Materials:

Sentence 1: Those forced to exercise their smiling muscles reacted enthusiastically to funny cartoons.

Sentence 2: The earthquake left the people trapped and injured in several areas in the country.

Sentence 3: The viewpoint he had proposed yesterday helped us solve the problem she had asked me.

Sentence 4: Unable to tell whether someone really objects to behavioral ads or whether they are sticking with Microsoft’s default, some may ignore a DNT signal.

Sentence 5: We have identified enough of the long-term patterns shaping the history of the planet to make evidence-based forecasts about the situations in which our descendants will find themselves.

Sentence 6: To filter out what is unique from what is shared might enable us to understand how complex cultural behavior arose and what guides it in evolutionary or cognitive terms.

Sentence 7: pron. asked to v. adj. adj. n. failed adv. prep. adj. n.

Sentence 8: adj. n. left adj. n. attacked conj. hurt prep. adj. n. prep. adj. n.

Sentence 9: adj. n. pron. had suggested adv. made pron. understand adj. n. pron. had told pron.

Sentence 10: adj. to know whether pron. adv. objects prep. adj. n. conj. whether they are sticking prep. adj. n., pron. might neglect adj. adj. n.

Sentence 11: pron. have found adj. prep. adj. adj. n. forming adj. n. prep. adj. n. to build adj. n. prep. adj. n. prep. which adj. n. will see pron.

Sentence 12: To v. adv. who is adj. prep. who is adj. can cause pron. to v. how adj. adj. n. appears and which leads n. prep. adj. conj. adj. n.

Unrelated Sentence 1: Although prep. adj. changes that v. n. n. informed n. prep. adj. changes adj. n. needed adv. needed adv. adj. informed n. (unrelated questions)

Unrelated Sentence 2: adj n. n. v. adv. adv. v. pron. v. adj. n. (unrelated questions)

Stimuli:

In the empirical experiment, three types of stimuli were presented to identify the main verbs within sentences: syntactic stimuli, semantic stimuli, and obvious syntactic clue stimuli.

Syntactic stimuli were associated with the part of speech, which could be derived from either the words presented in the sentences (e.g., “muscles”, “exercise”, “funny”, “cartoons”, “those”) or explicitly provided part-of-speech labels (e.g., “adj.”, “adv.”, “n.”, “v.”, “prep.”).

Semantic stimuli pertained to the lexical meaning, which could be gleaned from the words presented in the sentences.

Obvious syntactic clue stimuli encompassed indicators explicitly facilitating the identification of the main verb, such as subordinate clause markers like “because”, “if”, “although”, “since”, “while”, “that”, “what”, “when”, “where”, “how”, “why”, “who”, “which”, “whether”, etc., and verb forms like “to do” and “doing”.