## The Output

For model comparisons, a different parameter estimator must be used (R will do this for you). REML should be used to estimate parameters when you report them.

Our two models differ significantly from each other. The one that fits our data the best has the lower AIC value. AIC is the Akaike Information Criterion and measures how much 'information' is not captured by our model (values that are relatively lower are better). NOTE - absolute AIC values cannot be interpreted - they have to be compared with the AIC value of another model.

```
Random effects:
                           Variance Std.Dev. Corr
 Groups
         Name
                           108205
                                     328.95
 Subject (Intercept)
                                     50.88
          ConditionNeutral
                              2589
                                              -1.00
                                     80.16
                                              -1.00 1.00
          ConditionPositive 6425
                            32985
                                    181.62
 Item
          (Intercept)
                                     36.00
          ConditionNeutral
                             1296
                                              0.00
          ConditionPositive
                             3897
                                     62.42
                                              -0.54 0.84
Residual
                           204916
                                    452.68
Number of obs: 574, groups: Subject, 24; Item, 24
Fixed effects:
                  Estimate Std. Error
                                          df t value Pr(>|t|)
                  1083.76
                                        30.15 12.994 6.88e-14 ***
(Intercept)
ConditionNeutral
                   101.04
                                48.05
                                       52.01
ConditionPositive
                   123.54
                               50.70
                                       22.73 2.437 0.0231 *
Signif. codes: 0 '***
                       0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

This is what we're mainly interested in. We know the model itself is significantly better than the null model. These comparisons tells us what differences are driving the effect.

• Think of these like the contrasts that are used to interpret significant ANOVAs. In this case, the Neutral and Positive conditions are each being compared to the Negative condition (or the intercept of the regression line). The estimates tell us that the intercept is 1084 (which is the Negative condition mean). The Neutral mean is 1084+101, while the Positive mean is 1084+124.