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Exercises

1. What are the building blocks in the following sentence:

   Franz spricht morgen im Forum über die Arbeit des Instituts.

   For mathematicians: If a sentence has n building blocks, how many admissible word orders are conceivable?

sprechen – speak
morgen – tomorrow
im = in + dem
über – about
Arbeit f – work

2. In jokes and sayings, word order can be used for timing effects by putting the point at the very end of the sentence. In this sence, find the best possible translation of the following two sentences:[1]

   I don't need a chess computer. I already know from my video recorder that machines are smarter than humans.

need – brauchen
chess computer – Schachcomputer, m
already – schon
know – kennen/wissen
video recorder – Videorekorder, m
machine – Maschine f
smart – klug
than – als
human – Mensch, m

3. Connect the following connectives with their English counterpart.

   aber dass obwohl oder und während weil wenn

   although and because but if or that while

   Which ones are missing?

4. There are two families of connectives. What is their difference? Illustrate the difference with an example sentence of your choice. For instance, use the connectives *denn* and *weil*.

[1] Taken from the german comedian Harald Schmidt; Hint: Put the video recorder at the end.