

Supplementary Table 1. Sentence materials with cloze probabilities (0-100%) of articles and nouns, along with post-noun sentence endings, comprehension questions and expected answer. N.B.: Because expectedness of the noun is here determined by the cloze value of the preceding article, there are three items (28, 29 and 49) in which the unexpected noun has a cloze that is equal to or higher than the expected noun. This has no repercussions for the statistical results because the noun-analysis was based on noun cloze.

Item	Sentence context	Expected		Unexpected		Expected		Unexpected		Sentence Ending	Question	Answer
		article	cloze	article	cloze	noun	cloze	noun	cloze			
1	The old wives' tale says that if you want to keep the doctor away then you should eat	an	82	a	0	apple	97	carrot	0	a day.		
2	For the snowman's eyes the children used two pieces of coal. and for its nose they used	a	98	an	0	carrot	100	apple	3	from the fridge.	Did they build a snowman?	1
3	It was difficult to understand the foreign professor because he had	an	55	a	39	accent	100	lisp	7	when he spoke.		
4	Katie did not like to say words with the letter s because she spoke with	a	86	an	0	lisp	93	accent	20	and was embarrassed.		
5	Dale was very sorry for what he had said to Bernadette and he knew that he owed her	an	89	a	0	apology	93	cheque	0	because she was still upset.	Was Dale sorry?	1
6	The bakery did not accept credit cards so Peter would have to write	a	93	an	0	cheque	100	apology	0	to the owner.		
7	Although the idea of flight was as old as the hills. the Wright Brothers were the first people to build	an	77	a	18	aeroplane	80	kite	0	that actually flew.		
8	The day was breezy so the boy went outside to fly	a	61	an	0	kite	97	aeroplane	34	in the park.	Was the day breezy?	1

9	Surrounded by mountains. Lola shouted across the valley and heard	an	75	a	2	echo	93	bird	3	in the distance.		
10	The tweeting in the treetops sounded like	a	25	an	0	bird	80	echo	3	to Melissa.		
11	When the scuba diver saw the tentacle. he quickly realized that the creature under the rock was	an	84	a	9	octopus	87	fish	7	in hiding.	Did the diver see a treasure?	2
12	Marge hated baiting the hook. but she knew that it was the only way to catch	a	66	an	2	fish	100	octopus	13	without using a lure.		
13	On a street corner in Paris Kim had her portrait painted by	an	61	a	36	artist	97	student	0	for three euros.		
14	Betsy had no desire to enter the working world, so decided to stay at the university and remain	a	73	an	5	student	90	artist	0	for a few more semesters.	Did Betsy find a job?	2
15	Her grandfather always stressed how important it was for Sophia to go to school. because he had never had the opportunity to receive	an	59	a	27	education	90	book	0	while growing up.		
16	James is an avid reader. so for his birthday his sister decided to give him	a	75	an	2	book	93	education	0	about Africa.		
17	When the representative retired in the middle of his term. the state was forced to hold	an	70	a	20	election	62	parade	0	in his district.		
18	Without the floats and the marching bands it wasn't much of	a	95	an	0	parade	87	election	0	this year.		

19	When her husband started staying late at the office every night, Joanne began to suspect that he was having	an	98	a	2	affair	100	fight	0	with someone at work.		
20	Whenever Josh had too much to drink, he became belligerent and would try to start	a	75	an	9	fight	90	affair	0	with someone in the bar.	Would Josh sing if drunk?	2
21	Instead of giving her money whenever she asked for it, Rachel's father thought that it would be a real lesson in economics for her if every week she received	an	60	a	9	allowance	77	pound	3	to spend as she wished.		
22	Andrew complained that the only place he could afford was Poundland, after his grandmother gave him	a	52	an	2	pound	53	allowance	17	for helping her.		
23	When she was filling out the paperwork, Merrill had to write down the name of someone who could be contacted in case of	an	70	a	0	emergency	93	fire	3	while she was at work.		
24	Harris saw smoke billowing out of his neighbours' home and immediately got on the phone to report	a	75	an	0	fire	93	emergency	40	at their address.	Did Harris see smoke?	1
25	Charlie's wife told him that she was tired of pressing his shirts and that he would have to learn how to use	an	59	a	2	iron	97	hanger	0	one of these days.		
26	I wanted to put my coat in the closet but I could not find	a	84	an	0	hanger	87	iron	0	anywhere.		
27	No matter how safely you drive your car chances are someday you'll be involved in	an	70	a	27	accident	97	race	0	with another vehicle.		

28	When we saw the finish line and the pylons sectioning off part of the road we knew that there must have been	a	61	an	36	race	27	accident	67	earlier that day.		
29	Margot had finally decided to buy a house in the suburbs after a year of renting	a	66	an	11	flat	90	apartment	90	in the city.	Did Margot want to buy a car?	2
30	Instead of recording a live album the band decided they would have more control if they recorded in	a	77	an	0	studio	90	apartment	0	without a lot of background noise.		
31	Sue had wanted to go to Tim's birthday party but she was still waiting for	an	73	a	11	invitation	77	message	0	from him.		
32	When I called his house Nolan was not home but his mother said she could relay	a	64	an	0	message	80	invitation	3	to him.		
33	The highlight of Jack's trip to India was when he got to ride	an	73	a	11	elephant	53	bicycle	0	in the parade.		
34	You never forget how to ride	a	95	an	0	bicycle	97	elephant	30	once you've learned.		
35	Because it frequently rains in London it's a good idea to always carry	an	93	a	5	umbrella	97	newspaper	0	with you.		
36	As he walked past the corner drugstore on his way to work Carl skimmed the headlines and decided to go ahead and buy	a	75	an	2	newspaper	77	umbrella	7	when he saw what the forecast was.	Was Carl going to work?	1

37	Frank wanted to design a very modern house so he sought advice from	an	82	a	11	architect	80	plumber	0	to select the fixtures.		
38	When the pipe broke in the bathroom Felicia looked through the phonebook to find	a	93	an	0	plumber	93	architect	0	who could come and take a look at the job.		
39	Because Bart did not clean his wound properly he ended up getting	an	93	a	2	infection	97	tattoo	0	on his leg.		
40	The Hell's Angel rolled up the sleeve of his leather jacket to show the girls where he had gotten	a	55	an	0	tattoo	93	infection	0	the previous night.		
41	In order to get into an R-rated movie children under 17 must be accompanied by	an	91	a	9	adult	100	parent	7	or legal guardian.		
42	Older children often have a harder time than younger children dealing with the loss of	a	91	an	0	parent	37	adult	13	who has cared for them.		
43	Jeffrey mailed the letter without	a	86	an	2	stamp	93	envelope	40	so the post office would never deliver it.	Did Hannah mail the letter?	2
44	When Wendy went to pay for the birthday card the clerk pointed out that she had forgotten to pick up	an	77	a	0	envelope	90	stamp	47	along with it.		
45	The professional photographer was disqualified from the photo contest because the rules	an	73	a	5	amateur	67	beginner	17	in order to compete.		

	explicitly state that you must be											
46	There are always ways to improve your game whether you're an advanced tennis player or merely	a	82	an	16	beginner	63	amateur	20	you just need to practice a lot.		
47	Amelia did not want to go to the bar with her friends after seeing the movie so she made up	an	91	a	7	excuse	100	story	13	for why she needed to go home early.	Did Amelia go home late?	2
48	Before little Gloria went to sleep she wanted to hear	a	89	an	0	story	87	excuse	0	from her mother.		
49	At first Victoria did not know why her brother was crying over the sink but then she noticed that he had just sliced	an	20	a	2	onion	40	finger	50	with his knife.		
50	Marie wanted to sample a tiny bit of the sauce so she daintily dipped	a	27	an	0	finger	37	onion	3	into the pot.		
51	After Joanne's first book was published she finally felt she could call herself	an	75	a	25	author	90	success	3	in front of her peers.	Was this Joanne's first book?	1
52	Alicia's first client was a failure but her second was	a	86	an	5	success	87	author	0	and made her a lot of money.		
53	Lance had moved to Hollywood in hopes of becoming	an	70	a	25	actor	93	director	7	but so far he had only done a few commercials.		
54	From a young age Steven had an interest in filmmaking and had always dreamed of being	a	93	an	5	director	77	actor	30	when he grew up.	Was Steven interested in art?	2
55	Dana enjoyed singing in private but was scared to	an	68	a	25	audience	93	crowd	60	at the concert.		

	death at the thought of performing in front of											
56	Carrie's father had always joked that two is company but three is	a	100	an	0	crowd	93	audience	0	for him.		
57	Damon preferred climbing stairs over going up	an	34	a	11	escalator	69	wheelchair	0	because it had given him the chance to get a little exercise.	Did Damon prefer stairs over lifts?	1
58	The doctors told Monica not to use her legs too much so soon after her surgery so she often used	a	66	an	0	wheelchair	73	escalator	0	when moving around to rest her legs.	Could Monica use stairs very often?	2
59	The pilot had to make an emergency landing in the middle of the desert because he was nowhere near	an	52	a	16	airport	73	city	7	or a safe place to land.		
60	Hannah wanted to live in a small town but her husband preferred to live closer to	a	16	an	0	city	90	airport	27	because of his job.		
61	Although the basketball team's defense was very strong they did not have so much of	an	70	a	18	offense	34	coach	0	since the middle of the season.		
62	Ever since Mr.Barnes had moved away Bobby's football team had been left without	a	98	an	0	coach	70	offense	0	and thus lost all their games.		
63	The group had been brainstorming all day but they still didn't have	an	75	a	25	idea	83	name	0	for their project.	Did the group reach a conclusion?	2

64	The guys didn't know what to call their band so Trent told everyone to come up with	a	68	an	11	name	50	idea	77	and they would vote.	Did Trent suggest to vote?	1
65	Being from the mainland Karen never got used to the feeling of living on	an	73	a	14	island	93	ship	7	and being so removed from everything.	Was Karen from the mainland?	1
66	Sandra decided that she would work for a cruise line for a year before starting university although she had never been on	a	100	an	0	ship	23	island	7	and did not know how to swim.		
67	As Elizabeth climbed the ladder in the barn she heard a hooting sound coming from the rafters and looked up to see	an	86	a	14	owl	87	cat	0	staring down at her.		
68	Every time they went for walks Sylvia's dog Rex would break into a run as soon as he spotted	a	82	an	18	cat	27	owl	10	but luckily Rex couldn't climb trees.		
69	The first time Timmy saw the Pacific he thought it was a lake but his brother laughed and explained to him that it was	an	73	a	5	ocean	93	mirage	0	and he should be careful of the waves.		
70	As the men stumbled across the desert they thought they saw an oasis on the horizon but it turned out to be	a	68	an	16	mirage	57	ocean	3	so they continued walking.	Was there an oasis on the horizon?	2
71	The waitress at the next table was trying to scribble everything down but it was obvious that she did not know how to take	an	57	a	0	order	90	compliment	0	from her customers.		

72	Marcy did not deal well with praise and had never really learned how to take	a	73	an	0	compliment	90	order	0	even from her friends.		
73	Carly wasn't sure if the Venus flytrap was classified as a plant or as	an	77	a	18	animal	80	flower	7	but it seemed to have characteristics of both.		
74	While Natasha was strolling through the colourful gardens she reached down and picked	a	80	an	0	flower	93	animal	0	up off the ground.	Was Natasha in the gardens?	1
75	The chemistry teacher explained to the class that water and salt were both compounds but that nitrogen was just	an	68	a	30	element	60	liquid	0	that hadn't been combined.		
76	Orlando thought that glass was a solid but when he held it under the Bunsen burner it melted and turned into	a	73	an	0	liquid	90	element	0	that could be sculpted.		
77	Violet was just learning how to make an omelette so her father began by showing her how to crack	an	70	a	0	egg	100	window	0	in the kitchen.		
78	Because they were playing baseball so close to the house the children ended up shattering	a	75	an	0	window	97	egg	0	and destroying a nest that some birds had built on the sill.		
79	Bob claims to be from outer space but nobody believes that he is actually	an	95	a	0	alien	97	tourist	0	from another planet.	Does Bob claim to be from Canada?	2
80	With his khaki shorts and his loud Hawaiian shirt and the camera around his neck you could definitely tell that the man was	a	95	an	5	tourist	97	alien	0	in the country		

<i>Supplementary Table 2. List of changes to the materials used by DeLong et al. (2005)</i>		
Type of change	Item number	Change
Spelling	5-6	'check' > 'cheque'
	7-8	'airplane' > 'aeroplane'
Word replacement	14	'College' > 'university'
	21-22	'Dollar' > 'pound'
	22	'99-cent store' > 'Poundland'
	29-30	'Studio' > 'flat'
	34	'bike' > 'bicycle'
Phrase/Sentence change (underlined)	57	Old: <u>riding in a/an elevator</u> /wheelchair New: <u>going up a/an escalator</u> /wheelchair
	58	Old: The doctors <u>would not allow Monica to walk too soon after her surgery so the only way for her to move from place to place was in a/an wheelchair/elevator accompanied by a nurse.</u> New: The doctors <u>told Monica not to use her legs too much so soon after her surgery she often used a/an wheelchair/escalator when moving around to rest her legs.</u>
Sentence-final words	72	We added <u>even from her friends.</u>
Comprehension questions		We created new comprehension questions as those used by DeLong et al. are not publicly available. A comparison of response accuracy is therefore uninformative

Supplementary Table 3. Detailed information about participants, trial numbers and EEG recording equipment per laboratory.

Laboratory	Tested participants					Analyzed participants			EEG recording details				
	N	N Females	Mean age (sd) in years	N familial left-handedness	Question Accuracy as % correct (range)	N	Mean N article trials	Mean N noun trials	EEG system	Channels (EOG)	Recording Reference	Online filter (Hz)	Sampling rate (Hz)
University of Birmingham	43	35	19.2 (2.4)	4	82 (65-95)	42	78	78	ANT Neuro	64 (1)	CPz	0.01-150	500
University of Bristol	39	24	22.8 (4.4)	12	92 (81-100)	39	77	77	Brain Vision Acticap	32 (0)	FCz	DC-1000	1000
University of Edinburgh	40	33	21.4 (2.8)	7	83 (47-100)	37	76	76	Biosemi Active-Two	64 (4)	CMS	DC-100	512
University of Glasgow	40	22	23.0 (3.2)	13	91 (71-100)	40	79	79	Biosemi Active-Two	128 (4)	CMS	DC-100	512
University of Kent	38	26	20.8 (3.1)	9	80 (50-98)	38	78	78	Brain Vision Acticap	64 (2)	FCz	DC-140	1000
University College London	38	22	23.4 (3.7)	10	88 (55-100)	34	77	77	Biosemi Active-Two	32 (2)	CMS	DC-100	512
University of Oxford	37	12	24.3 (6.3)	13	91 (71-100)	32	76	76	Biosemi Active-Two	64 (4)	CMS	DC-100	1024
University of Stirling	40	20	25.6 (4.7)	13	80 (43-98)	33	78	78	NeuroScan SynAmps2	64 (4)	CPz	DC	250
University of York	41	28	20.8 (2.1)	8	89 (76-100)	39	76	76	ANT Neuro	64 (4)	M1	DC	500