On the factivity of *know*

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Mar 3

(1) Sam didn't know/believe it was Wednesday.

(2) Does Sam know/believe it is Wednesday.

(3) If it is his birthday, Sam doesn't know that it is.


(5) “For the first time in history, the U.S. has gone to war with an Arab and Muslim nation, and we know a peaceful solution was in reach.” —From a 1991 Wall Street Journal article “U.S. Hails Invasion Of Kuwait and Iraq As ‘Dramatic Success’”

(6) “Let me tell you something, when it comes to finishing the fight, Rocky and I have a lot in common. I never quit, I never give up, and I know that we’re going to make it together.” —Hillary Clinton, September 1, 2008.

(7) “But I guess when you know something terribly important that the entire world thinks is hooey, it gets harder and harder to let it go.” [The author is the target of a conspiracy theory, and this is a description of the conspiracy theorist’s mental state.]

(8) Solan & Tiersma, p. 67-68: “The suspect was being questioned about a mass murder case that took place at a Phoenix temple.”

Interrogator: Now Victor, ah Leo, you know that that’s right. I mean you’re shakin’ your head trying to convince yourself, you know, but you cannot erase what happened. You cannot erase what happened. You were there.

Suspect: No I wasn’t.

Interrogator: You went there (unintelligible).

Suspect: I was not there!

Interrogator: You know who you were with.

Suspect: No I don’t.

Interrogator: You know who the people were that were there and you know what you know about what happened.

Suspect: I don’t know anything.

Interrogator: Sooner or later, you know, you’ve got to say it.

Suspect: I, I wasn’t there, I was not there.