

PHIL 332: Philosophy of Language
Questions for First Paper

Due: In class, Friday 12th October
Length: 7 – 10 pages (double spaced)
Worth: 25% of final grade

Answer **one** of the following questions:

1. What theory of definite descriptions does Russell put forward in ‘On Denoting’? What does the theory have going for it, and what problems does it face?
2. What are Kripke’s arguments against descriptive theories of names in *Naming and Necessity*? How decisive are they?
3. In ‘The Causal Theory of Names’, Evans argues that Kripke’s causal theory of names faces a problem to do with reference change. What is the problem? How does Evans think the problem should be solved?
4. In ‘The Thought’, Frege describes things that he calls *thoughts*. What, according to Frege, is a thought? Why does he claim that they are not ideas, and why does he claim that they are not things of the outer world?
5. In ‘Meaning’, Grice arrives at an account of what a speaker means by a sentence in terms of what the speaker intends. Describe the considerations that led him to this account. Can you think of any counterexamples to this account?

I shall be pleased to see you using clear, concise, and short sentences, and making it excessively clear what you are doing at each stage of the paper and why you are doing it. Pretend that I am **lazy, stupid, and uncharitable**.