

# Collect some great adjectives

Thank you for helping collect items for a new and improved Social Probabilistic Learning paradigm! If you don't know this task yet and are curious, you can look at a demo here (enter any number of participant ID and press "enter" for any blank screens).

We're using this task to see if people learn a word-face association faster if the word is something that has to do with either **Status** or **Mate Seeking**, like "popular" or "dating", versus more neutral words like "hungry" and "thirsty". But that's pretty much all the words we have so far, which means that we can't be sure we'd get the same results if we were to use a different set of words. In an ideal experimental set-up, each participant would do this task using some smaller subset of a big pool of words that have to do with status, mate-seeking, or something less social and more mundane.

That's where you come in.

We need to come up with a list of single-word adjectives that are relevant to or somehow evoke mate-seeking and status motives, as well as words that are not really directly relevant to any other social motive (at least, systematically). For example, looking through one word list, I notice "abstinent" which I might tag as something possibly related to mate-seeking, "aggressive" as maybe relevant for status, and "abashed" as not really related to any social motive at all.

## Defining neutral, mate seeking, and status words

### Neutral

First, here are the eight social motives that I've taken status and mate-seeking from. For neutral words, you should avoid things that seem relevant to people who might care about these things:

- Self-protection
- Disease avoidance
- Affiliation
- Status
- Mate seeking
- Mate retention
- Care for one's own children
- Care for family

### Status

From Kenrick et al. (2010):

Maslow classified esteem needs into two related sets—one consisting of desires for strength, achievement, and mastery (which contributed to one's self-esteem) and the other consisting of desires for reputation, status, dominance, and glory (or the esteem of others).

Henrich and Gil-White (2001) note that status in humans can arise from physical dominance and threat in the same way that it typically does in other animals. They distinguish this from prestige, which is freely conferred deference toward individuals who possess special skills and information. Even among hunter-gatherers, many human activities depend on highly technical information (e.g., fishing, hunting, food preparation, building canoes or huts, and so on). It is much more efficient to learn by modeling the behaviors of successful others than by using trial and error (Boyd & Richerson, 1985; Henrich & Boyd, 1998), so people are willing to defer to, and perform favors for, others who have acquired skills. Unlike physical dominance, which leads subordinate

individuals to avoid those with the potential to harm them, prestige leads subordinates to actively try to get close to higher status individuals