

- 89 Formalize each of the following statements as a binary expression.
- (a) Everybody loves somebody sometime.
  - (b) Every 10 minutes someone in New York City gets mugged.
  - (c) Every 10 minutes someone keeps trying to reach you.
  - (d) Whenever the altitude is below 1000 feet, the landing gear must be down.
  - (e) I'll see you on Tuesday, if not before.
  - (f) No news is good news.
  - (g) I don't agree with anything you say.
  - (h) I don't agree with everything you say.

After trying the question, scroll down to the solution.

- (a) Everybody loves somebody sometime.  
 §  $\forall p: \text{people} \exists q: \text{people} \exists t: \text{time} \cdot (p \text{ loves } q \text{ at time } t)$
- (b) Every 10 minutes someone in New York City gets mugged.  
 §  $\forall t: (10 \text{ minute intervals}) \exists p: (\text{people of New York City}) \cdot (p \text{ gets mugged at time } t)$   
 More likely the speaker is trying to say  
     (a long time in minutes)  
     / (the number of people in New York City who get mugged during that time)  
     = 10 approximately
- (c) Every 10 minutes someone keeps trying to reach you.  
 §  $\exists p: \text{people} \forall t: (10 \text{ minute intervals}) \cdot (p \text{ tries to reach you at time } t)$
- (d) Whenever the altitude is below 1000 feet, the landing gear must be down.  
 §  $\forall a: \text{real} \cdot a < 1000 \Rightarrow (\text{gear down})$
- (e) I'll see you on Tuesday, if not before.  
 § Let  $s$  be a predicate of time, so that  $s t$  means I'll see you at time  $t$ . If the given statement means I'll see you on Tuesday regardless of whether I see you before, then  
      $s \text{ Tuesday}$   
 But if it means I'll see you sometime between now and then,  
      $\exists t \cdot \text{now} < t \leq \text{Tuesday} \wedge s t$
- (f) No news is good news.  
 § Maybe this means the same as “There's no such thing as good news.”. If so, we might formalize it as  
      $\neg \exists n: \text{news} \cdot \text{good } n$   
 where  $\text{news}$  is all the news and  $\text{good}$  is a predicate over  $\text{news}$ . But I think it was intended to mean the same as “The fact that there isn't any news is a piece of good news.”. I'll let  $\text{news}: *char$  be a bunch of texts. Then we might formalize it as  
     “ $\text{news}=\text{null}$ ”:  $\text{news} \wedge \text{good} \text{“news}=\text{null}”$   
 Or it might mean “If there isn't any news then that will be a piece of good news.”.  
      $\text{news}=\text{null} \Rightarrow \text{“news}=\text{null}” : \text{news} \wedge \text{good} \text{“news}=\text{null}”$   
 If “ $\text{news}=\text{null}$ ”:  $\text{news}$  then  $\text{news}=\text{null}$  is false, so “ $\text{news}=\text{null}$ ” is false news, but there's no logical inconsistency.
- (g) I don't agree with anything you say.  
 § Introduce prefix operators  $Iagreewith$  and  $Yousay$ .  
      $\forall x \cdot \neg (Iagreewith x) \Leftarrow (Yousay x)$
- (h) I don't agree with everything you say.  
 § Introduce prefix operators  $Iagreewith$  and  $Yousay$ . It seems to me there are two possible interpretations for the sentence. One is the same as part (g).  
      $\forall x \cdot \neg (Iagreewith x) \Leftarrow (Yousay x)$   
 The other is  
      $\neg \forall x \cdot (Iagreewith x) \Leftarrow (Yousay x)$   
 They are not equivalent. To decide between them requires more context.