

Linguistics 3C03: Data Analysis Project

In this experiment, we will gather data from ourselves to simulate children's experience learning verbs.

Step 1

Complete your Verb Learning Task by 9:00 am, Monday March 12. This will take about ten minutes. You've been assigned to one condition and you have access to the video and answer sheet for that condition only:

- print out your answer sheet and read the instructions
- watch the video for your Verb Learning Group and write down your guesses in the final section
- enter your guesses into the [data collection form](#)

Step 2 -

Read Gillette et al.'s (1999) paper: [Human simulations of vocabulary learning](#).

Step 3 Look at and think about the data from our simulation:

Group 1 pictures only	% correctly identified	1.3%
Group 2 pictures + nouns	% correctly identified	20.5%
Group 3 pictures + syntactic frames	% correctly identified	47.5%
Group 4 pictures + full sentences	% correctly identified	86.1%

Participants in Group 1 saw the mystery verb with the context pictures but received no additional information.

Participants in Group 2 saw the mystery verb with the context pictures and also received an alphabetized list of nouns that had co-occurred with the verb in its original sentences. (e.g., *blick, castle, us*)

Participants in Group 3 saw the mystery verb with the context pictures. The mystery verb was embedded in a sentence that had all content words (nouns, verbs, adjectives) replaced by nonsense words (e.g., *Erp's blick a schmoodle.*)

Participants in Group 4 saw the mystery verb with the context pictures. The mystery verb was embedded in a full sentence (e.g., *Let's blick a castle.*)

The percentages in the right-hand column indicate the % of mystery verbs for which participants correctly guessed the actual verb that had appeared in the original sentences:

blick make
grek look
flurb know
pim want
jarn find
lorp go

Step 4

Write a short report (3-4 pages) interpreting our data. Your report should include the following:

- a brief summary of the two competing hypotheses from Gillette's paper, and an explanation of how our data from adults is relevant to the question
- a clear written description of the pattern of results in our data
- an interpretation of our results that addresses whether the results support Gillette et al.'s hypothesis, how they do or don't support the hypothesis, and why you think that might be

Use [APA format](#) for any citations and references. You needn't consult any additional references besides Gillette et al. but you are welcome to do so if you wish.

This project may be completed individually or in teams of 2. If you work in a team of 2, make sure to include both students' names on your submitted assignment. Each of you should upload a copy of the joint assignment to your Avenue Submissions folder

Submit your project **as a pdf file** to the [Data Analysis Project](#) Submissions folder by **4:00 pm on Thursday, March 29**.