

An ‘incremental verification task’ for scalar implicatures

STRUCTURE

- exp consists of **two training trials**, and **six experimental trials**
 - in training trials, when subjects press a “wrong” button, they will be notified by an alert box
 - training is the same for all subjects
 - experimental trials have two critical trials and four positional controls
 - experimental trials are in randomized order, and each item is randomly drawn from three sentence/picture variants (using different content words and picture elements), with the following exceptions:
 - different variants must be presented for the critical trials;
 - the critical trials must be separated by at least two control trials;

MATERIALS

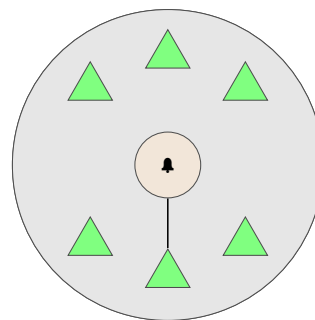
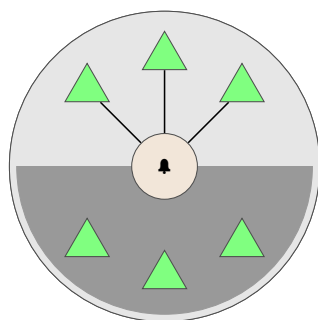
- on the top of each screen display the instruction question: “Is the sentence a good description of the picture?”
- below that present the sentence to be rated (see table below)
- below that show the (partially revealed picture)
 - sentences and pictures are presented at the same time; sentence is visible throughout
- below the picture are three buttons with labels “good”, “bad”, and “more info”
 - the button “more info” should disappear on the last picture in a sequence; here subjects must make a judgement
- The three variants of all picture/sentence pairs differ in the value for X and Y in the sentence frames in the table below:
 - Variant 1: X = scissors (careful: requires plural predicate “are” instead of “is”); Y = circles
 - Variant 2: X = letter; Y = rectangles
 - Variant 3: X = bell; Y = triangles

Pictures & Notation

Pictures contain one object with six connections around it. Pictures with partially revealed connections are referred to by pairs of numbers: (x , y) where

- x is the number of connections known to be present
- y is the number of connections known to be absent.

The following are two examples of (3,0) and (1,5) pictures.



| type | sentence | sequence | critical | reading |
|------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| training 1 | The X is not connected to any of the Ys. | (0,0) - (0,2) - (0,3) - (0,6) | true on 4 | control |
| training 2 | The X is connected to at most two of the Ys. | (0,0) - (2,0) - (3,0) | false on 3 | control |
| critical | The X is connected to some of the Ys. | (0,0) - (3,0) - (4,0) - (6,0) | true on 2 false on 4 | literal pragmatic |
| control 1 | The X is not connected to more than 3 of the Ys. | (0,0) - (2,0) - (3,0) - (3,3) | true on 4 | control |
| control 2 | The X is connected to more than half of the Ys. | (0,0) - (0,2) - (0,3) - (1,5) | false on 3 | control |
| control 3 | There are no connections from the Ys to the X. | (0,0) - (2,0) - (3,0) - (3,3) | false on 1 | control |
| control 4 | There are more than three Ys. | (0,0) - (1,0) - (3,0) - (3,3) | true on 0 | control |

ENCODING OF RESULTS

- output for each trial a single number $n = -4, \dots, -1, 1, \dots, 4$, where $n = 3$ for instance is a “good” judgement at position 3 and -2 is a “bad” judgement at position 2 in the sequence