

Stories and target sentences used in “No fear of commitment: Children’s incremental interpretation in English and Japanese” by Omaki et al.

Below is the list of English stories as well as English and Japanese questions in the target items. The English questions are shown with the verb *tell someone* only, and the other two conditions can be recreated by replacing *tell someone* with *say* or *say to someone*.

Item 1

Jeff is an astronaut and he is looking for aliens. Back when he was on earth, Jeff wanted to learn more about where he could find aliens. But he was really busy preparing for his trip, and by the time Jeff had made everything ready to go, he had to leave right away and he had no time to do research on aliens. Because he couldn't get any research done, Jeff thought he should ask his friend the scientist who lives in space about it. Jeff went to visit the scientist at his space station, and Jeff took all of the scientist's advice and decided where he should go. He said to the scientist, “I’m gonna go find aliens on Mars!” The scientist agreed that that was an excellent plan, and Jeff headed off on his adventure. On his way to Mars, he dropped by the moon in case there were aliens there too. He looked everywhere on the moon, but he didn't find any aliens, so he continued towards Mars. When he arrived on Mars, Jeff finally found aliens! They were very friendly, and Jeff was happy that he got to meet nice aliens.

E: Where did Jeff tell someone that he was gonna see aliens?

J ambiguous:

Doko-de Takuya-kun-wa *pro* uchuujin-o mitsukeru-to itteta-no?
where-at Takuya-Dim-Top he alien-Acc find Comp was telling-Q
“Where was Takuya telling someone that he was gonna find aliens?”

J filled-gap:

Doko-de Takuya-kun-wa *pro* kasei-de uchuujin-o mitsukeru-to itteta-no?
where-at Takuya-Dim-Top he Mars-at alien-Acc find Comp was telling-Q
“Where was Takuya telling someone that he was gonna find aliens on Mars?”

J main clause PP:

Doko-de Takuya-kun-wa *pro* uchuujin-o mitsukeru-to uchuusen-de itteta-no?
where-at Takuya-Dim-Top he alien-Acc find Comp spaceship-at was telling-Q
“Where was Takuya telling someone on the spaceship that he was gonna find aliens?”

J predicate mismatch:

Doko-de Takuya-kun-wa *pro* kasei-ni iku-to itteta-no?
where-at Takuya-Dim-Top he Mars-to go-Comp was telling-Q
“Where was Takuya telling someone that he was going to Mars?”

Item 2

John had a long day at school and he was really hungry. When he got home, John found a piece of cake sitting in his room! He remembered that his Mom and grandma had made a cake together this morning. Perfect! But when he went to eat the cake, he tripped over a toy and dropped it on the floor! What a mess! John couldn’t eat the cake now and he was still hungry, so he went to look for the rest of the cake to get another piece. He found the cake in the kitchen, and ate a piece there. The recipe that his Mom and grandma used turned out really well, and the cake was really delicious! Once he finished the cake, he went to the laundry room to tell his Mom about how great the cake tasted, but he could not talk to her because she was on the phone. John waited for a little while, but Mom kept talking on the phone and didn't pay any attention to him. He was disappointed that he couldn't talk to his Mom about how good the cake was. But John remembered that his grandma helped his Mom to make the cake, so he decided to go to his grandma’s house next door to tell her how wonderful the cake was! John walked over to grandma's house and said to his grandma: “I dropped the piece of cake in my room, but then I ate a piece of the cake in the kitchen, and it tasted great!” John was really glad he could let her know how well the recipe worked, and John's grandma was very happy with herself.

E: Where did John tell someone that he ate a piece of cake?

J ambiguous:

Doko-de Kenta-kun-wa *pro* keeki-o tabeta-to itteta-no?
where-at Kenta-Dim-Top he cake-Acc ate-Comp was telling-Q
“Where was Kenta telling someone that he ate a piece of cake?”

J filled-gap:

Doko-de Kenta-kun-wa *pro* daidokoro-de keeki-o tabeta-to itteta-no?
where-at Kenta-Dim-Top he kitchen-at cake-Acc ate-Comp was telling-Q
“Where was Kenta telling someone that he ate a piece of cake in the kitchen?”

J main clause PP:

Doko-de Kenta-kun-wa *pro* keeki-o tabeta-to obaachan-no-ie-de itteta-no?
where-at Kenta-Dim-Top he cake-Acc ate-Comp grandma-Gen-house-at was telling-Q
“Where was Kenta telling someone at Grandma’s house that he ate a piece of cake?”

J predicate mismatch:

Doko-de Kenta-kun-wa *pro* keeki-ga oishikatta-to itteta-no?
where-at Kenta-Dim-Top he cake-Nom tasty-Comp was telling-Q
“Where was Kenta telling someone that the cake was tasty?”

Item 3

It was a beautiful day in spring so Lizzie decided she was going to go catch some butterflies in the park. Her Mom and Dad weren’t home, so Lizzie thought she should tell her brother or sister about going to the park, so that Mom and Dad will know where she is when they get back. She first went to her brother’s room, but he was taking a nap and she couldn’t tell him about catching butterflies. Instead, Lizzie looked for her sister. She looked all over the house but didn’t see her sister anywhere! When she was about to give up, Lizzie heard her sister’s voice in the basement! She went to the basement and said to her sister: “I’m gonna catch butterflies in the park!” Then, on her way to the park, Lizzie passed by a parking lot and saw a butterfly near it! She walked slowly towards the butterfly, but before Lizzie could get there, another girl came along and caught the butterfly! Lizzie didn’t see any more butterflies there, so she kept walking towards the park. There were lots and lots of butterflies in the park, and she caught one in a jar and took it home with her. She liked the one that she caught, but she wished she could have caught more butterflies.

E: Where did Lizzie tell someone that she was gonna catch butterflies?

J ambiguous:

Doko-de Yukiko-chan-wa *pro* choucho-o tsukamaeru-to itteta-no?
where-at Yukiko-Dim-Top she butterfly-Acc catch- Comp was telling-Q
“Where was Yukiko telling someone that she will catch butterflies?”

J filled-gap:

Doko-de Yukiko-chan-wa *pro* kouen-de choucho-o tsukamaeru-to itteta-no?
where-at Yukiko-Dim-Top she park-at butterfly-Acc catch- Comp was telling-Q
“Where was Yukiko telling someone that she will catch butterflies in the park?”

J main clause PP:

Doko-de Yukiko-chan-wa *pro* choucho-o tsukamaeru-to monooki-de itteta-no?
where-at Yukiko-Dim-Top she butterfly-Acc catch- Comp storage-at was telling-Q
“Where was Yukiko telling someone in the storage space that she will catch butterflies?”

J predicate mismatch:

Doko-de Yukiko-chan-wa *pro* kouen-ni iku-to itteta-no?
where-at Yukiko-Dim-Top she park-to go- Comp was telling-Q
“Where was Yukiko telling someone that she was going to catch butterflies?”

Item 4

Bill and his Mom went shopping yesterday and bought a new soccer ball, so Bill wanted to try it out after school today. At school, he wanted to tell his friends about playing soccer later, to see if some of them want to play with him. But he didn’t want the teacher to get angry at him for talking in class, so he didn’t say anything at school. After school, Bill knew that his Mom would be worried if he didn’t get home till late, so he went home to tell her about his plans. He said to his mom: “I’m gonna go play soccer on the soccer field!” His mom was happy that he was already using the new soccer ball. On his way to the soccer field, he passed by a playground and saw some friends there. He tried to play soccer with them, but they were already flying kites, so they didn’t want to play. But Bill’s best friend decided to leave the playground and go to the soccer field with Bill. They played soccer together in the soccer field, and Bill scored lots of goals with his new soccer ball.

E: Where did Bill tell someone that he was gonna play soccer?

J ambiguous:

Doko-de Hiroshi-kun-wa *pro* sakkaa-o suru-to itteta-no?
where-at Hiroshi-Dim-Top he soccer-Acc do-Comp was telling-Q

“Where was Hiroshi telling someone that he was gonna play soccer?”

J filled-gap:

Doko-de Hiroshi-kun-wa *pro* gurando-de sakkaa-o suru-to ouchi-de itteta-no?
where-at Hiroshi-Dim-Top he field-de soccer-Acc do-Comp house-at was telling-Q

“Where was Hiroshi telling someone at home that he was gonna play soccer in the field?”

J main clause PP:

Doko-de Hiroshi-kun-wa *pro* sakkaa-o suru-to itteta-no?
where-at Hiroshi-Dim-Top he soccer-Acc do-Comp was telling-Q

“Where was Hiroshi telling someone that he was gonna play soccer?”

J predicate mismatch:

Doko-de Hiroshi-kun-wa *pro* gurando-ni iku-to itteta-no?
where-at Hiroshi-Dim-Top he field-to go-Comp was telling-Q

“Where was Hiroshi telling someone that he was going to the field?”

Item 5

Annie was taking horseback riding lessons. Today she got to go on a long ride all by herself. First she tried to ride up a mountain, but the mountain trail was too steep for the horse so she couldn't ride the horse there at all. Instead, Annie and her horse went riding in the forest. It was so much fun to ride the horse in the forest - along the way, Annie and her horse even got to jump over a log that was blocking the path! Annie was really proud of herself for riding all alone in the forest, so she wanted to tell her riding teacher about her great ride. But her teacher was busy teaching another student, so she couldn't talk to her. That night, Annie and her friend went camping at a campsite. Annie's friend was taking horseback riding lessons too, so he asked Annie about her ride. Annie said to him, “I rode a horse in the forest today, and we jumped over a big log!” Annie's friend was jealous that she's already allowed to go riding by herself.

E: Where did Annie tell someone that she rode her horse?

J ambiguous:

Doko-de Yuko-chan-wa *pro* uma-ni notta-to itteta-no?
where-at Yuko-Dim-Top she horse-Dat rode-Comp was telling-Q

“Where was Yuko telling someone that she rode a horse?”

J filled-gap:

Doko-de Yuko-chan-wa mori-no-naka-de *pro* uma-ni notta-to itteta-no?
where-at Yuko-Dim-Top forest-Gen-inside-at she horse-Dat rode-Comp was telling-Q

“Where was Yuko telling someone that she rode a horse in the forest?”

J main clause PP:

Doko-de Yuko-chan-wa *pro* uma-ni notta-to kyanpujou-de itteta-no?
where-at Yuko-Dim-Top she horse-Dat rode-Comp campsite-at was telling-Q

“Where was Yuko telling someone at the campsite that she rode a horse?”

J predicate mismatch:

Doko-de Yuko-chan-wa *pro* mori-no-naka-ni itta-to itteta-no?
where-at Yuko-Dim-Top she forest-Gen-inside-to went-Comp was telling-Q

“Where was Yuko telling someone that she went inside the forest?”

Item 6

Emily likes to play outdoors. One day she was swinging on the swings, and she jumped off the swings from really high up! She balanced herself really well on the landing, so she didn't fall. When Emily got bored with the swings, she decided to go climb a really tall tree. She got up pretty high, but suddenly one of the branches broke, so she fell off the tree and hurt herself! But Emily was a brave girl, so she got back up right away and didn't cry at all. Emily wanted to tell her friends how pleased she felt about not crying after hurting herself, so she went to find some of her friends at the library. She found a friend of hers there, but the librarian came out and told her that in the library they must be very quiet! So, Emily couldn't talk to her friend and felt disappointed. But she had a good idea: She could go to the

swimming pool to see more friends, because at the pool she can talk as much as she wants! When she got to the pool and found her friends, she said to them, "I hurt myself falling out of the tree, but didn't cry at all!" Emily was happy she could finally tell someone about her day, and her friends were impressed by how brave she was.

E: Where did Emily tell someone that she hurt herself?

J ambiguous:

Doko-de Emily-chan-wa *pro* ashi-o kegashita-to itteta-no?
where-at Emily-Dim-Top she foot-Acc hurt Comp was telling-Q

"Where was Emily telling someone that she hurt her foot?"

J filled-gap:

Doko-de Emily-chan-wa *pro* ki-no-shita-de ashi-o kegashita-to itteta-no?
where-at Emily-Dim-Top she tree-Gen-below-at foot-Acc hurt Comp was telling-Q

"Where was Emily telling someone that she hurt her foot by the tree?"

J main clause PP:

Doko-de Emily-chan-wa *pro* ashi-o kegashita-to puuru-de itteta-no?
where-at Emily-Dim-Top she foot-Acc hurt Comp pool-at was telling-Q

"Where was Emily telling someone at the pool that she hurt her foot?"

J predicate mismatch:

Doko-de Emily-chan-wa *pro* ki-kara ochita-to itteta-no?
where-at Emily-Dim-Top she tree-from fell-Comp was telling-Q

"Where was Emily telling someone that she fell off the tree?"

Item 7

Hannah watched a movie about treasure hunting one day, and she thought it would be fun to go in search of treasure herself. But first, she needed advice on where to find it. She went to ask a professor at the university about the best places to find treasure, but he had gone on vacation so she couldn't talk to him. Then she decided that the guide at the museum might know where to find treasure too, so she went to the museum and talked to him. The museum guide there told her all that he knew about where to find treasure, and Hannah said to him : "Thanks! I think I'll go find treasure in a shipwreck!" The guide agreed that that was a good place, and told her about a shipwreck nearby. On her way to the shipwreck, Hannah passed a cave. She thought there might be treasure in the cave too, so she decided to go in and have a look around. But the cave was really, really dark, and Hannah couldn't see anything! Hannah got really scared so she left the cave right away and kept going towards the shipwreck. When she made it to the sea, she put on her goggles, dove underwater, and went inside the shipwreck. She looked around really carefully, and finally found a chest full of treasure! Hannah was really excited, and thought she should give some to the museum guide because he helped her find it.

E: Where did Hannah tell someone that she was gonna find treasure?

J ambiguous:

Doko-de Hana-chan-wa *pro* takara-o sagasu-to itteta-no?
where-at Hana-Dim-Top she treasure-Acc search-Comp was telling-Q

"Where was Hana telling someone that she was gonna look for treasure?"

J filled-gap:

Doko-de Hana-chan-wa *pro* chinbotsusen-de takara-o sagasu-to itteta-no?
where-at Hana-Dim-Top she shipwreck-at treasure-Acc search-Comp was telling-Q

"Where was Hana telling someone that she was gonna look for treasure in the shipwreck?"

J main clause PP:

Doko-de Hana-chan-wa *pro* takara-o sagasu-to hakubutsukan-de itteta-no?
where-at Hana-Dim-Top she treasure-Acc search-Comp museum-at was telling-Q

"Where was Hana telling someone at the museum that she was gonna look for treasure?"

J predicate mismatch:

Doko-de Hana-chan-wa *pro* chinbotsusen-ni iku-to itteta-no?
where-at Hana-Dim-Top she shipwreck-to go-Comp was telling-Q

"Where was Hana telling someone that she was going to the shipwreck?"

Item 8

Heidi really likes airplanes and always wanted to sit in a pilot's seat on an airplane. One day when she was at the airport with her family, she decided to sneak inside one of the airplanes to see the pilot's seat, but before she could get to the plane, a police officer stopped her, because it was too dangerous. Heidi was really sad that she didn't get to see the inside of an airplane, so she went to an airplane museum in the neighborhood. At the airplane museum, there was an old airplane and they let Heidi go sit in the pilot's seat! She felt like she was a real pilot, and Heidi liked it so much that she decided to be a pilot when she grows up. Heidi went home feeling really happy, and she wanted to tell her parents about her new dream of becoming a pilot. But they might worry that it's a dangerous job, so Heidi decided not to tell them about her dream. Instead, she went to school the next day, and told her favorite science teacher about her plan. She said to her teacher, "I sat in a pilot's seat at the museum, and now I want to be a pilot!" The teacher was really happy for Heidi, and taught her about things she needs to learn to become a pilot.

E: Where did Heidi tell someone that she sat in a pilot's seat?

J ambiguous:

Doko-de Megumi-cha-wa *pro* pairottoseki-ni noreta-to itteta-no?
where-at Megumi-Dim-Top she pilot seat-Dat could ride-Comp was telling-Q
“Where was Megumi telling someone that she could sit in a pilot’s seat?”

J filled-gap:

Doko-de Megumi-cha-wa *pro* hikooki hakubutsukaun-de pairottoseki-ni noreta-to itteta-no?
where-at Megumi-Dim-Top she airplane museum-at pilot seat-Dat could ride-Comp was telling-Q
“Where was Megumi telling someone that she could sit in a pilot’s seat in the airplane museum?”

J main clause PP:

Doko-de Megumi-cha-wa *pro* pairottoseki-ni noreta-to gakkou-de itteta-no?
where-at Megumi-Dim-Top she pilot seat-Dat could ride-Comp school-at was telling-Q
“Where was Megumi telling someone at the school that she could sit in a pilot’s seat?”

J predicate mismatch:

Doko-de Megumi-cha-wa *pro* pairotto-ni nari-tai-to itteta-no?
where-at Megumi-Dim-Top she pilot-Dat become-want-Comp was telling-Q
“Where was Megumi telling someone that she wants to become a pilot?”