

Which of two sentences is closer? — Finding similar things

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Being close doesn't mean sharing words. When meanings overlap, they land close together.

In a nutshell

- 1 Yesterday we turned words into bundles of numbers. Sentences can be turned into them the same way, and then **you can measure the distance between two sentences.**
- 2 Being close doesn't mean sharing words. **Even with not a single word in common,** sentences that mean the same thing land close together.
- 3 On the flip side, if **the words are almost the same but the meaning is opposite,** they end up far apart. Like 'fun' and 'not fun.'

Measuring how close they are

lunch ↔ cafeteria food



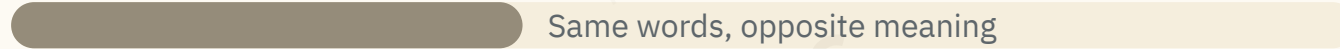
Close with no shared words

not fun ↔ boring



Different words, same meaning

not fun ↔ fun



Same words, opposite meaning

bank (money) ↔ bank (river)



Same word, different place

Look at the third and fourth. If you only measured how many words overlap, both should come out very close — but they're actually far apart. That's because what gets measured is meaning, not words.

Key idea: words overlapping and meanings overlapping are completely different things

Which one is closer to the base sentence?

A is closer

When this one fits

- ✓ Base: 'School lunch was so good today...'
- ✓ Base: 'The puppy is barking.' / A: 'A...'
- ✓ Base: 'I need to get cash from the ba...'

B is closer

When this one fits

- ✓ Base: 'I'm nervous about tomorrow's t...'
- ✓ Base: 'This movie was not fun.' / A:...
- ✓ Base: 'Did you watch the soccer game...'

The rule

How to choose

- ✓ The closer one is the one whose meani...
- ✓ AI turns sentences into number bundle...
- ✓ The shorter the distance, the more si...

Each base sentence comes with two candidates. Pick the one that's closer. You'll get scored right away, along W...

Try it yourself in the web lesson • next-token.net/en/learn/day-49/

Just three questions

Q1

What does it mean for two sentences to be 'close'?

- ① They share lots of words
- ② They were written on the same day
- ③ They're about the same length
- ④ Their spots are close as number bundles

Q2

'This movie was not fun' and 'This movie was really fun' are...

- ① Same words, opposite meaning — so far apart
- ② Same words, so the closest of all
- ③ Close, because they're the same length
- ④ In the same spot, since both are about movies

Q3

What if two sentences share no words at all?

- ① Always far apart
- ② Close if the meaning's same
- ③ Can't be calculated
- ④ Only half close

Know the why, too

Q1

④

Sentences get turned into number bundles, and then the distance between them is measured. A short distance means they're close — which means their meanings are similar.

Q2

①

If you only count shared words, these two look the closest. But what's measured is meaning, so when one says 'fun' and the other says 'not fun,' their spots end up far apart.

Q3

②

'School lunch was so good today' and 'The cafeteria food hit the spot' share no words, yet they're very close. Meaning decides the spot, so the words don't have to overlap.

**Being close doesn't mean sharing words.
When meanings overlap, they land close together.**



Tomorrow: Open-book answers — what changes if it answers with the text it found open right beside it?