Answers Unit 7

1. Following Gricean maxims, the adult expects a calendar date in the answer to their question – and expects the child to be aware of this. This is not the case. The child violates the maxim of relation, producing an answer that 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. Functions of *like* …

   Discourse particle/hesitation marker/filler, e.g.:
   First she hires me n- like, the Friday before school starts

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

   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):
   You know, it's like really hard for me.

3.

   Could you get out of this room?
   Couldn't you get out of this room?
   Get out of this room, could you please?
   So you're staying, are you?
   Get out of this room!
   You'll get out of this room.
   You will get out of this room.

   The ordering is subject to minor changes, depending, for example on the intonation that is adopted. A particularly tricky one is 4, where a threatening undertone arises only through the combination of initial *so* and a tag that 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, 7
   Linguistic devices: interrogative instead of imperative, use of modal verbs, use of (some kinds of) tags, use of *please*

4. Reporting Betty: "I won't come back here tomorrow."

(1) Betty said that she wouldn't go back there tomorrow.

This example is a standard case of reported speech. The speaker reporting Betty's utterance is assumed to be in a different place than Betty was when she uttered her direct statement. The deictic shift requires the replacement of the directional verb *come* by the verb *go* and the replacement of the deictic local adverb *here* by *there*.

(2) Betty said that she won't go back there tomorrow.

This example deviates from the standard situation, because the deictic shift is restricted to space and does not affect time/tense. This makes sense as long as Betty's utterance is reported in a **different place**, but on the **same day**.

(3) *Betty said that she won't go back here tomorrow.

In contrast to the other ones, this example is ungrammatical because it is formulated in a way that contains a logical contradiction. The speaker can use *here* only if he or she is in the same place as Betty when she made the original utterance. This is incompatible with the use of *go back.*

An equally illogical combination is: *Betty said that she wouldn't come back there tomorrow*. By contrast, the unusual *Betty said that she wouldn't come back here tomorrow* makes sense as long as Betty's utterance is reported by someone else in the same place and on the same day.

5.

The German boyfriend did not pick up his girlfriend's indirect speech act. He interpreted the question literally, as an open-ended request for information, rather than as an invitation. In House's terms, this example shows the English speaker choosing indirectness rather than directness, an orientation towards her boyfriend rather than herself, implicitness rather than explicitness, and conventional formulaic language rather than spontaneous free formulation.