

Pragmatics

Thomas Wagner

Definitions & background

what is pragmatics?

Definitions & background

left-overs from
phonetics, phonology,
morphology, and syntax



The pragmatics
waste basket

Definitions & background

study of meaning

Definitions & background

- semantics – the study of **meaning**
- pragmatics – the study of **meaning**



Definitions & background

study of **speaker** meaning

Definitions & background

study of contextual meaning

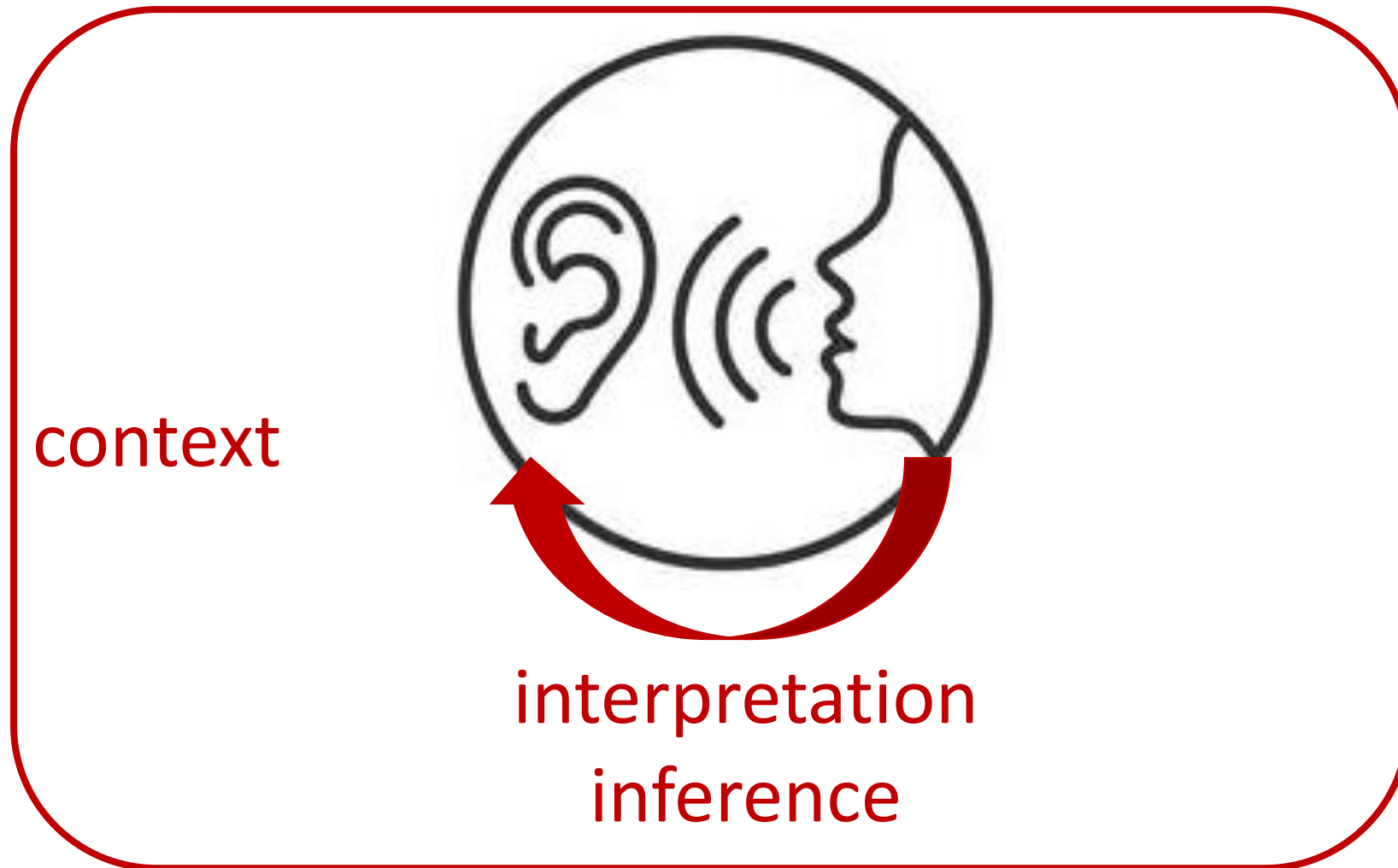
Definitions & background

study of **intended** meaning

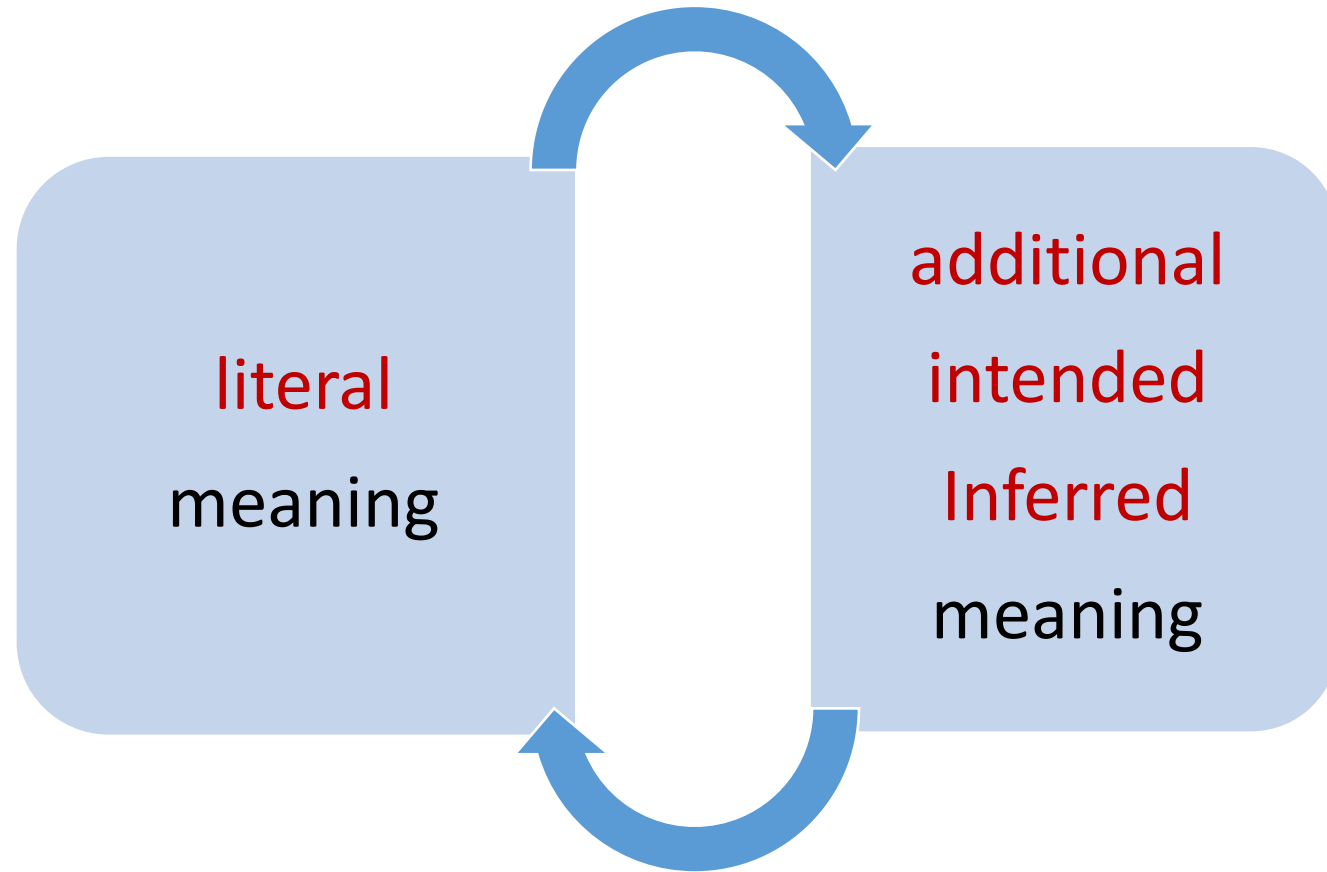
Definitions & background

“ more gets
communicated
than is said ”

Definitions & background



Definitions & background



Definitions & background

I guess even you guys have a chance to pass the Discourse Linguistics course.

Definitions & background

*Wagner's classes are a **nightmare** !*

Definitions & background

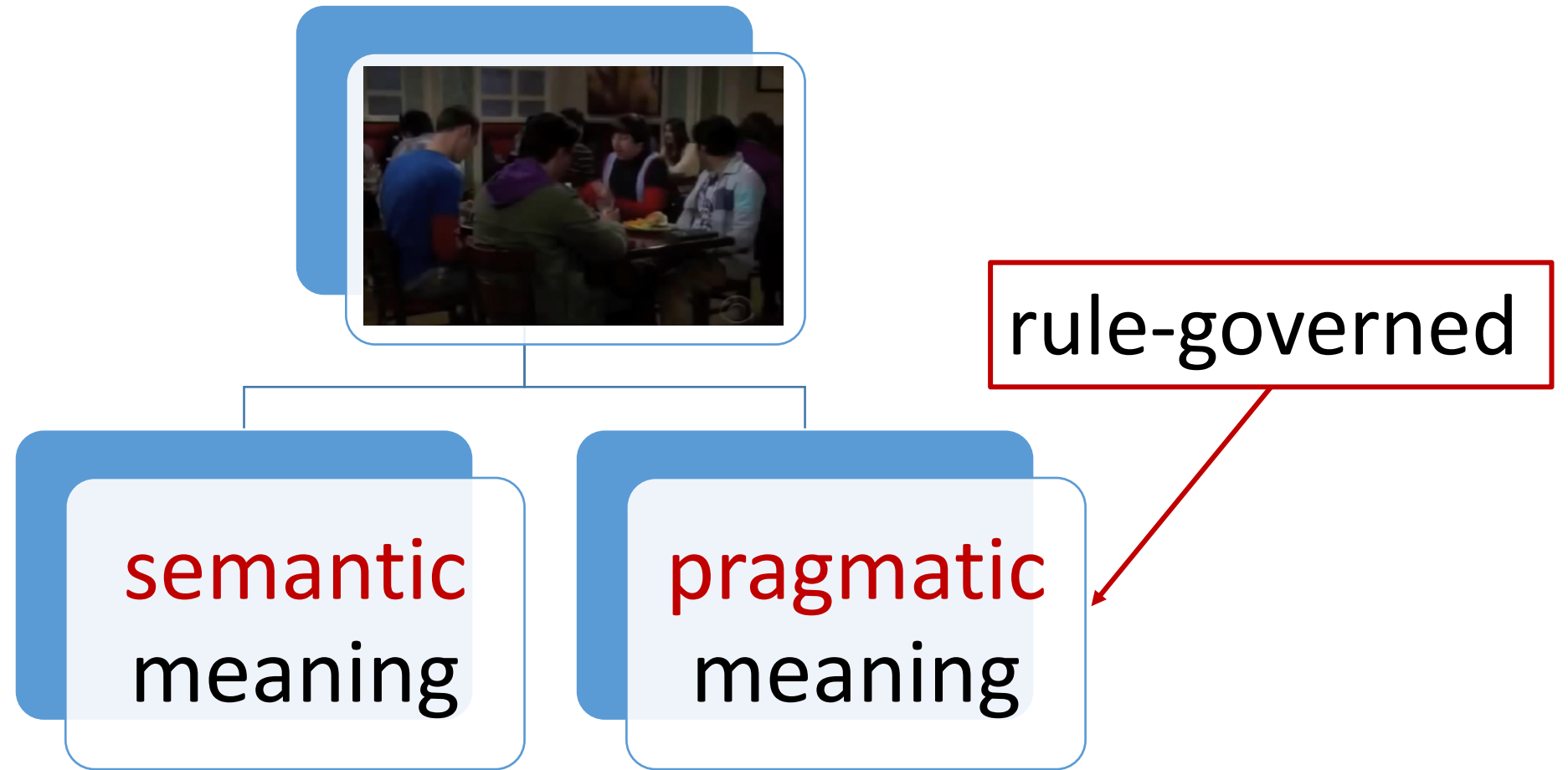
*Wagner's classes are a **piece of cake!***

Definitions & background

- *Is there Ketchup on the table?*

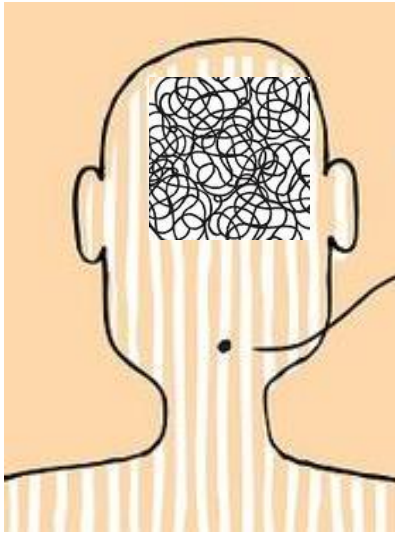


Definitions & background



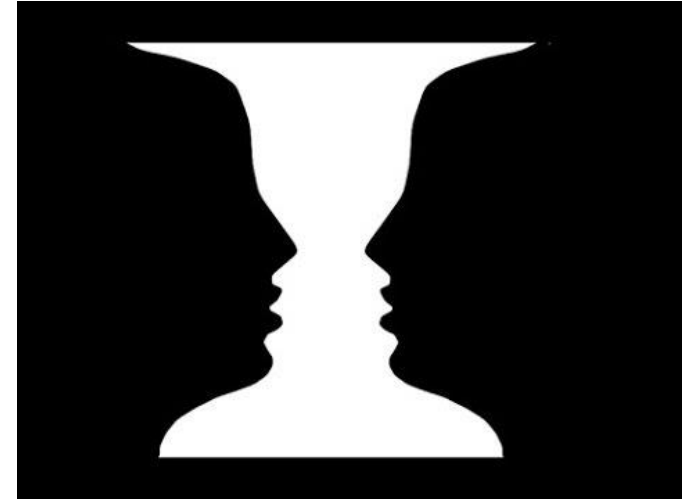
Definitions & background

- Language consists of **grammar** and **pragmatics**



Definitions & background

meaning in **context**

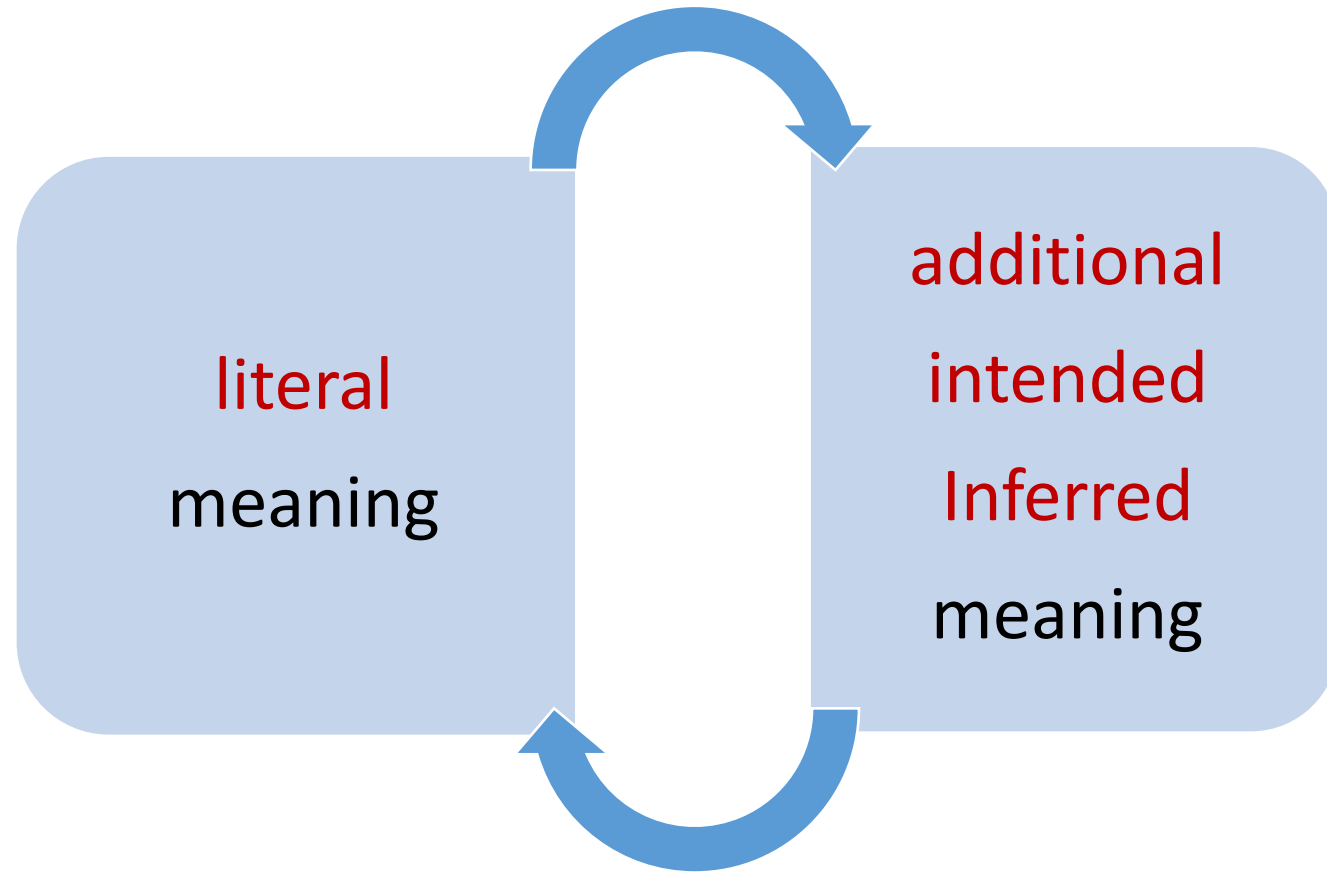


Definitions & background

- Her: *So – did you?*
- Him: *Hey, who wouldn't?*

- A) I found an old bike lying on the ground, the chain all rusty, and two flats.
- B) I found an old bike. A bike has a chain. The chain on this bike was rusted. Rusted here means And a bike also has tires. The two tires of this bike were flat, which means they

Definitions & background



Definitions & background

- cross-cultural pragmatics in Saudi Arabia

- Saudi: How are you?

- George Yule: Okay.

- Saudi: How are you?

- Saudi: **Praise to God!**



Definitions & background

- cross-cultural pragmatics in Saudi Arabia

- Saudi: How are you?

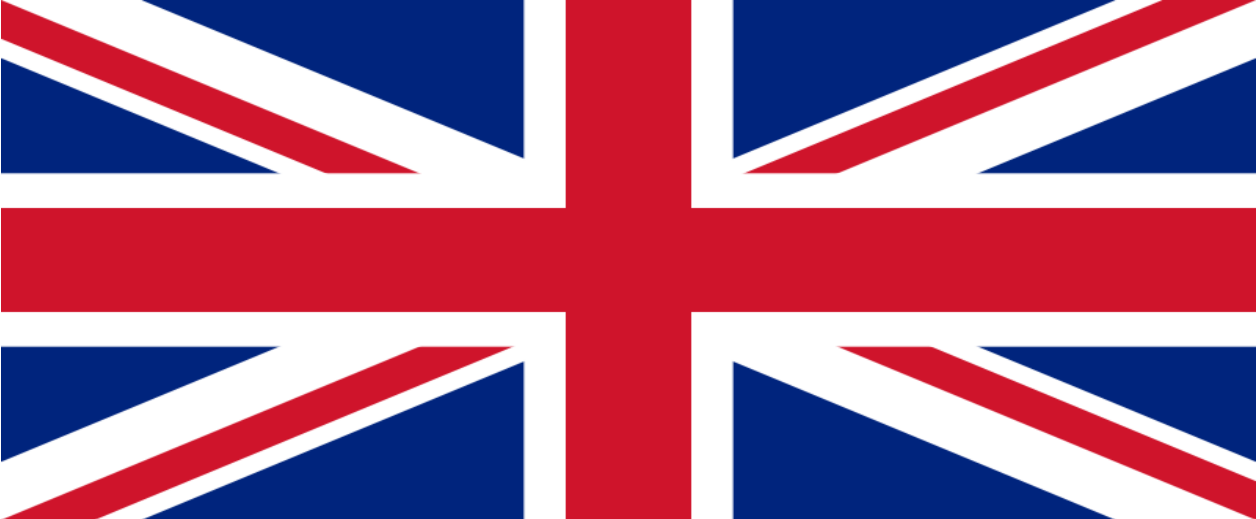
- George Yule: Okay. grammatically good!

- Saudi: How are you?

- Saudi: Praise to God! pragmatically good!

Definitions & background

- cross-cultural pragmatics and the British

	what the British say	
1	<i>With the greatest respect...</i>	
2	<i>That's a very brave proposal</i>	
3	<i>very interesting</i>	
4	<i>I'm sure it's my fault</i>	
5	<i>I only have a few minor comments</i>	

Definitions & background

- cross-cultural pragmatics and the British

	what the British say	what the British mean
1	<i>With the greatest respect...</i>	you are an idiot
2	<i>That's a very brave proposal</i>	you are insane
3	<i>very interesting</i>	that's clearly nonsense
4	<i>I'm sure it's my fault</i>	it's your fault
5	<i>I only have a few minor comments</i>	please re-write completely



Definitions & background

- cross-cultural pragmatics and the British

	what the British say	what the British mean	what others might understand
1	<i>With the greatest respect...</i>	you are an idiot	he is listening to me
2	<i>That's a very brave proposal</i>	you are insane	he thinks I have courage
3	<i>very interesting</i>	that's clearly nonsense	they are impressed
4	<i>I'm sure it's my fault</i>	it's your fault	why do they think it was their fault?
5	<i>I only have a few minor comments</i>	please re-write completely	he has found a few typos

Definitions & background

When Americans say...	It means...
Awesome	Good
Fabulous	Good
Amazing	Good
Great	Fine
Fine	Bad
OK	Bad
Not so great	Really bad
Challenging	Driving me completely nuts
Hilarious	Unexpected
For sure	Probably
Forever	30 minutes
Let's get coffee sometime	Goodbye; I like you
Let's stay in touch	Goodbye; I don't like you that much
My friend	A person I know
My best friend	A person I know and also like

Definitions & background

- Groucho Marx (1890 – 1977)

*Time flies like an arrow;
fruit flies like a banana.*



What does he mean ? ;-)

questions

