

Questions: What Counts as a Lie? (Part 2)

The first four of the following five questions shall ask you to state a dictionary definition of a word, and then you will be asked to identify certain necessary conditions for what the word means (according to that dictionary). The fifth of the five questions will ask you to look up the difference between two words, and then you will be asked a series of questions about the different necessary conditions that differentiate what each one of the two words means. For each of the five questions, some of the subquestions are yes-or-no questions. If you want to explain (or defend) your answer to any of the yes-or-no questions, feel free to do so, because that might make the difference between whether or not your answer to the question is marked as correct. In other words, if you can make a case for your yes-or-no answer, then you have a better chance of ensuring that you get credit for your answer.

1. State a dictionary definition of the noun “misinformation”.

In which dictionary did you find this definition?

(i) Does the definition include **the falsity condition**?

(ii) Does the definition include **the statement-making condition**?

(iii) Does the definition include **the interlocutor condition**?

(iv) Does the definition include **the untruthful propositional attitude condition**?

(v) Does the definition include **the deception condition**?

2. State a dictionary definition of the verb “to misinform”.

In which dictionary did you find this definition?

(i) Does the definition include the **falsity condition**?

(ii) Does the definition include **the statement-making condition**?

(iii) Does the definition include **the interlocutor condition**?

(iv) Does the definition include **the untruthful propositional attitude condition**?

(v) Does the definition include **the deception condition**?

3. State a dictionary definition of the noun “disinformation”.

In which dictionary did you find this definition?

(i) Does the definition include the **falsity condition**?

(ii) Does the definition include **the statement-making condition**?

(iii) Does the definition include **the interlocutor condition**?

(iv) Does the definition include **the untruthful propositional attitude condition**?

(v) Does the definition include **the deception condition**?

4. State a dictionary definition of the verb “to disinform”.

In which dictionary did you find this definition?

(i) Does the definition include the **falsity condition**?

(ii) Does the definition include **the statement-making condition**?

(iii) Does the definition include **the interlocutor condition**?

(iv) Does the definition include **the untruthful propositional attitude condition**?

(v) Does the definition include **the deception condition**?

5. On a search engine, look up “the difference between misinformation and disinformation”.

(i) *Explain* (or even *copy-and-paste*) the difference according to your search result.

(ii) What was your source?

(iii) According to your source, what are the necessary conditions for something to count as *misinformation*? Circle your answer(s).

- (a) The falsity condition
- (b) The statement-making condition
- (c) The interlocutor condition
- (d) The untruthful propositional attitude condition
- (e) The deception condition

(iv) According to your source, what are the necessary conditions for something to count as *disinformation*? Circle your answer(s).

- (a) The falsity condition
- (b) The statement-making condition
- (c) The interlocutor condition
- (d) The untruthful propositional attitude condition
- (e) The deception condition

(v) Consider lying in terms of misinformation and disinformation.

(a) According to the definition that you found, does **misinformation** count as a lie? *Why* or *why not*? Explain.

(b) According to the definition that you found, does **disinformation** count as a lie? *Why* or *why not*? Explain.