



## Introduction

Welcome to the Sentence Interpretation Experiment

You are about to view the consent form.

**Please read the form carefully before consenting.**

## Consent Block

In this experiment, you will be given a sentence to read.

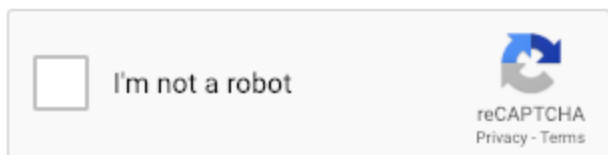
**Your task is to interpret its meaning and answer questions based on your understanding.**

Before proceeding, do you consent to this experiment? For a link to the full consent form, click [here](#).

- ☐ I consent to do this experiment.
- ☐ No thanks, I do not consent to do this experiment.

Date of Consent:

Please complete the captcha



## Prolific ID

What is your Prolific ID?

*Please note that this response should auto-fill with the correct ID.*

## Attention Check 1

What is your task in this study?

- ☐ Writing poetry
- ☐ Viewing images and reporting emotional response
- ☐ Interpreting the meaning of sentences
- ☐ Ranking sports teams
- ☐ Comparing two pictures

## Instructions NoGo

You did not answer the question correctly. Let us read the instructions again.

## Instructions Block

### Instructions

You will be given a sentence to read.

Your task is to interpret its meaning and answer questions based on your understanding.

**Please answer the questions to the best of your ability.**

## **Begin Experiment**

You will now begin the experiment.

### **Sentence 1**

**A well-preserved archive, being necessary for historical preservation, the right of individuals to access and maintain records, must not be restricted.**

Please rewrite this sentence in your own words, making it as simple as possible for others to understand:

**A well-preserved archive, being necessary for historical preservation, the right of individuals to access and maintain records, must not be restricted.**

Regardless of your personal opinion or what is objectively true, what do you think the person who wrote the sentence meant?

- ☐ The right of individuals to access and maintain records must not be restricted only in those specific cases when a well-preserved archive is necessary for historical preservation.
- ☐ Well-preserved archives are always necessary for historical preservation. Therefore, the right of individuals to access and maintain records must never be restricted.

How confident are you in your choice above?

Not at all  
confident

☐

Slightly  
confident

☐

Somewhat  
confident

☐

Neutral

☐

Fairly  
confident

☐

Very  
confident

☐

Extremely  
confident

☐

**A well-preserved archive, being necessary for historical preservation, the right of individuals to access and maintain records, must not be restricted.**

Assuming the sentence is correct (regardless of your personal opinion), which of the following is true?

- ☐ The right of individuals to access and maintain records must not be restricted even if well-preserved archives are not crucial for historical preservation.
- ☐ The right of individuals to access and maintain records must not be restricted only in cases when well-preserved archives are at least somewhat important for historical preservation.
- ☐ The right of individuals to access and maintain records must not be restricted only in cases when well-preserved archives are absolutely essential for historical preservation.

Original Sentence: A well-preserved archive, being necessary for historical preservation, the right of individuals to access and maintain records, must not be restricted.

Imagine we removed the beginning of the sentence, and instead wrote:

**“The right of individuals to access and maintain records, must not be restricted.”**

How different would the implications of this sentence be compared to the original sentence?

Same  
implications

☐

Very similar  
implications

☐

Somewhat  
similar  
implications

☐

Neither  
similar nor  
different

☐

Somewhat  
different  
implications

☐

Very  
different  
implications

☐

Completely  
different  
implications

☐

**Sentence 2**

**A properly maintained orchard, being necessary for a community's food supply, the efforts of farmers to harvest and distribute fruit, must not be disrupted.**

Please rewrite this sentence in your own words, making it as simple as possible for others to understand:

**A properly maintained orchard, being necessary for a community's food supply, the efforts of farmers to harvest and distribute fruit, must not be disrupted.**

Regardless of your personal opinion or what is objectively true, what do you think the person who wrote the sentence meant?

- ☐ The efforts of farmers to harvest and distribute fruit must not be disrupted only in those specific cases when a properly maintained orchard is necessary for a community's food supply.
- ☐ Properly maintained orchards are always necessary for a community's food supply. Therefore, the efforts of farmers to harvest and distribute fruit must never be disrupted.

How confident are you in your choice above?

Not at all  
confident

☐

Slightly  
confident

☐

Somewhat  
confident

☐

Neutral

☐

Fairly  
confident

☐

Very  
confident

☐

Extremely  
confident

☐

**A properly maintained orchard, being necessary for a community's food supply, the efforts of farmers to harvest and distribute fruit, must not be disrupted.**

Assuming the sentence is correct (regardless of your personal opinion), which of the following is true?

- ☐ The efforts of farmers to harvest and distribute fruit must not be disrupted even if properly maintained orchards are not crucial for a community's food supply.
- ☐ The efforts of farmers to harvest and distribute fruit must not be disrupted only in cases when properly maintained orchards are at least somewhat important for a community's food supply.
- ☐ The efforts of farmers to harvest and distribute fruit must not be disrupted only in cases when properly maintained orchards are absolutely essential for a community's food supply.

Original Sentence: A properly maintained orchard, being necessary for a community's food supply, the efforts of farmers to harvest and distribute fruit, must not be disrupted.

Imagine we removed the beginning of the sentence, and instead wrote:

**“The efforts of farmers to harvest and distribute fruit, must not be disrupted. ”**

How different would the implications of this sentence be compared to the original sentence?

Same  
implications



Very similar  
implications



Somewhat  
similar  
implications



Neither  
similar nor  
different



Somewhat  
different  
implications



Very  
different  
implications



Completely  
different  
implications



### Sentence 3

**A strategically built fire, being necessary for survival in harsh climates, the ability of individuals to generate warmth and prepare food, must not be denied.**



Please rewrite this sentence in your own words, making it as simple as possible for others to understand:

**A strategically built fire, being necessary for survival in harsh climates, the ability of individuals to generate warmth and prepare food, must not be denied.**

Regardless of your personal opinion or what is objectively true, what do you think the person who wrote the sentence meant?

- ☐ The ability of individuals to generate warmth and prepare food must not be denied only in those specific cases when a strategically built fire is necessary for survival in harsh climates.
- ☐ A strategically built fire is always necessary for survival in harsh climates. Therefore, the ability of individuals to generate warmth and prepare food must never be denied.

How confident are you in your choice above?

Not at all  
confident

☐

Slightly  
confident

☐

Somewhat  
confident

☐

Neutral

☐

Fairly  
confident

☐

Very  
confident



Extremely  
confident



**A strategically built fire, being necessary for survival in harsh climates, the ability of individuals to generate warmth and prepare food, must not be denied.**

Assuming the sentence is correct (regardless of your personal opinion), which of the following is true?

- ☐ The ability of individuals to generate warmth and prepare food must not be denied even if a strategically built fire is not crucial for survival in harsh climates.
- ☐ The ability of individuals to generate warmth and prepare food must not be denied only in cases when a strategically built fire is at least somewhat important for survival in harsh climates.
- ☐ The ability of individuals to generate warmth and prepare food must not be denied only in cases when a strategically built fire is absolutely essential for survival in harsh climates.

Original Sentence: A strategically built fire, being necessary for survival in harsh climates, the ability of individuals to generate warmth and prepare food, must not be denied.

Imagine we removed the beginning of the sentence, and instead wrote:

**“The ability of individuals to generate warmth and prepare food, must not be denied.”**

How different would the implications of this sentence be compared to the original sentence?

Same  
implications



Very similar  
implications



Somewhat  
similar  
implications



Neither  
similar nor  
different



Somewhat  
different  
implications



Very  
different  
implications



Completely  
different  
implications



## Sentence 4

**A respected cultural tradition, being necessary for fostering unity within a community, the right of elders to pass down and share knowledge, will not be erased.**

Please rewrite this sentence in your own words, making it as simple as possible for others to understand:

**A respected cultural tradition, being necessary for fostering unity within a community, the right of elders to pass down and share knowledge, will not be erased.**

Regardless of your personal opinion or what is objectively true, what do you think the person who wrote the sentence meant?

- ☐ The right of elders to pass down and share knowledge will not be erased only in those specific cases when a respected cultural tradition is necessary for fostering unity within a community.
- ☐ Respected cultural traditions are always necessary for fostering unity within a community. Therefore, the right of elders to pass down and share knowledge will never be erased.

How confident are you in your choice above?

Not at all  
confident

☐

Slightly  
confident

☐

Somewhat  
confident

☐

Neutral

☐

Fairly  
confident

☐

Very  
confident



Extremely  
confident



**A respected cultural tradition, being necessary for fostering unity within a community, the right of elders to pass down and share knowledge, will not be erased.**

Assuming the sentence is correct (regardless of your personal opinion), which of the following is true?

- ☐ The right of elders to pass down and share knowledge will not be erased even if respected cultural traditions are not crucial for fostering unity within a community.
- ☐ The right of elders to pass down and share knowledge will not be erased only in cases when respected cultural traditions are at least somewhat important for fostering unity within a community.
- ☐ The right of elders to pass down and share knowledge will not be erased only in cases when respected cultural traditions are absolutely essential for fostering unity within a community.

Original Sentence: A respected cultural tradition, being necessary for fostering unity within a community, the right of elders to pass down and share knowledge, will not be erased.

Imagine we removed the beginning of the sentence, and instead wrote:

**“The right of elders to pass down and share knowledge, will not be erased.”**

How different would the implications of this sentence be compared to the original sentence?

Same  
implications

☐

Very similar  
implications

☐

Somewhat  
similar  
implications

☐

Neither  
similar nor  
different

☐

Somewhat  
different  
implications

☐

Very  
different  
implications

☐

Completely  
different  
implications

☐

## Sentence 5

**A structurally sound dam, being necessary for flood prevention, the expertise of engineers to repair and reinforce it, must not be impeded.**

Please rewrite this sentence in your own words, making it as simple as possible for others to understand:

**A structurally sound dam, being necessary for flood prevention, the expertise of engineers to repair and reinforce it, must not be impeded.**

Regardless of your personal opinion or what is objectively true, what do you think the person who wrote the sentence meant?

- ☐ The expertise of engineers to repair and reinforce the dam must not be impeded only in those specific cases when a structurally sound dam is necessary for flood prevention.
- ☐ Structurally sound dams are always necessary for flood prevention. Therefore, the expertise of engineers to repair and reinforce it must never be impeded.

How confident are you in your choice above?

Not at all  
confident

☐

Slightly  
confident

☐

Somewhat  
confident

☐

Neutral

☐

Fairly  
confident

☐

Very  
confident



Extremely  
confident



**A structurally sound dam, being necessary for flood prevention, the expertise of engineers to repair and reinforce it, must not be impeded.**

Assuming the sentence is correct (regardless of your personal opinion), which of the following is true?

- ☐ The expertise of engineers to repair and reinforce the dam must not be impeded even if structurally sound dams are not crucial for flood prevention.
- ☐ The expertise of engineers to repair and reinforce the dam must not be impeded only in cases when structurally sound dams are at least somewhat important for flood prevention.
- ☐ The expertise of engineers to repair and reinforce the dam must not be impeded only in cases when structurally sound dams are absolutely essential for flood prevention.

Original Sentence: A structurally sound dam, being necessary for flood prevention, the expertise of engineers to repair and reinforce it, must not be impeded.

Imagine we removed the beginning of the sentence, and instead wrote:

**“The expertise of engineers to repair and reinforce it, must not be impeded.”**

How different would the implications of this sentence be compared to the original sentence?



Same  
implications



Very similar  
implications



Somewhat  
similar  
implications



Neither  
similar nor  
different



Somewhat  
different  
implications



Very  
different  
implications



Completely  
different  
implications



## Sentence 6

**A properly organized marketplace, being necessary for economic exchange, the ability of vendors to sell and trade goods, must not be curtailed.**

Please rewrite this sentence in your own words, making it as simple as possible for others to understand:

**A properly organized marketplace, being necessary for economic exchange, the ability of vendors to sell and trade goods, must not be curtailed.**

Regardless of your personal opinion or what is objectively true, what do you think the person who wrote the sentence meant?

- ☐ The ability of vendors to sell and trade goods must not be curtailed only in those specific cases when a properly organized marketplace is necessary for economic exchange.
- ☐ Properly organized marketplaces are always necessary for economic exchange. Therefore, the ability of vendors to sell and trade goods must never be curtailed.

How confident are you in your choice above?

Not at all  
confident

☐

Slightly  
confident

☐

Somewhat  
confident

☐

Neutral

☐

Fairly  
confident

☐

Very  
confident



Extremely  
confident



**A properly organized marketplace, being necessary for economic exchange, the ability of vendors to sell and trade goods, must not be curtailed.**

Assuming the sentence is correct (regardless of your personal opinion), which of the following is true?

- ☐ The ability of vendors to sell and trade goods must not be curtailed even if properly organized marketplaces are not crucial for economic exchange.
- ☐ The ability of vendors to sell and trade goods must not be curtailed only in cases when properly organized marketplaces are at least somewhat important for economic exchange.
- ☐ The ability of vendors to sell and trade goods must not be curtailed only in cases when properly organized marketplaces are absolutely essential for economic exchange.

Original Sentence: A properly organized marketplace, being necessary for economic exchange, the ability of vendors to sell and trade goods, must not be curtailed.

Imagine we removed the beginning of the sentence, and instead wrote:

**“The ability of vendors to sell and trade goods, must not be curtailed.”**

How different would the implications of this sentence be compared to the original sentence?

Same  
implications

☐

Very similar  
implications

☐

Somewhat  
similar  
implications

☐

Neither  
similar nor  
different

☐

Somewhat  
different  
implications

☐

Very  
different  
implications

☐

Completely  
different  
implications

☐

## Sentence 7

**A well-paved road, being necessary for trade and travel, the ability of merchants and travelers to move goods, should not be obstructed.**

Please rewrite this sentence in your own words, making it as simple as possible for others to understand:

**A well-paved road, being necessary for trade and travel, the ability of merchants and travelers to move goods, should not be obstructed.**

Regardless of your personal opinion or what is objectively true, what do you think the person who wrote the sentence meant?

- ☐ The ability of merchants and travelers to move goods should not be obstructed only in those specific cases when a well-paved road is necessary for trade and travel.
- ☐ Well-paved roads are always necessary for trade and travel. Therefore, the ability of merchants and travelers to move goods should never be obstructed.

How confident are you in your choice above?

Not at all  
confident

☐

Slightly  
confident

☐

Somewhat  
confident

☐

Neutral

☐

Fairly  
confident

☐

Very  
confident



Extremely  
confident



**A well-paved road, being necessary for trade and travel, the ability of merchants and travelers to move goods, should not be obstructed.**

Assuming the sentence is correct (regardless of your personal opinion), which of the following is true?

- ☐ The ability of merchants and travelers to move goods should not be obstructed even if well-paved roads are not crucial for trade and travel.
- ☐ The ability of merchants and travelers to move goods should not be obstructed only in cases when well-paved roads are at least somewhat important for trade and travel.
- ☐ The ability of merchants and travelers to move goods should not be obstructed only in cases when well-paved roads are absolutely essential for trade and travel.

Original Sentence: A well-paved road, being necessary for trade and travel, the ability of merchants and travelers to move goods, should not be obstructed.

Imagine we removed the beginning of the sentence, and instead wrote:

**“The ability of merchants and travelers to move goods, should not be obstructed. ”**

How different would the implications of this sentence be compared to the original sentence?

Same  
implications

☐

Very similar  
implications

☐

Somewhat  
similar  
implications

☐

Neither  
similar nor  
different

☐

Somewhat  
different  
implications

☐

Very  
different  
implications

☐

Completely  
different  
implications

☐

## Sentence 8

**A precisely calibrated sundial, being necessary for timekeeping, the ability of people to measure and track time, should not be interfered with.**

Please rewrite this sentence in your own words, making it as simple as possible for others to understand:

**A precisely calibrated sundial, being necessary for timekeeping, the ability of people to measure and track time, should not be interfered with.**

Regardless of your personal opinion or what is objectively true, what do you think the person who wrote the sentence meant?

- ☐ The ability of people to measure and track time should not be interfered with only in those specific cases when a precisely calibrated sundial is necessary for timekeeping.
- ☐ Precisely calibrated sundials are always necessary for timekeeping. Therefore, the ability of people to measure and track time should never be interfered with.

How confident are you in your choice above?

Not at all  
confident

☐

Slightly  
confident

☐

Somewhat  
confident

☐

Neutral

☐

Fairly  
confident

☐



Very  
confident



Extremely  
confident



**A precisely calibrated sundial, being necessary for timekeeping, the ability of people to measure and track time, should not be interfered with.**

Assuming the sentence is correct (regardless of your personal opinion), which of the following is true?

- ☐ The ability of people to measure and track time should not be interfered with even if precisely calibrated sundials are not crucial for timekeeping.
- ☐ The ability of people to measure and track time should not be interfered with only in cases when precisely calibrated sundials are at least somewhat important for timekeeping.
- ☐ The ability of people to measure and track time should not be interfered with only in cases when precisely calibrated sundials are absolutely essential for timekeeping.

Original Sentence: A precisely calibrated sundial, being necessary for timekeeping, the ability of people to measure and track time, should not be interfered with.

Imagine we removed the beginning of the sentence, and instead wrote:

**“The ability of people to measure and track time, should not be interfered with.”**

How different would the implications of this sentence be compared to the original sentence?

Same  
implications

☐

Very similar  
implications

☐

Somewhat  
similar  
implications

☐

Neither  
similar nor  
different

☐

Somewhat  
different  
implications

☐

Very  
different  
implications

☐

Completely  
different  
implications

☐

## Sentence 9

**A preserved artistic masterpiece, being necessary for the transmission of cultural heritage, the ability of curators to exhibit and safeguard it, must not be undermined.**

Please rewrite this sentence in your own words, making it as simple as possible for others to understand:

**A preserved artistic masterpiece, being necessary for the transmission of cultural heritage, the ability of curators to exhibit and safeguard it, must not be undermined.**

Regardless of your personal opinion or what is objectively true, what do you think the person who wrote the sentence meant?

- ☐ The ability of curators to exhibit and safeguard the masterpiece must not be undermined only in those specific cases when a preserved artistic masterpiece is necessary for the transmission of cultural heritage.
- ☐ Preserved artistic masterpieces are always necessary for the transmission of cultural heritage. Therefore, the ability of curators to exhibit and safeguard it must never be undermined.

How confident are you in your choice above?

Not at all  
confident

☐

Slightly  
confident

☐

Somewhat  
confident

☐

Neutral

☐

Fairly  
confident

☐

Very  
confident



Extremely  
confident



**A preserved artistic masterpiece, being necessary for the transmission of cultural heritage, the ability of curators to exhibit and safeguard it, must not be undermined.**

Assuming the sentence is correct (regardless of your personal opinion), which of the following is true?

- ☐ The ability of curators to exhibit and safeguard the masterpiece must not be undermined even if preserved artistic masterpieces are not crucial for the transmission of cultural heritage.
- ☐ The ability of curators to exhibit and safeguard the masterpiece must not be undermined only in cases when preserved artistic masterpieces are at least somewhat important for the transmission of cultural heritage.
- ☐ The ability of curators to exhibit and safeguard the masterpiece must not be undermined only in cases when preserved artistic masterpieces are absolutely essential for the transmission of cultural heritage.

Original Sentence: A preserved artistic masterpiece, being necessary for the transmission of cultural heritage, the ability of curators to exhibit and safeguard it, must not be undermined.

Imagine we removed the beginning of the sentence, and instead wrote:

**“The ability of curators to exhibit and safeguard it, must not be undermined.”**

How different would the implications of this sentence be compared to the original sentence?

Same  
implications

☐

Very similar  
implications

☐

Somewhat  
similar  
implications

☐

Neither  
similar nor  
different

☐

Somewhat  
different  
implications

☐

Very  
different  
implications

☐

Completely  
different  
implications

☐

## Sentence 10

**A regularly cleaned beehive, being necessary for the production of high-quality honey, the right of hive-owners to maintain and harvest colonies, must not be restricted.**

Please rewrite this sentence in your own words, making it as simple as possible for others to understand:

**A regularly cleaned beehive, being necessary for the production of high-quality honey, the right of hive-owners to maintain and harvest colonies, must not be restricted.**

Regardless of your personal opinion or what is objectively true, what do you think the person who wrote the sentence meant?

- ☐ The right of hive-owners to maintain and harvest colonies must not be restricted only in those specific cases when a regularly cleaned beehive is necessary for the production of high-quality honey.
- ☐ Regularly cleaned beehives are always necessary for the production of high-quality honey. Therefore, the right of hive-owners to maintain and harvest colonies must never be restricted.

How confident are you in your choice above?

Not at all  
confident

☐

Slightly  
confident

☐

Somewhat  
confident

☐

Neutral

☐

Fairly  
confident

☐

Very  
confident



Extremely  
confident



**A regularly cleaned beehive, being necessary for the production of high-quality honey, the right of hive-owners to maintain and harvest colonies, must not be restricted.**

Assuming the sentence is correct (regardless of your personal opinion), which of the following is true?

- ☐ The right of hive-owners to maintain and harvest colonies must not be restricted even if regularly cleaned beehives are not crucial for the production of high-quality honey.
- ☐ The right of hive-owners to maintain and harvest colonies must not be restricted only in cases when regularly cleaned beehives are at least somewhat important for the production of high-quality honey.
- ☐ The right of hive-owners to maintain and harvest colonies must not be restricted only in cases when regularly cleaned beehives are absolutely essential for the production of high-quality honey.

Original Sentence: A regularly cleaned beehive, being necessary for the production of high-quality honey, the right of hive-owners to maintain and harvest colonies, must not be restricted.

Imagine we removed the beginning of the sentence, and instead wrote:

**“The right of hive-owners to maintain and harvest colonies, must not be restricted.”**

How different would the implications of this sentence be compared to the original sentence?

Same  
implications

☐

Very similar  
implications

☐

Somewhat  
similar  
implications

☐

Neither  
similar nor  
different

☐

Somewhat  
different  
implications

☐

Very  
different  
implications

☐

Completely  
different  
implications

☐

## Sentence 11

**A well-calibrated telescope, being necessary for advancing astronomical research, the ability of scientists to observe and document celestial bodies, must not be impeded.**

Please rewrite this sentence in your own words, making it as simple as possible for others to understand:



**A well-calibrated telescope, being necessary for advancing astronomical research, the ability of scientists to observe and document celestial bodies, must not be impeded.**

Regardless of your personal opinion or what is objectively true, what do you think the person who wrote the sentence meant?

- ☐ The ability of scientists to observe and document celestial bodies must not be impeded only in those specific cases when a well-calibrated telescope is necessary for advancing astronomical research.
- ☐ Well-calibrated telescopes are always necessary for advancing astronomical research. Therefore, the ability of scientists to observe and document celestial bodies must never be impeded.

How confident are you in your choice above?

Not at all  
confident

☐

Slightly  
confident

☐

Somewhat  
confident

☐

Neutral

☐

Fairly  
confident

☐

Very  
confident



Extremely  
confident



**A well-calibrated telescope, being necessary for advancing astronomical research, the ability of scientists to observe and document celestial bodies, must not be impeded.**

Assuming the sentence is correct (regardless of your personal opinion), which of the following is true?

- ☐ The ability of scientists to observe and document celestial bodies must not be impeded even if well-calibrated telescopes are not crucial for advancing astronomical research.
- ☐ The ability of scientists to observe and document celestial bodies must not be impeded only in cases when well-calibrated telescopes are at least somewhat important for advancing astronomical research.
- ☐ The ability of scientists to observe and document celestial bodies must not be impeded only in cases when well-calibrated telescopes are absolutely essential for advancing astronomical research.

Original Sentence: A well-calibrated telescope, being necessary for advancing astronomical research, the ability of scientists to observe and document celestial bodies, must not be impeded.

Imagine we removed the beginning of the sentence, and instead wrote:

**“The ability of scientists to observe and document celestial bodies, must not be impeded.”**

How different would the implications of this sentence be compared to the original sentence?

Same  
implications

☐

Very similar  
implications

☐

Somewhat  
similar  
implications

☐

Neither  
similar nor  
different

☐

Somewhat  
different  
implications

☐

Very  
different  
implications

☐

Completely  
different  
implications

☐

## Sentence 12

**A structurally sound shelter, being necessary for refuge in extreme conditions, the right of individuals to seek safety, must not be refused.**

Please rewrite this sentence in your own words, making it as simple as possible for others to understand:

**A structurally sound shelter, being necessary for refuge in extreme conditions, the right of individuals to seek safety, must not be refused.**

Regardless of your personal opinion or what is objectively true, what do you think the person who wrote the sentence meant?

- ☐ The right of individuals to seek safety must not be refused only in those specific cases when a structurally sound shelter is necessary for refuge in extreme conditions.
- ☐ Structurally sound shelters are always necessary for refuge in extreme conditions. Therefore, the right of individuals to seek safety must never be refused.

How confident are you in your choice above?

Not at all  
confident

☐

Slightly  
confident

☐

Somewhat  
confident

☐

Neutral

☐

Fairly  
confident

☐

Very  
confident



Extremely  
confident



**A structurally sound shelter, being necessary for refuge in extreme conditions, the right of individuals to seek safety, must not be refused.**

Assuming the sentence is correct (regardless of your personal opinion), which of the following is true?

- ☐ The right of individuals to seek safety must not be refused even if structurally sound shelters are not crucial for refuge in extreme conditions.
- ☐ The right of individuals to seek safety must not be refused only in cases when structurally sound shelters are at least somewhat important for refuge in extreme conditions.
- ☐ The right of individuals to seek safety must not be refused only in cases when structurally sound shelters are absolutely essential for refuge in extreme conditions.

Original Sentence: A structurally sound shelter, being necessary for refuge in extreme conditions, the right of individuals to seek safety, must not be refused.

Imagine we removed the beginning of the sentence, and instead wrote:

**“The right of individuals to seek safety, must not be refused.”**

How different would the implications of this sentence be compared to the original sentence?

Same  
implications



Very similar  
implications



Somewhat  
similar  
implications



Neither  
similar nor  
different



Somewhat  
different  
implications



Very  
different  
implications



Completely  
different  
implications



### Sentence 13

**A well-supplied food reserve, being necessary for food security, the access of individuals to essential provisions, must not be denied.**

Please rewrite this sentence in your own words, making it as simple as possible for others to understand:

**A well-supplied food reserve, being necessary for food security, the access of individuals to essential provisions, must not be denied.**

Regardless of your personal opinion or what is objectively true, what do you think the person who wrote the sentence meant?

- ☐ The access of individuals to essential provisions must not be denied only in those specific cases when a well-supplied food reserve is necessary for food security.
- ☐ Well-supplied food reserves are always necessary for food security. Therefore, the access of individuals to essential provisions must never be denied.

How confident are you in your choice above?

Not at all  
confident

☐

Slightly  
confident

☐

Somewhat  
confident

☐

Neutral

☐

Fairly  
confident

☐

Very  
confident



Extremely  
confident



**A well-supplied food reserve, being necessary for food security, the access of individuals to essential provisions, must not be denied.**

Assuming the sentence is correct (regardless of your personal opinion), which of the following is true?

- ☐ The access of individuals to essential provisions must not be denied even if well-supplied food reserves are not crucial for food security.
- ☐ The access of individuals to essential provisions must not be denied only in cases when well-supplied food reserves are at least somewhat important for food security.
- ☐ The access of individuals to essential provisions must not be denied only in cases when well-supplied food reserves are absolutely essential for food security.

Original Sentence: A well-supplied food reserve, being necessary for food security, the access of individuals to essential provisions, must not be denied.

Imagine we removed the beginning of the sentence, and instead wrote:

**“The access of individuals to essential provisions, must not be denied.”**

How different would the implications of this sentence be compared to the original sentence?



Same  
implications

☐

Very similar  
implications

☐

Somewhat  
similar  
implications

☐

Neither  
similar nor  
different

☐

Somewhat  
different  
implications

☐

Very  
different  
implications

☐

Completely  
different  
implications

☐

## Sentence 14

**A well-functioning lighthouse, being necessary for maritime safety, the guidance of sailors to navigate and reach shore, should not be neglected.**

Please rewrite this sentence in your own words, making it as simple as possible for others to understand:

**A well-functioning lighthouse, being necessary for maritime safety, the guidance of sailors to navigate and reach shore, should not be neglected.**

Regardless of your personal opinion or what is objectively true, what do you think the person who wrote the sentence meant?

- ☐ The guidance of sailors to navigate and reach shore should not be neglected only in those specific cases when a well-functioning lighthouse is necessary for maritime safety.
- ☐ Well-functioning lighthouses are always necessary for maritime safety. Therefore, the guidance of sailors to navigate and reach shore should never be neglected.

How confident are you in your choice above?

Not at all  
confident

☐

Slightly  
confident

☐

Somewhat  
confident

☐

Neutral

☐

Fairly  
confident

☐

Very  
confident



Extremely  
confident



A well-functioning lighthouse, being necessary for maritime safety, the guidance of sailors to navigate and reach shore, should not be neglected.

Assuming the sentence is correct (regardless of your personal opinion), which of the following is true?

- ☐ The guidance of sailors to navigate and reach shore should not be neglected even if well-functioning lighthouses are not critical for maritime safety.
- ☐ The guidance of sailors to navigate and reach shore should not be neglected only in cases when well-functioning lighthouses are at least somewhat important for maritime safety.
- ☐ The guidance of sailors to navigate and reach shore should not be neglected only in cases when well-functioning lighthouses are absolutely essential for maritime safety.

Original Sentence: A well-functioning lighthouse, being necessary for maritime safety, the guidance of sailors to navigate and reach shore, should not be neglected.

Imagine we removed the beginning of the sentence, and instead wrote:

**“The guidance of sailors to navigate and reach shore, should not be neglected.”**

How different would the implications of this sentence be compared to the original sentence?

Same  
implications

☐

Very similar  
implications

☐

Somewhat  
similar  
implications

☐

Neither  
similar nor  
different

☐

Somewhat  
different  
implications

☐

Very  
different  
implications

☐

Completely  
different  
implications

☐

## Sentence 15

**A thoughtfully designed garden, being necessary for the preservation of rare plants, the ability of botanists to study and cultivate species, must not be impeded.**

Please rewrite this sentence in your own words, making it as simple as possible for others to understand:

**A thoughtfully designed garden, being necessary for the preservation of rare plants, the ability of botanists to study and cultivate species, must not be impeded.**

Regardless of your personal opinion or what is objectively true, what do you think the person who wrote the sentence meant?

- ☐ The ability of botanists to study and cultivate species must not be impeded only in those specific cases when a thoughtfully designed garden is necessary for the preservation of rare plants.
- ☐ Thoughtfully designed gardens are always necessary for the preservation of rare plants. Therefore, the ability of botanists to study and cultivate species must never be impeded.

How confident are you in your choice above?

Not at all  
confident



Slightly  
confident



Somewhat  
confident



Neutral



Fairly  
confident



Very  
confident



Extremely  
confident



**A thoughtfully designed garden, being necessary for the preservation of rare plants, the ability of botanists to study and cultivate species, must not be impeded.**

Assuming the sentence is correct (regardless of your personal opinion), which of the following is true?

- ☐ The ability of botanists to study and cultivate species must not be impeded even if thoughtfully designed gardens are not crucial for the preservation of rare plants.
- ☐ The ability of botanists to study and cultivate species must not be impeded only in cases when thoughtfully designed gardens are at least somewhat important for the preservation of rare plants.
- ☐ The ability of botanists to study and cultivate species must not be impeded only in cases when thoughtfully designed gardens are absolutely essential for the preservation of rare plants.

Original Sentence: A thoughtfully designed garden, being necessary for the preservation of rare plants, the ability of botanists to study and cultivate species, must not be impeded.

Imagine we removed the beginning of the sentence, and instead wrote:

**“The ability of botanists to study and cultivate species, must not be impeded.”**

How different would the implications of this sentence be compared to the original sentence?

Same  
implications

☐

Very similar  
implications

☐

Somewhat  
similar  
implications

☐

Neither  
similar nor  
different

☐

Somewhat  
different  
implications

☐

Very  
different  
implications

☐

Completely  
different  
implications

☐

## Sentence 16

**A well-insulated shelter, being necessary for the survival of stranded travelers, the right of individuals to seek and maintain refuge, should not be denied.**

Please rewrite this sentence in your own words, making it as simple as possible for others to understand:

**A well-insulated shelter, being necessary for the survival of stranded travelers, the right of individuals to seek and maintain refuge, should not be denied.**

Regardless of your personal opinion or what is objectively true, what do you think the person who wrote the sentence meant?

- ☐ The right of individuals to seek and maintain refuge should not be denied only in those specific cases when a well-insulated shelter is necessary for the survival of stranded travelers.
- ☐ Well-insulated shelters are always necessary for the survival of stranded travelers. Therefore, the right of individuals to seek and maintain refuge should never be denied.

How confident are you in your choice above?

Not at all  
confident

☐

Slightly  
confident

☐

Somewhat  
confident

☐

Neutral

☐

Fairly  
confident

☐



Very  
confident



Extremely  
confident



**A well-insulated shelter, being necessary for the survival of stranded travelers, the right of individuals to seek and maintain refuge, should not be denied.**

Assuming the sentence is correct (regardless of your personal opinion), which of the following is true?

- ☐ The right of individuals to seek and maintain refuge should not be denied even if well-insulated shelters are not crucial for the survival of stranded travelers.
- ☐ The right of individuals to seek and maintain refuge should not be denied only in cases when well-insulated shelters are at least somewhat important for the survival of stranded travelers.
- ☐ The right of individuals to seek and maintain refuge should not be denied only in cases when well-insulated shelters are absolutely essential for the survival of stranded travelers.

Original Sentence: A well-insulated shelter, being necessary for the survival of stranded travelers, the right of individuals to seek and maintain refuge, should not be denied.

Imagine we removed the beginning of the sentence, and instead wrote:

**“The right of individuals to seek and maintain refuge, should not be denied.”**

How different would the implications of this sentence be compared to the original sentence?

Same  
implications

☐

Very similar  
implications

☐

Somewhat  
similar  
implications

☐

Neither  
similar nor  
different

☐

Somewhat  
different  
implications

☐

Very  
different  
implications

☐

Completely  
different  
implications

☐

## Sentence 17

**A consistently monitored weather station, being necessary for the prediction of dangerous storms, the right of communities to access vital weather information, must not be restricted.**

Please rewrite this sentence in your own words, making it as simple as possible for others to understand:

**A consistently monitored weather station, being necessary for the prediction of dangerous storms, the right of communities to access vital weather information, must not be restricted.**

Regardless of your personal opinion or what is objectively true, what do you think the person who wrote the sentence meant?

- ☐ The right of communities to access vital weather information must not be restricted only in those specific cases when a consistently monitored weather station is necessary for the prediction of dangerous storms.
- ☐ Consistently monitored weather stations are always necessary for the prediction of dangerous storms. Therefore, the right of communities to access vital weather information must never be restricted.

How confident are you in your choice above?

Not at all  
confident

☐

Slightly  
confident

☐

Somewhat  
confident

☐

Neutral

☐

Fairly  
confident

☐

Very  
confident



Extremely  
confident



**A consistently monitored weather station, being necessary for the prediction of dangerous storms, the right of communities to access vital weather information, must not be restricted.**

Assuming the sentence is correct (regardless of your personal opinion), which of the following is true?

- ☐ The right of communities to access vital weather information must not be restricted even if consistently monitored weather stations are not crucial for the prediction of dangerous storms.
- ☐ The right of communities to access vital weather information must not be restricted only in cases when consistently monitored weather stations are at least somewhat important for storm prediction.
- ☐ The right of communities to access vital weather information must not be restricted only in cases when consistently monitored weather stations are absolutely essential for storm prediction.

Original Sentence: A consistently monitored weather station, being necessary for the prediction of dangerous storms, the right of communities to access vital weather information, must not be restricted.

Imagine we removed the beginning of the sentence, and instead wrote:

**“The right of communities to access vital weather information, must not be restricted.”**

How different would the implications of this sentence be compared to the original sentence?

Same  
implications

☐

Very similar  
implications

☐

Somewhat  
similar  
implications

☐

Neither  
similar nor  
different

☐

Somewhat  
different  
implications

☐

Very  
different  
implications

☐

Completely  
different  
implications

☐

## Sentence 18

**A well-organized library, being necessary for the education of eager students, the right of learners to access and study materials, must not be restricted.**

Please rewrite this sentence in your own words, making it as simple as possible for others to understand:

**A well-organized library, being necessary for the education of eager students, the right of learners to access and study materials, must not be restricted.**

Regardless of your personal opinion or what is objectively true, what do you think the person who wrote the sentence meant?

- ☐ The right of learners to access and study materials must not be restricted only in those specific cases when a well-organized library is necessary for the education of eager students.
- ☐ Well-organized libraries are always necessary for the education of eager students. Therefore, the right of learners to access and study materials must never be restricted.

How confident are you in your choice above?

Not at all  
confident

☐

Slightly  
confident

☐

Somewhat  
confident

☐

Neutral

☐

Fairly  
confident

☐

Very  
confident



Extremely  
confident



**A well-organized library, being necessary for the education of eager students, the right of learners to access and study materials, must not be restricted.**

Assuming the sentence is correct (regardless of your personal opinion), which of the following is true?

- ☐ The right of learners to access and study materials must not be restricted even if well-organized libraries are not critical for the education of eager students.
- ☐ The right of learners to access and study materials must not be restricted only in cases when well-organized libraries are at least somewhat important for student education.
- ☐ The right of learners to access and study materials must not be restricted only in cases when well-organized libraries are absolutely essential for student education.

Original Sentence: A well-organized library, being necessary for the education of eager students, the right of learners to access and study materials, must not be restricted.

Imagine we removed the beginning of the sentence, and instead wrote:

**“The right of learners to access and study materials, must not be restricted.”**

How different would the implications of this sentence be compared to the original sentence?

Same  
implications

☐

Very similar  
implications

☐

Somewhat  
similar  
implications

☐

Neither  
similar nor  
different

☐

Somewhat  
different  
implications

☐

Very  
different  
implications

☐

Completely  
different  
implications

☐

## Sentence 19

**A regularly checked aqueduct, being necessary for the delivery of clean water, the right of communities to access and utilize water resources, should not be denied.**

Please rewrite this sentence in your own words, making it as simple as possible for others to understand:



**A regularly checked aqueduct, being necessary for the delivery of clean water, the right of communities to access and utilize water resources, should not be denied.**

Regardless of your personal opinion or what is objectively true, what do you think the person who wrote the sentence meant?

- ☐ The right of communities to access and utilize water resources should not be denied only in those specific cases when a regularly checked aqueduct is necessary for the delivery of clean water.
- ☐ Regularly checked aqueducts are always necessary for the delivery of clean water. Therefore, the right of communities to access and utilize water resources should never be denied.

How confident are you in your choice above?

Not at all  
confident

☐

Slightly  
confident

☐

Somewhat  
confident

☐

Neutral

☐

Fairly  
confident

☐

Very  
confident



Extremely  
confident



**A regularly checked aqueduct, being necessary for the delivery of clean water, the right of communities to access and utilize water resources, should not be denied.**

Assuming the sentence is correct (regardless of your personal opinion), which of the following is true?

- ☐ The right of communities to access and utilize water resources should not be denied even if regularly checked aqueducts are not crucial for the delivery of clean water.
- ☐ The right of communities to access and utilize water resources should not be denied only in cases when regularly checked aqueducts are at least somewhat important for clean water delivery.
- ☐ The right of communities to access and utilize water resources should not be denied only in cases when regularly checked aqueducts are absolutely essential for clean water delivery.

Original Sentence: A regularly checked aqueduct, being necessary for the delivery of clean water, the right of communities to access and utilize water resources, should not be denied.

Imagine we removed the beginning of the sentence, and instead wrote:

**“The right of communities to access and utilize water resources, should not be denied.”**

How different would the implications of this sentence be compared to the original sentence?

Same  
implications

☐

Very similar  
implications

☐

Somewhat  
similar  
implications

☐

Neither  
similar nor  
different

☐

Somewhat  
different  
implications

☐

Very  
different  
implications

☐

Completely  
different  
implications

☐

## Sentence 20

**A carefully placed weathervane, being necessary for the prediction of shifting winds, the ability of meteorologists to monitor weather conditions, should not be constrained.**

Please rewrite this sentence in your own words, making it as simple as possible for others to understand:

**A carefully placed weathervane, being necessary for the prediction of shifting winds, the ability of meteorologists to monitor weather conditions, should not be constrained.**

Regardless of your personal opinion or what is objectively true, what do you think the person who wrote the sentence meant?

- ☐ The ability of meteorologists to monitor weather conditions should not be constrained only in those specific cases when a carefully placed weathervane is necessary for the prediction of shifting winds.
- ☐ Carefully placed weathervanes are always necessary for the prediction of shifting winds. Therefore, the ability of meteorologists to monitor weather conditions should never be constrained.

How confident are you in your choice above?

Not at all  
confident

☐

Slightly  
confident

☐

Somewhat  
confident

☐

Neutral

☐

Fairly  
confident

☐

Very  
confident



Extremely  
confident



**A carefully placed weathervane, being necessary for the prediction of shifting winds, the ability of meteorologists to monitor weather conditions, should not be constrained.**

Assuming the sentence is correct (regardless of your personal opinion), which of the following is true?

- ☐ The ability of meteorologists to monitor weather conditions should not be constrained even if carefully placed weathervanes are not crucial for the prediction of shifting winds.
- ☐ The ability of meteorologists to monitor weather conditions should not be constrained only in cases when carefully placed weathervanes are at least somewhat important for wind prediction.
- ☐ The ability of meteorologists to monitor weather conditions should not be constrained only in cases when carefully placed weathervanes are absolutely essential for wind prediction.

Original Sentence: A carefully placed weathervane, being necessary for the prediction of shifting winds, the ability of meteorologists to monitor weather conditions, should not be constrained.

Imagine we removed the beginning of the sentence, and instead wrote:

**“The ability of meteorologists to monitor weather conditions, should not be constrained.”**

How different would the implications of this sentence be compared to the original sentence?

Same  
implications

☐

Very similar  
implications

☐

Somewhat  
similar  
implications

☐

Neither  
similar nor  
different

☐

Somewhat  
different  
implications

☐

Very  
different  
implications

☐

Completely  
different  
implications

☐

## Attention Check 2

You are almost done! Please read this sentence on the next page carefully.

**“The police were called by a novelist who wanted them to arrest the photographer.”**

Who called the police?

☐ Photographer

☐ Novelist

What were the police asked to do?

- ☐ Take someone to the police station
- ☐ Ticket a speeding driver
- ☐ Search for a missing person

What might have caused this event?

- ☐ The photographer stole a book that the novelist wrote
- ☐ The novelist illegally used a picture that the photographer took

## Demographics and Debrief

You have now completed the main experiment and are progressing onto debriefing questions.

What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Nonbinary
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

What is your age?

Choose one or more races that you consider yourself to be

- ☐ White or Caucasian
- ☐ Black or African American

- ☐ American Indian/Native American or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

What country were you born in?

- ☐ USA
- ☐ Canada
- ☐ UK
- ☐ Australia
- ☐ New Zealand
- ☐ India
- ☐ Other

What is your native language?

How old were you when you were first exposed to English? In other words, when did you begin learning English? Write 0 if English if your first language (learned from birth). We strongly encourage you to answer this question. It greatly helps us with our study and will not factor into your payment / credit.

What other languages do you speak? For each language, please write (1) the age when you first exposed to it / started learning it, and (2) how frequently you currently use it in your daily life.



Of all the language you speak, how frequently do you use English nowadays? (100% means you speak English exclusively; 50% means you speak English half the time, and other languages during the other half).

Have you ever been diagnosed with speech, language, vision, reading, or hearing problems that could interfere with your participation in the study? If Yes, please specify or explain briefly.

- ☐ Yes, please explain below
- ☐ No

Did you complete this experiment seriously throughout (without responding randomly)?

- ☐ No, I didn't
- ☐ Yes, I did

Were you in a quiet environment while doing the experiment?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Did you engage in any other activities not related to the study (e.g., browsed the web, used a mobile device) during this time? (This will not impact your payment / credit in any way).

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Was any part of the procedure unclear? Did you have any problems completing any of the tasks? If none, type NA.

Is there anything else you would like to share with us? If not, type NA.

We are studying how people interpret complex legal texts, specifically the Second Amendment. Textualism, a legal approach that interprets laws based on their plain meaning, plays a significant role in modern judicial decisions. By examining how individuals process sentence structure, we aim to understand how linguistic interpretation shapes legal meaning. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the researcher David G. Kamper at [davidgkamper@ucla.edu](mailto:davidgkamper@ucla.edu) or Idan Blank at [iblack@psych.ucla.edu](mailto:iblack@psych.ucla.edu).

Please select the "arrow" button to complete the experiment

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