**CONCEPTUAL METAPHOR & METONYMY**

**PRACTICE**

**I Identify the conceptual metaphors:**

1. He has constructed a theory. THEORY IS A BUILDING
2. During the debate, they defended their position ferociously. ARGUMENT IS WAR
3. We have arrived at a disturbing conclusion.
4. In this paper, we set out to prove that… ARGUMENT IS A JOURNEY
5. Is that worth your while? TIME IS MONEY
6. He had a head start in life. LIFE IS A JOURNEY
7. He fell ill. SICK IS DOWN
8. She was on cloud nine. HAPPINESS IS UP
9. Her ego is very fragile. THE MIND IS A BRITTLE OBJECT
10. My mind just isn’t operating today. THE MIND IS A MACHINE
11. Your argument has a lot of content. ARGUMENT IS A CONTAINER
12. Since then the two have built a solid relationship. RELATIONSHIP IS A BUILDING
13. He works for the local branch of the bank.
14. Our company is growing. ORGANISATION IS A PLANT
15. They were crazy with happiness. HAPPINESS IS INSANITY
16. I’ve had my eye on her. Stupid cow, she thinks I don’t know what goes on. PEOPLE ARE ANIMALS
17. How do you spend your time? TIME IS MONEY
18. My spirits rose. HAPPY IS UP
19. All this paper has in it are raw facts, half-baked ideas, and warmed-over theories. IDEAS ARE FOOD
20. He sank into a coma. UNCONSCIOUS IS DOWN

**II Identify the common metaphor:**

1. I’ll take my chances.

The odds are against me.

It’s a toss-up.

If you play your cards right, you can do it.

Where is he when the chips are down?

He’s bluffing.

Those are high stakes.

He won big.

LIFE IS A GAMBLING GAME

2. They had to prune the workforce.

The organization was rooted in the old church.

There is now a flourishing black market in software there.

His business blossomed when the railways put his establishment within

reach of the big city.

Employers reaped enormous benefits from cheap foreign labour.

ORGANISATION IS A PLANT

3. You have to handle him with care since his wife’s death.

He broke under cross-examination.

She is easily crushed.

The experience shattered him.

I’m going to pieces.

His mind snapped.

He cracked up.

THE MIND IS A BRITTLE OBJECT

4. He had a head start in life.

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—

I took the one less traveled by,

And that has made all the difference.

LIFE IS A JOURNEY

5. I was just soaring with happiness.

I’m six feet off the ground.

After the exam, I was walking on air for days.

being happy is being in heaven

That was heaven on earth.

I’ve died and gone to heaven.

It was paradise on earth.

I was in seventh heaven.

happy is up

We had to cheer him up.

They were in high spirits.

Lighten up!

She lit up.

HAPPINESS IS UP

6. That man was a brute, he spent the little he earned on drink.

You are putting the men down, and they don’t like it; they think you are being a bitch.

. . . a bunch of fat cats with fast cars and too many cigars.

All I could hear was the producer screaming, “What the hell does the silly cow think she is doing?”

He is a complete pig to the women in his life.

Look at the things that have been done by these swine.

Tell me what you did with the money, you swine.

The vermin are the people who rob old women in the street and break into houses.

PEOPLE ARE ANIMALS

**III Identify the following metaphors with the target domain HAPPINESS.**

1. He radiates joy.

There was a glow of happiness in her face.

When she heard the news, she lit up.

Nothing to worry about, brighten up.

She was shining with joy.

Her face was bright with happiness.

HAPPINESS IS LIGHT

2. He was alive with joy.

I’m feeling spry.

I felt vivacious.

That put some life into them.

She’s animated with joy.

I got a big charge out of it.

HAPPINESS IS VITALITY

3. The sight filled them with joy.

I brimmed over with joy when I saw her.

She couldn’t contain her joy any longer.

He bubbled over with joy when he got his presents.

She overflowed with joy.

I was bursting with happiness.

HAPPINESS IS A FLUID IN A CONTAINER

4. I couldn’t keep my happiness to myself.

She gave way to her feelings of happiness.

His feelings of joy broke loose.

He couldn’t hold back tears of joy.

HAPPINESS IS A CAPTIVE (ANIMAL)

5. She was overcome with joy.

Happiness took complete control over him.

He was knocked out!

She was seized by joy.

HAPPINESS IS AN OPPONENT/ENEMY

6. He was happy as a pig in slop.

She was chirping like a cricket.

He is as happy as a clam.

He was as happy as a pig in shit.

He is as happy as a horse in hay.

She was crowing with excitement.

He was wallowing in a sea of happiness.

A HAPPY PERSON IS AN ANIMAL (THAT LIVES WELL)

7. They were crazy with happiness.

She was mad with joy.

I was beside myself.

HAPPINESS IS INSANITY

8. She was overwhelmed with joy.

We were carried away with happiness.

He was swept off his feet.

HAPPINESS IS A NATURAL FORCE

**IV Identify the metaphors with the target domain ARGUMENT.**

1. The theory needs more support.

We have got a good foundation for the argument.

Her argument is without foundation.

THEORY/ARGUMENT IS A BUILDING

2. I hit back at his criticism.

I can’t argue anymore. You win…

I couldn’t defend that point.

ARGUMENT IS WAR

3. Your argument doesn’t have much content.

Your argument has holes in it.

ARGUMENT IS A CONTAINER

4. We will proceed in a step-by-step fashion.

We have covered a lot of ground.

ARGUMENT IS A JOURNEY

**V Identify the metaphors with the source domain BUILDING.**

1. Increasingly, scientific knowledge is constructed by small numbers of specialized workers.

McCarthy demolishes the romantic myth of the Wild West.

She lay back for a few moments contemplating the ruins of her idealism and her innocence.

Don’t be tempted to skip the first sections of your programme, because they are the foundations on which the second half will be built.

. . . the advance that laid the foundations for modern science.

Our view, he said, is that these claims are entirely without foundation.

My theory was rocked to its foundations.

The second half of the chapter builds on previous discussion of change and differentiation in home ownership.

THEORIES ARE BUILDINGS

2. Since then the two have built a solid relationship.

You can help lay the foundations for a good relationship between your children by preparing your older child in advance for the new baby.

RELATIONSHIPS ARE BUILDINGS

3. Government grants have enabled a number of the top names in British sport to build a successful career.

Her career was in ruins.

CAREERS ARE BUILDINGS

4. Ten years ago, he and a partner set up on their own and built up a successful fashion company.

COMPANY IS A BUILDING

5. With its economy in ruins, it can’t afford to involve itself in military action.

There is no painless way to get inflation down. We now have an excellent foundation on which to build.

ECONOMY/ECONOMIC SYSTEM IS A BUILDING

6. He’s about to rock the foundations of the literary establishment with his novel.

By early afternoon queues were already building up.

SOCIAL GROUPS ARE BUILDINGS

7. Now another young woman’s life is in ruins after an appalling attack.

LIFE IS A BUILDING

**VI Identify the various conceptualisations of LOVE:**

Their relationship was at a crossroads.

LOVE IS A JOURNEY

They were burning with love.

My love is such that rivers cannot quench.

LOVE IS FIRE

We are as one.

If ever two were one, then surely we were.

LOVE IS PHYSICAL UNITY

I’m madly in love.

LOVE IS INSANITY

She invested a lot in that relationship.

Thy love is such I can no way repay.

LOVE IS AN ECONOMIC EXCHANGE

She attracts me irresistibly.

LOVE IS A PHYSICAL FORCE.

I’m enchanted.

LOVE IS MAGIC

She eventually surrendered.

LOVE IS WAR

She’s playing hard to get.

LOVE IS A GAME

**VI Identify the metonymy and define its type:**

He bought a Ford.

He's got a Van Gogh.

PRODUCER FOR THE PRODUCT

The automobile is clogging our highways. (= the collection of automobiles)

MEMBER FOR THE GROUP

The sax has the flu today.

The buses are on strike.

OBJECT USED FOR THE USER

We need a couple of strong bodies for our team. (= strong people)

PART FOR THE WHOLE

Napoleon lost at Waterloo.

CONTROLLER FOR THE CONTROLLED

Exxon has raised its prices again.

You'll never get the university to agree to that.

INSTITUTION FOR THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE

The White House isn't saying anything.

Wall Street is in a panic.

PLACE FOR THE INSTITUTION

There are a lot of good heads in the university. (= intelligent people)

PART FOR THE WHOLE

I've got a new set of wheels. (= car, motorcycle, etc.)

PART FOR THE WHOLE

Remember the Alamo.

Watergate changed our politics.

THE PLACE FOR THE EVENT

We've got some new blood in the organisation. (= new people)

PART FOR THE WHOLE