



# Episodic memory is used to access features of past experience for flexible choice



Jonathan Nicholas<sup>1</sup> and Marcelo G. Mattar<sup>1</sup>

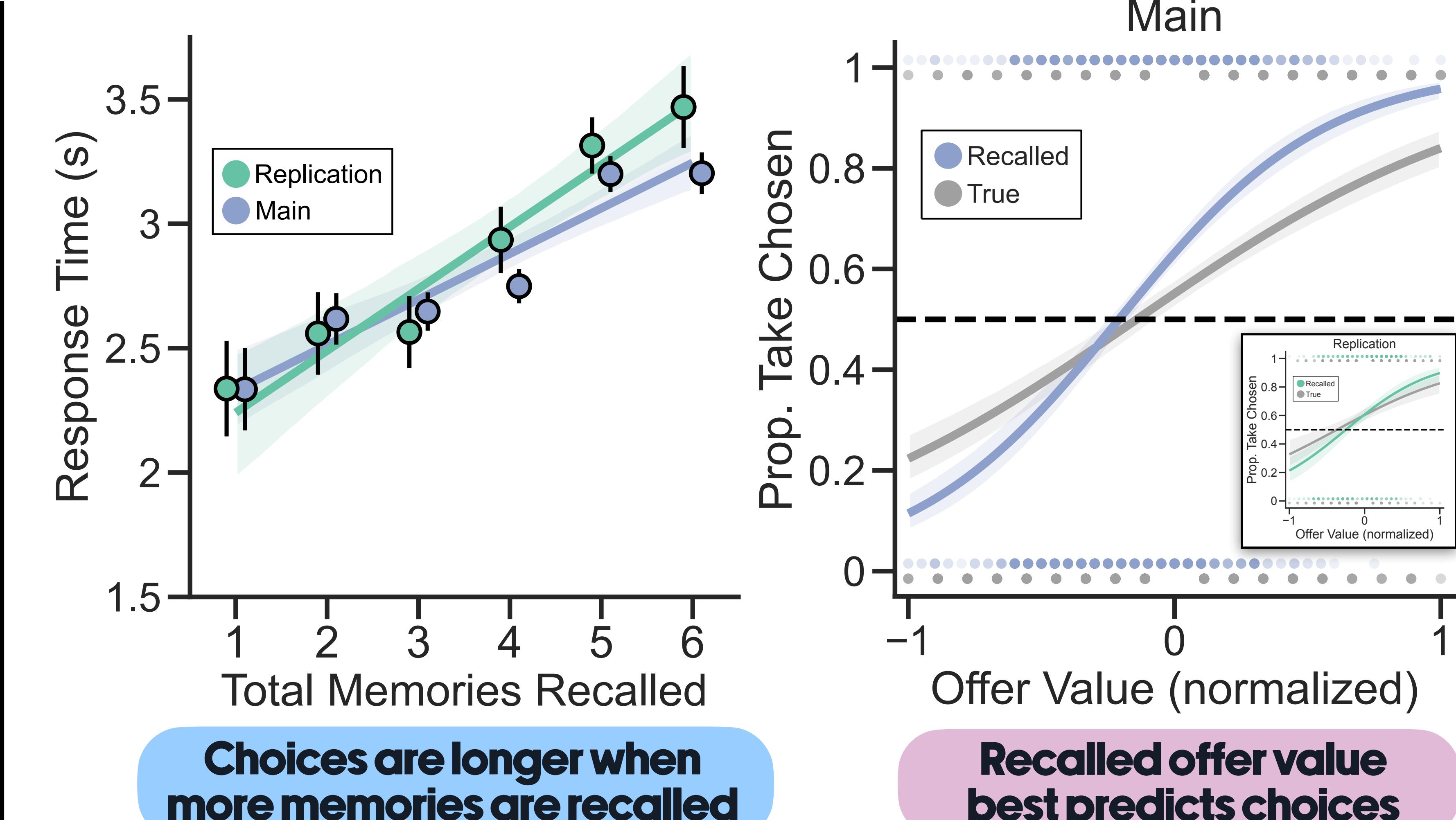
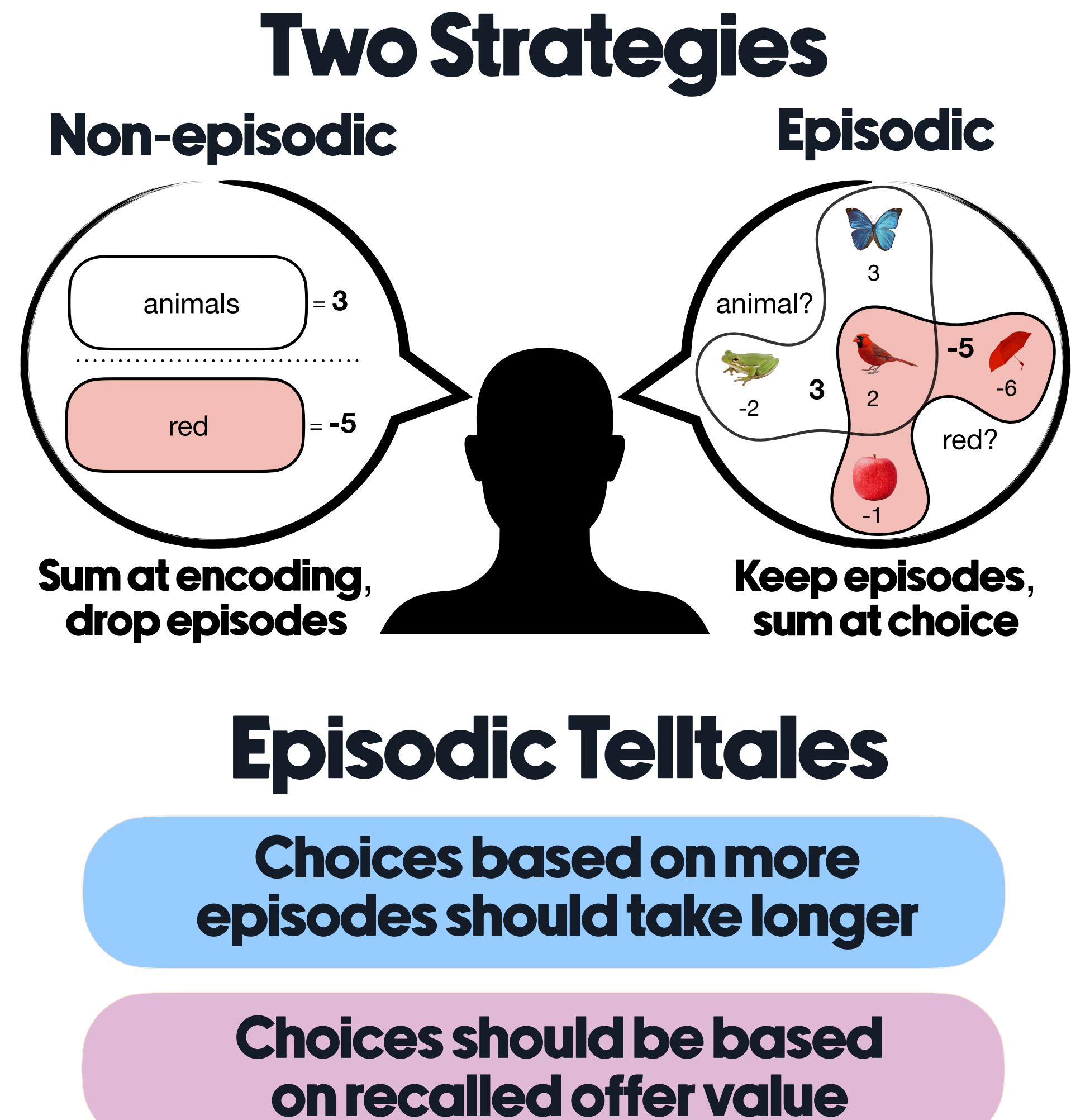
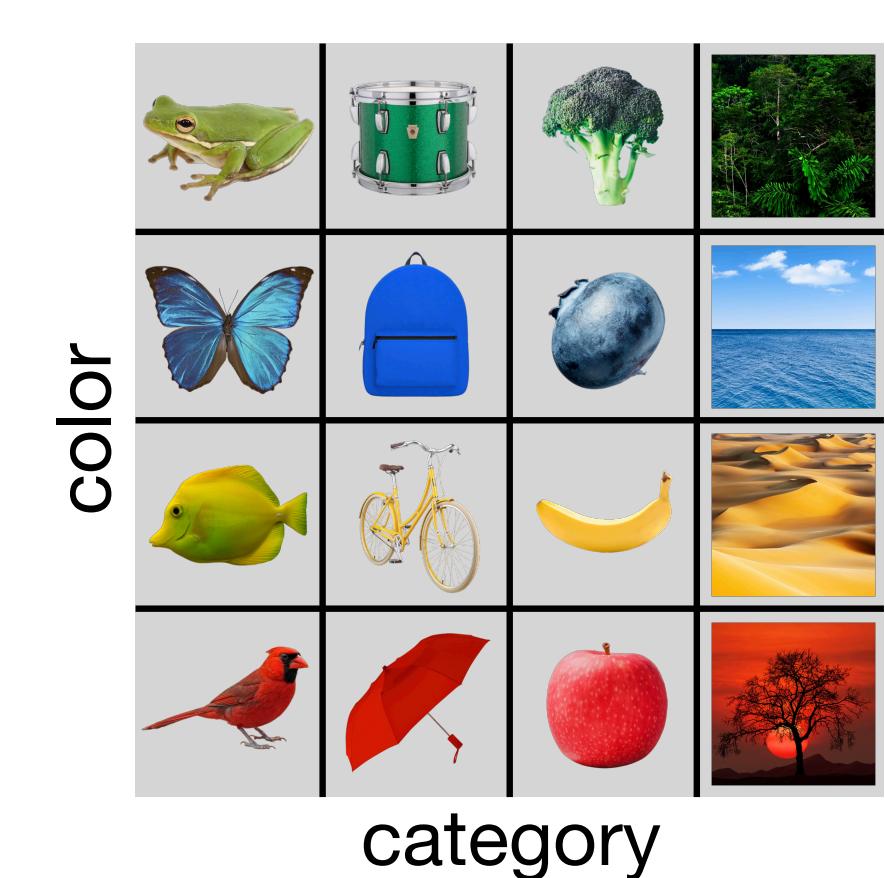
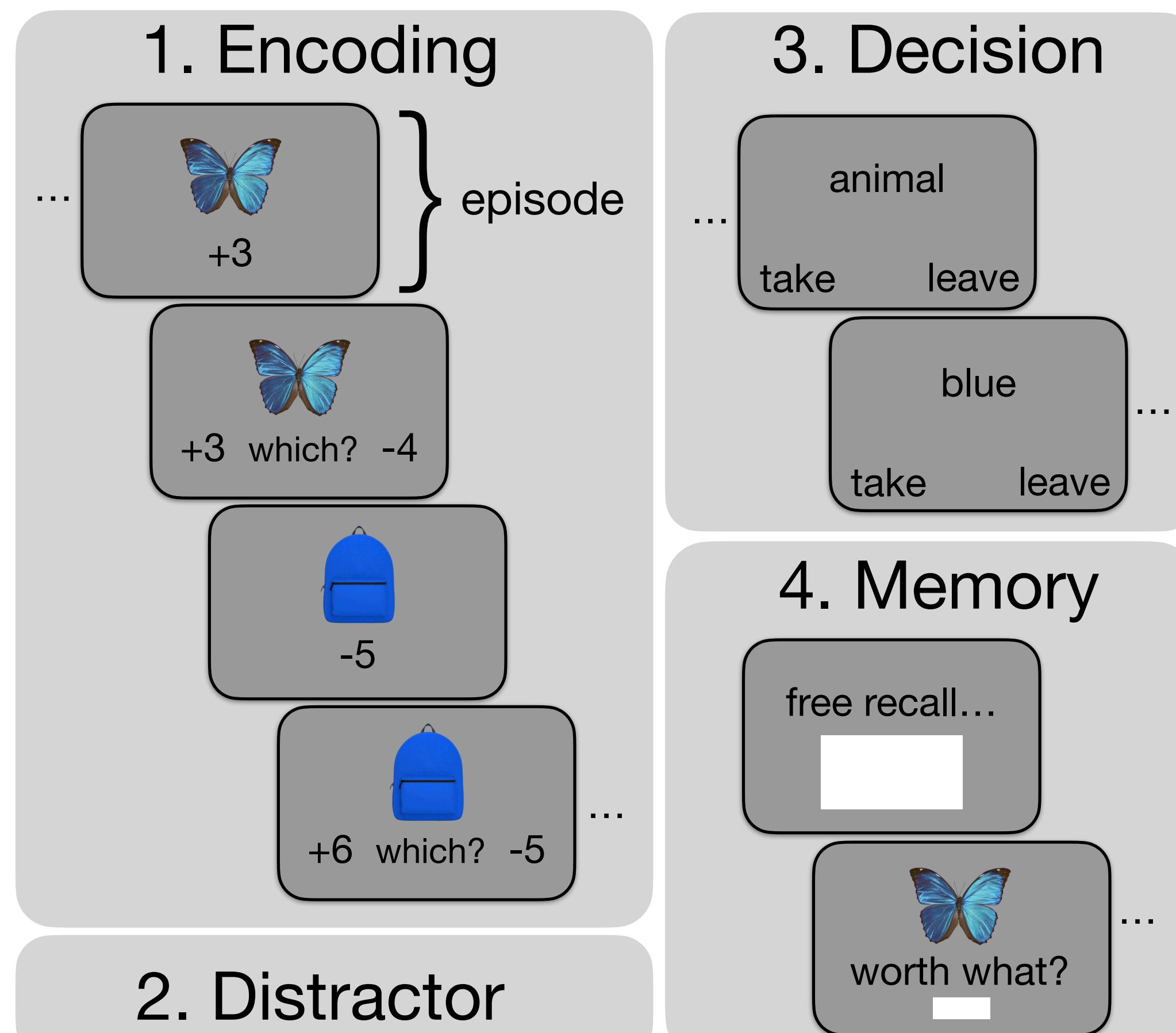
<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, New York University

Episodic memory allows us to remember events in very high fidelity. Why?

...maybe this property is adaptive. Episodic memory could help us use arbitrary features of the past when they might be needed for future choices. Let's find out!

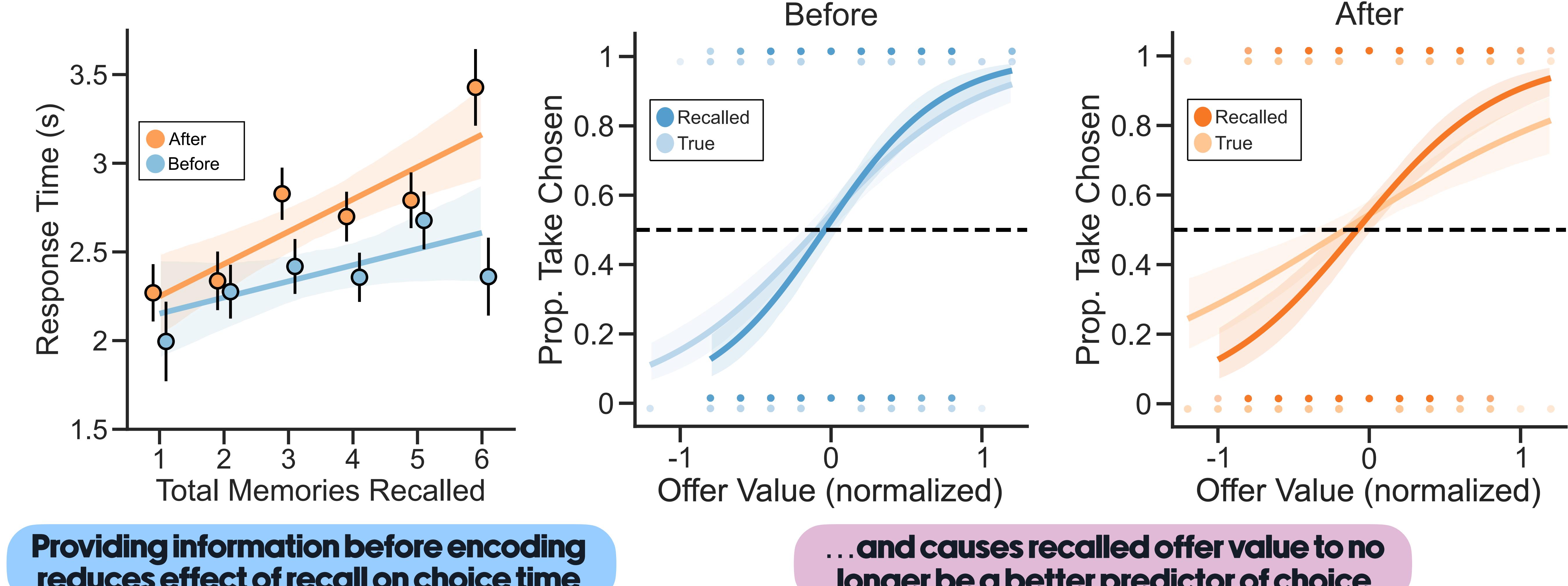
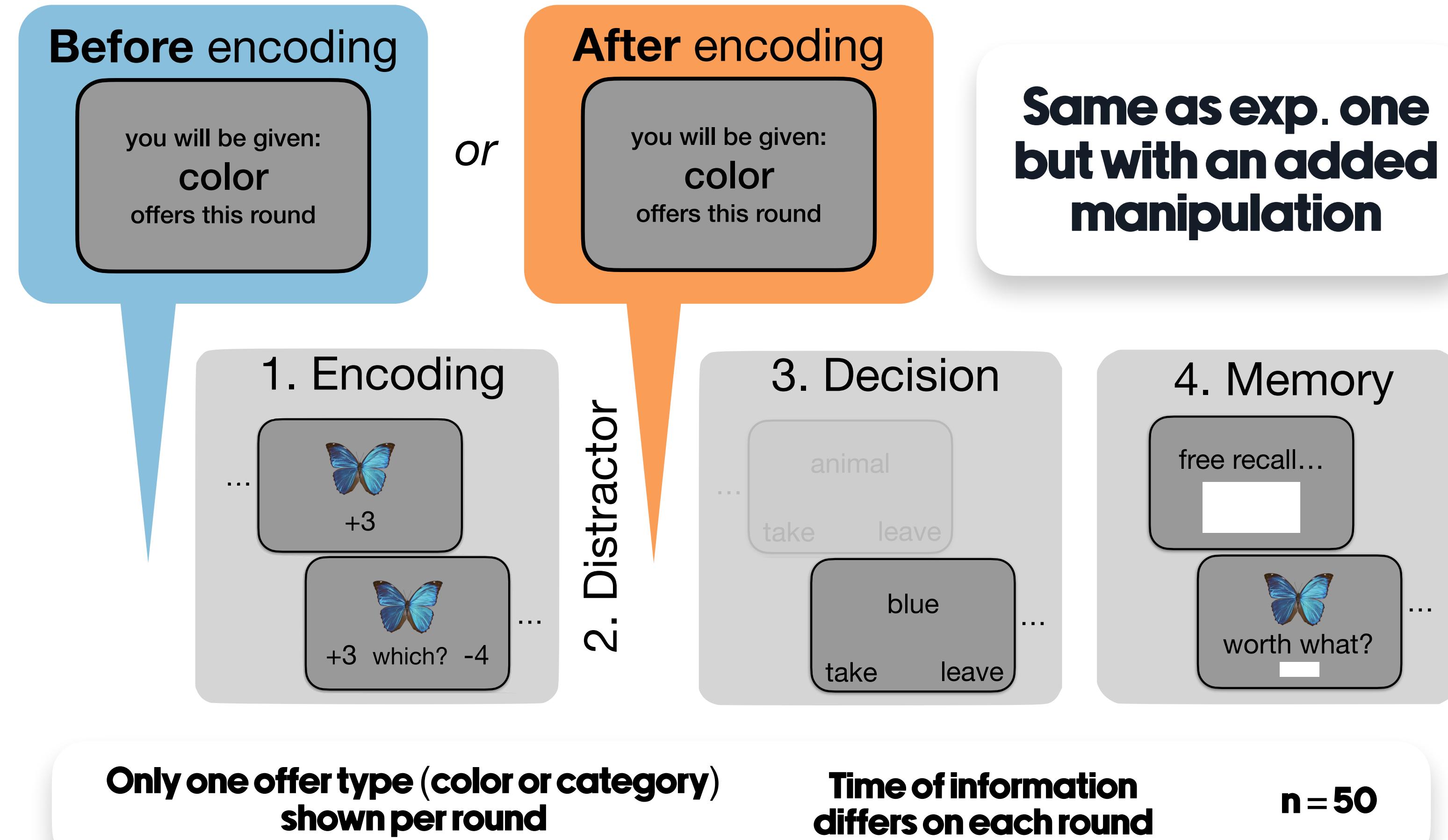
Do people even use episodic memory to make choices based on multiple features? ...yes!

## Experiment One



But when is episodic memory actually useful? ...when it's unclear which features will be relevant.

## Experiment Two



Take Home

We encode many features of episodes so that we may flexibly reference them for our future choices.