

## It

The pronoun *it* in sentences like (1a-d) is often referred to as “expletive it” or “dummy it” because it (*it*) does not seem to refer to anything.

- (1) a. It seems that Sam kept that promise.
- b. It appears that they have something in the box.
- c. It happens that those forms are incomplete.
- d. It turns out that the radiator was on the blink.

**Part A** Develop an analysis of these facts that 1) explains why *it* in (1a-d) does not refer to anything, 2) makes clear what the lexical entry is for each matrix verb (feel free to treat *turn out* as a single verb for the purposes of this assignment), and 3) explains why (2a-d) are unacceptable. (Assume that *that* is a member of category C(omplementizer), and selects a S and projects a CP.)

- (2) a. \*The situation seems that Sam kept that promise.
- b. \*The hamster appears that they have something in the box.
- c. \*The first line happens that those forms are incomplete.
- d. \*The event turns out that the radiator was on the blink.

**Part B** Now extend your analysis to account for the adjectives *clear* and *obvious* in (3)-(4), and the verbs in (5)-(6). (You can treat *makes no sense* as a lexical item.)

- (3) a. It is clear that your daughters book will be a success.
  - b. It was obvious that more banks would fail.
- (4) a. \*The future is clear that your daughters book will be a success.
  - b. \*The result was obvious that more banks would fail.
- (5) a. It disturbs me that Max left the room.
  - b. It mattered to Sally that Sue was late.
  - c. It amazed him that we liked the daffodils.
  - d. It makes no sense to me that the kids agreed.
- (6) a. \*Max disturbs me that he left the room.
  - b. \*The event mattered to Sally that Sue was late.
  - c. \*This fact amazed him that we liked the daffodils.
  - d. \*The agreement makes no sense to me that the kids agreed.

**Part C** Without altering your previous analysis, make a proposal to account for the sentences in (7). Explicate fully. In addressing this question, you can ignore the unacceptability of the examples in (8), though if you can think of something interesting to say about them, go right ahead.

- (7)
- a. That your daughters book will be a success is clear.
  - b. That more banks would fail was obvious.
  - c. That he left the room disturbs me.
  - d. That sue was late mattered to Sally.
  - e. That we liked the daffodils amazed to him.
  - f. That the kids agreed makes no sense to me.
- (8)
- a. \*That Sam kept that promise seems.
  - b. \*That they have something in the box appears.
  - c. \*That those forms are incomplete happens.
  - d. \*That the radiator was on the blink turned out.