

## Home Assignment 1

*(Due date: March 28)*

**1.** Ask ten people to list as many examples of the category of MUSIC as they can. Write down the examples in the order they were mentioned. Then try to see if different individuals mentioned the same examples. If they did, check to see if you can find a correlation between the shared examples and the order in which they were mentioned. What conclusions can you draw from this in light of what you have learned so far in the course? *(Your answer should be minimum 1 page long.)*

**2. A.** Note that BIRD is only a basic-level category in urban societies, where - due to the changes in human living conditions - some cognitive capacities (namely, the need for distinction between different kinds of birds) have become underutilized. The same goes for the category of COFFEE, which is a basic-level category in everyday language, but may be a superordinate-level one for people who work in a café (to them, coffee has many subcategories according to various features: where the coffee beans come from, how they were processed, and so on). Can you think of any other possible examples of the underutilization of cognitive capacities that could result in a shift from superordinate-level categories to basic-level categories? Make use of what you learned in the course so far to explain the phenomenon.

**B.** Think of the opposite procedure, when experts as a result of their wider, more specific knowledge use the names that denote subordinate levels as basic-level categories. For example, horse breeders (for horses), surfers (for the curves of waves), architects (using house types), and so on. Can you think of any other highly specialized subcultures in which a basic-level term in "mainstream" culture would "only" be at the superordinate level? Make use of what you learned in the course so far to explain the phenomenon. *(For "A" and "B" together, your answer should be minimum 1 page long.)*

*Please follow either the MLA or the APA guidelines in your papers.*