ordering is subject to minor changes, depending, for example on the intonation which is adopted. A particularly tricky one is 4, where a threatening undertone arises only through the combination of initial *So* and the tag which has the same polarity as the clause. Plain *You're staying, are you?* would be quite innocent by comparison.

Indirect speech acts: # 1, 2, 4, 6

Linguistic devices: question, use of modal verbs, use of *please*

4. The switch from direct to indirect speech in these examples requires the replacement of the directional verb *come* by the verb *go* and the replacement of the deictic adverb of place *here* by *there*. This is so because the speaker uttering the indirect sentences is now in a different place than Betty was when she uttered her direct statement. For this reason, the last example sentence is ungrammatical (*): If the speaker uses *go back*, he or she must be in a different place than the original place of the utterance, therefore the adverb *there* is required. Otherwise he or she could use *come back* and *here*.

A further acceptable example of indirect speech:

Betty said that she wouldn't come back here tomorrow.
(reported in the same place, on the same day, by someone else)

A further unacceptable example of indirect speech:

* *Betty said that she wouldn't come back there tomorrow.*
(*come* is centred on the speaker's "here and now", hence incompatible with *there*)

5. The German boyfriend misread the indirect speech act by his English girlfriend as a direct question, taking its meaning to be a literal inquiry about his preferences. The English speaker chose indirectness over directness, formulated her question with an orientation towards her boyfriend, was implicit and used a pre-formulated question. Her German boyfriend, on the other hand, interpreted her indirect question as a direct one, did not read between the lines and answered according to the content of the question.