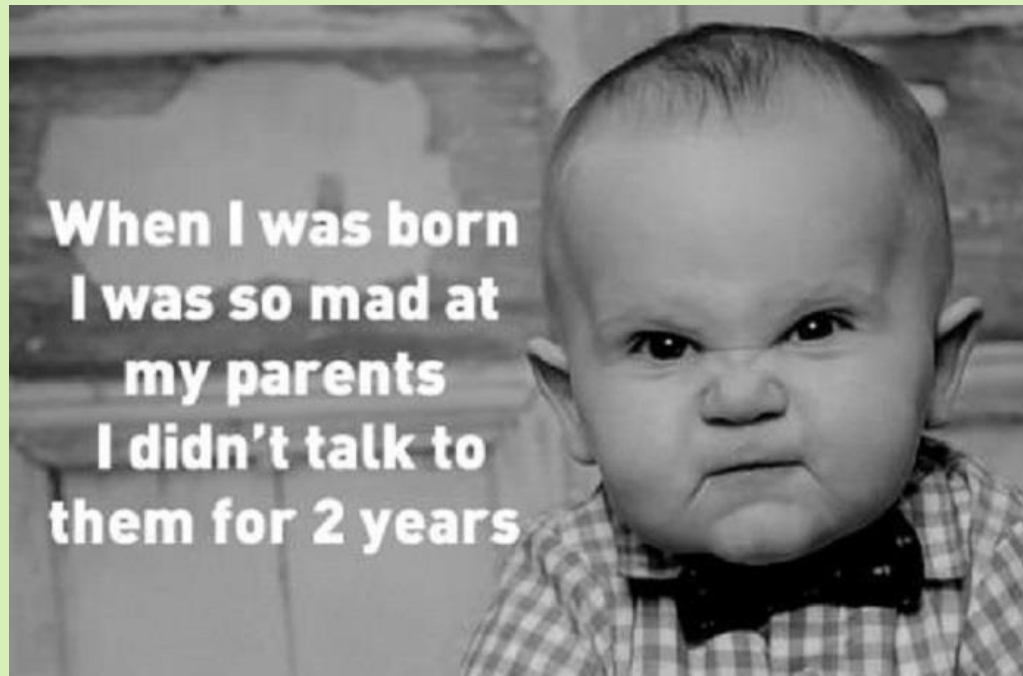


# PSY 254: Precept 7

## Language



AI/Preceptor: Kennedy (she/her)

[kcasey@princeton.edu](mailto:kcasey@princeton.edu)



## Mid-semester evaluations

**Take ~5 minutes to complete the anonymous survey on paper**

Your feedback is important to me

Please be honest and critical!

Your ideas can help improve this class!

# Today's Agenda



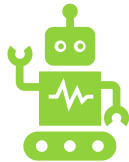
Mid-semester evaluations



Baby photo presentation sign-ups



Statistical learning



Babies & AI



Preparation for next time



Midterm



# Baby photo presentation sign-ups

## **Oct 29 (next week)**

12:30 (Vikram, Shruti)

1:30 (Robel, Zoe, Claudacia)

2:30 (Yusuf, Arjav, Arsema)

## **Nov 12**

12:30 (Mariana, Ria)

1:30 (Ben, Isabella, Monica)

2:30 (Nicole, Evan)

[Sign up sheet](#)

Saffran et al. (1996)

# Kahoot!





# Statistical learning



**you're a silly baby**



# Statistical learning



2min exposure to artificial language







# Statistical learning



## Test time!

There are 8 test items

For each test item, write down **1** if you think the first word came from the language, and **2** if you think the second word came from the language





# Statistical learning

## Answers

Q1: **tupiro** vs. godaro – 1

Q2: bidobu vs. **padoti** – 2

Q3: tulati vs. **bidaku** – 2

Q4: **golabu** vs. pakipu – 1

Q5: **padoti** vs. tulati – 1

Q6: pakipu vs. **tupiro** – 2

Q7: **golabu** vs. bidobu – 1

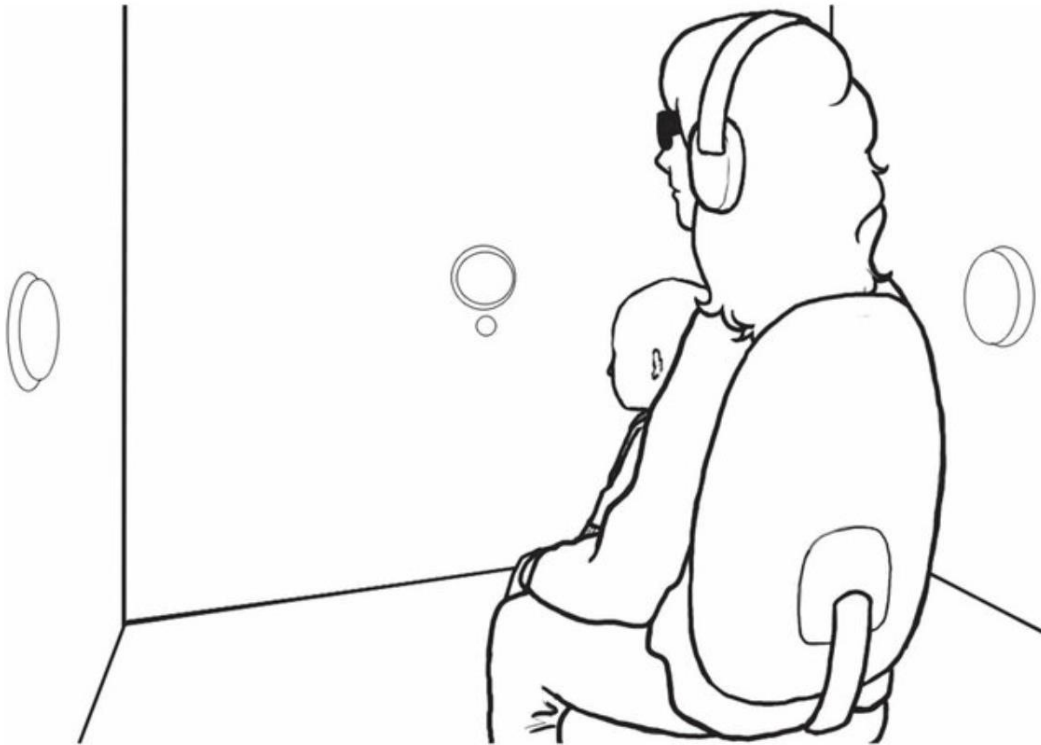
Q8: godaro vs. **bidaku** – 2





# Statistical learning

## Headturn preference procedure



**non-words** vs. **words**

**part-words** vs. **words**



# Statistical learning



pa bi ku

high transitional  
probabilities between  
syllables **within words**



pi go la

low transitional  
probabilities at word  
**boundaries**



# Statistical learning

sil ly

ly ba

ba by



silly goose  
silly story  
silly face  
you're being silly

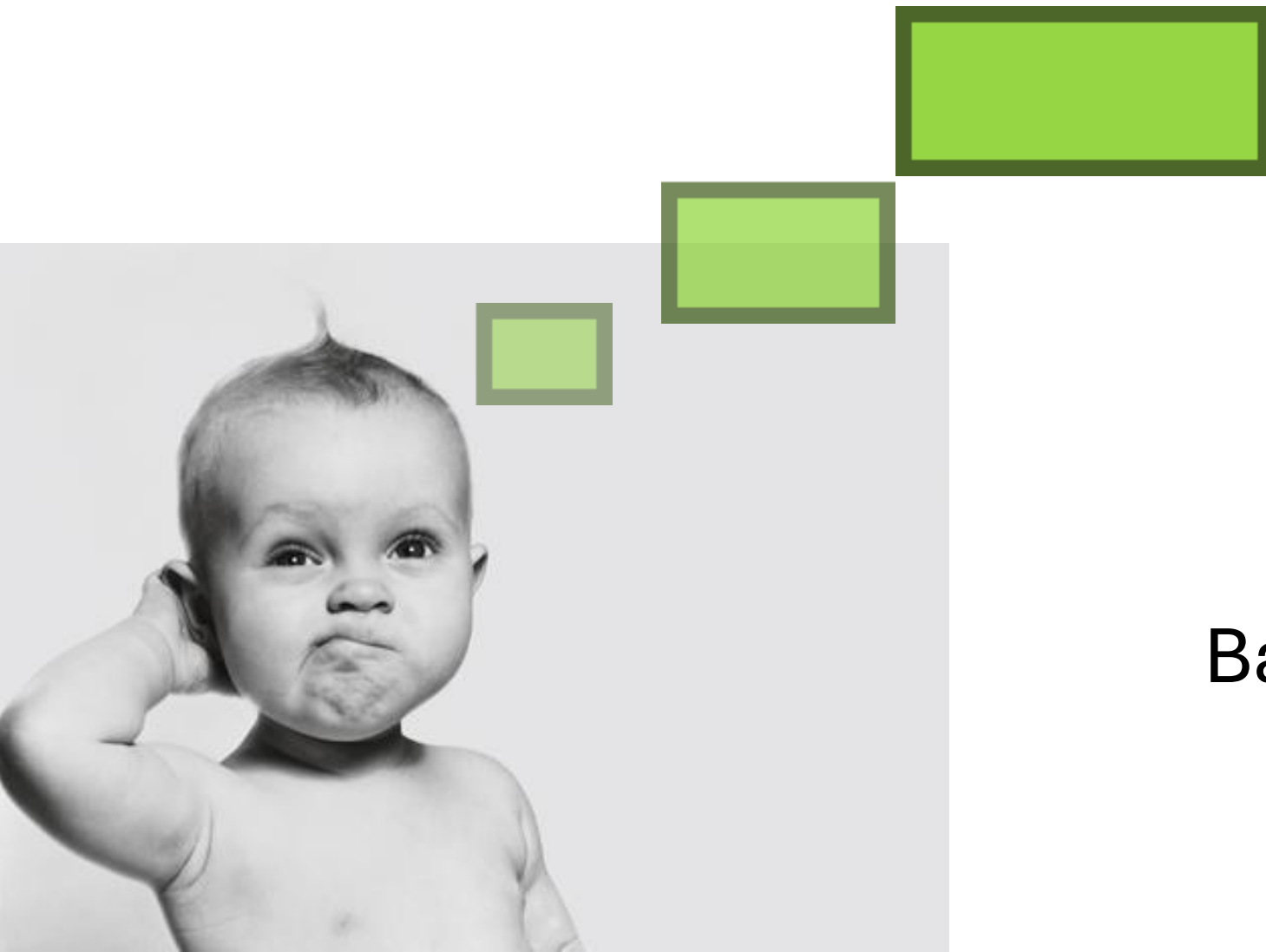
you're a silly baby

hi baby

you're a cute baby  
you're a happy baby  
you're a hungry baby  
you're a sleepy baby



# Statistical learning



$$\text{pr } y|x = \frac{\text{freq } xy}{\text{freq } x}$$

Babies are statisticians!



# Statistical learning

hi \_

A red dashed arrow originates from the top right of the word 'hi' and points towards the underscore character, indicating a relationship or a process.



# Statistical learning

**Saffran et al. (1996) conclusion:** Infants (and adults) possess powerful experience-dependent mechanisms to support word segmentation and likely other aspects of language.

Statistical learning is extremely robust and has been seen in infants and adults in a whole range of tasks:

- learning visual patterns

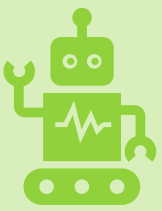
- learning auditory patterns

- learning tactile patterns



**Statistical learning is a “domain general” learning mechanism**





# Babies & AI

## Predictive Brain

.....

Our minds are prediction machines, using prior experience and knowledge to make sense of the deluge of information coming from our surroundings. Many neuroscientists and psychologists believe that nearly everything we do—perception, action and learning—relies on making and updating expectations.

**Group 1** = What is prediction error?

**Group 2** = What parallels are there between child and robot development?

**Group 3** = How might the predictive brain hypothesis have possible implications for clinical research?

**Group 4** = How does this article relate to the Saffran et al. (1996) article?



# Preparation for next time

## Homework:

Read Schwab & Lew-Williams (2016)

Submit MCQ *before* precept

Email me your baby photos by 11am on Tuesday if you're presenting next week

## Plan ahead for upcoming assignment deadlines!

- Journal article outline due Oct 30 by 5pm
- App/toy/book evaluation due Nov 13 by 5pm (groups of 1-3 within the same precept)

## Extended office hours this week:

See my email for times!



# Midterm

## How did it go?

Average was 69.7% + 8 points was added for EVERYONE (circled grade in orange is the adjusted grade that you'll see on Canvas)

If you scored below 70, you can do an extra assignment to get your grade up to 70—more info coming soon!

You can check them for 5-10mins at the end of class, but you must RETURN them before you leave (no photos or notes)

If you have any questions or concerns, come to my office hours this week or next week ONLY (course policy)



# Midterm

## What went wrong?

If you didn't study enough – make a study plan to make sure you're not leaving it until the last minute, or start a study group to keep you accountable

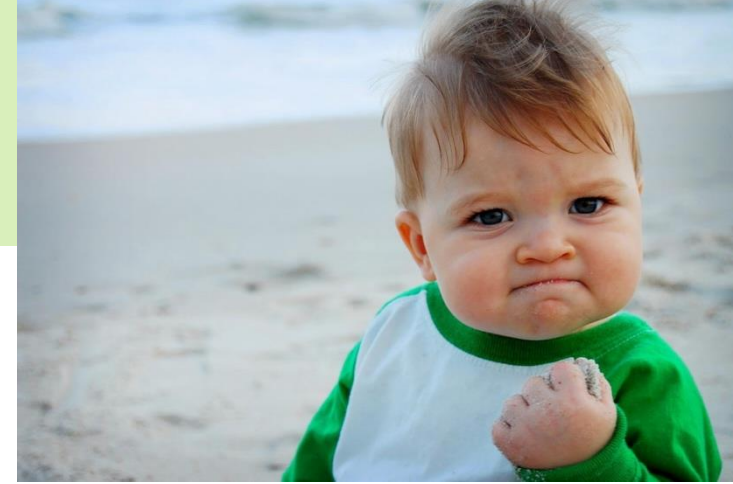
You studied but not in a way that prepared you for the specific test type – mark what types of questions you missed and make sure you practice those for the test, also check out McGraw Center – they might have advice!

You didn't have a good way of evaluating what you do and don't know – make sure you do all the practice questions from the textbook and come to office hours! Study groups are also a really good resource

You don't test well (or were not in the right headspace to test well) – check out the McGraw center if the issue is academic, CPS if you want to talk to someone beyond just academic strategies, ODS if you think you need testing accommodations



# Midterm



## You still got this!

If you put the time in to do well on everything else, you can not only pass the class but get a good grade!

**Journal article (30%)** – turn in a *detailed* outline, come to office hours, use the Writing Center

**Precept (30%)** – keep doing the readings, app/toy/book evaluation, and media/art project

**10% participation** involves arriving to class on time, being engaged (verbally and/or non-verbally) in the discussion, office hours, baby photo presentations, emailing questions

**Final (20%)** – more info to come but time will be on your side

**Research participation assignment** – required to pass this course!