Binding Theory Quiz Answers

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Assume the following definition of antecedent:

The antecedent of a pronoun or an anaphor is an R-expression coindexed with it.

For example, John is the antecedent of he and himself in:

(i) John$_i$ thinks he$_i$ is a genius.
(ii) John$_i$ likes himself$_i$ a lot.
Assume relative clauses are adjuncts of nouns
General directions

Answer true or false for each of the following. Grammaticality judgments for examples have been omitted because they are not relevant to answering any of the questions (and to make it clear that the answers do not DEPEND on the grammaticality judgments).
1. The antecedent of a pronoun must bind it. **False**

A non-binding antecedent. *John’s* does not C-command *him*.
2. The antecedent of an anaphor must bind it. True

```
S
   /\       \NP
  /  \       /\ VP
 /    \     /  
N     N     V
|      |     |  
N     N     V
|      |     |  
John's mother likes himself
```

Impossibility of a non-binding antecedent
3. The binding theory rules out the following sentence. **True**

John$_i$ thinks John$_i$ is a genius.

4. The example in (3) is a Principle C violation. **True** John C-commands and is coindexed with second John.
5. The binding theory rules out the following sentence True

He$_i$ thinks John$_i$ is a genius.

6. The example in (5) is a Principle C violation. True
7. The binding theory rules out the following sentence **False**. *him* cannot C-command anything outside its clause!

Everyone who meets *him* admires *John*.

```
NP
  Det every
    NP
      N one
        VP
          N who
            V meets
              NP
                N him
```
8. Determine which of the following sentences the binding theory rules out and if a sentence is ruled out, state which principle(s) is/are involved.

(a) Everyone who meets John\(_i\) admires him\(_i\). In
(b) Every farmer who owns a donkey\(_i\) beats it\(_i\). In
(c) Every farmer who owns it\(_i\) beats a donkey\(_i\). In
(d) Himself\(_i\) likes John\(_i\). Out Prin C
(e) Himself\(_j\) likes John\(_i\). Out Prin A
(f) He\(_i\) likes John\(_i\). Out Prin C
(g) John\(_i\) likes her\(_j\) picture of him\(_i\). Out Prin B