Ambiguous sentences

1) Creating ambiguous sentences is a common problem. Look at the following examples, identify the issue and try to correct it.

I've killed multiple bees with scissors by cutting them in half while flying.

I saw her duck.

The landlord painted all the walls with cracks.

Republicans Grill IRS Chief Over Lost Emails. (a newspaper headline)

Look at the dock with one eye.

Police help dog bite victim.

Book stays in London.

Free whales.

2) Look at the following sentences. How many possible meanings does it have?

I saw a man on a hill with a telescope.

3) Look at the following sentences. Decide whether they are ambiguous or unambiguous and rewrite them if necessary.

a) The rock band waved to the people in the audience. They were smiling, pleased and happy.

b) The student put her hand up to answer. She was correct, so the teacher said 'well done'.

c) A doctor and a nurse helped to save a dying man. The man thanked her afterwards for reading to him.

d) Some British and French students took part in a foreign exchange. They didn't like the food though.

e) Alice asked Amy to play a piano duet with her. Amy had to leave early though to go swimming.

Understanding texts:

1) Below are the first five paragraphs from a text titled "OSI Reference Model: The Driving Force behind Network Communications." Try to put the paragraphs into their correct order.

A simple way to understand the OSI reference model is to think of it as an elevator. On the sending end, data enters at the top floor (the application layer) and travels to the bottom floor (the physical layer). Each layer communicates with the layers immediately above and below it. When a layer receives data, it performs specific functions, adds control information to the data, and passes it to the next layer. The control information contains error-checking, routing, and other information needed to ensure proper transmission along the network.

The *Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) reference model*, a communications standard developed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), offers an answer. The OSI reference model describes the flow of data in a network through seven layers, from the user's application to the physical transmission media.

The *presentation layer* translates the converted message data into a language the receiving computer can process (from ASCII to EBCDIC, for example) and also may compress or encrypt the data. Finally, the layer attaches another header specifying the language, compression, and encryption schemes.

Every message sent over a network – even the simplest e-mail message – must be divided into discrete packages of data and routed via transmission media such as telephone lines. While traveling from the sending computer to the receiving computer, each data package can take a different path over the network. How do these messages get to their destination, intact and accurate?

The top layer, the *application layer*, serves as the interface between the user and the network. Using application software, such as an e-mail program, a user can type a message and specify a recipient. The application then prepares the message for delivery by converting the message data into bits and attaching a header identifying the sending and receiving computers.

2) Look at the text. Why are the paragraphs ordered in such a way? Look for words or phrases that help connecting one paragraph to another one and highlight them.