

Example story transcripts for the experiment for the study
“The role of relevance, competence and priors for scalar implicatures”

Example story transcript for the trigger “or”

Title: “Lily’s husband”

Story: “Bill and Eric went to a bar. Eric’s wife, Lily, promised to pick them up if Eric drank any alcohol. She phones up Bill to ask about their night.”

Example comprehension statements: “Eric and Lily went to a bar together.” (false), “Eric and Bill went to see a football game.” (false), “Eric and Bill go out to a bar every weekend.” (uncertain), “Eric’s wife has a driver’s licence.” (true)

Competence statement: “Bill knows whether Eric drank both wine and vodka.”

Relevance statement: “It is important for Lily to know whether her husband drank both wine and vodka.”

Prior statements: “If Eric drank wine, it is likely that he drank vodka as well.”, “If Eric drank vodka, it is likely that he drank wine as well.” (presented in randomised order)

Critical utterance: “Bill tells Lily: ‘Your husband drank wine or vodka.’”

Implicature statement: “From what Bill said we may conclude that Eric did not drink both wine and vodka.”

Question: “How likely is it that the statement in the blue box is true given the story?”

Example story transcript for the trigger “some”

Title: “Final exam”

Story: “Bernard just finished his final exam. He isn’t the brightest student, but if he passes this one, he will be through to the next grade. During the break, he goes to the teacher’s lounge. He cannot wait to ask his teacher whether he passed. Bernard’s teacher only just started correcting his exam.”

Example comprehension statements: “Bernard wants to know his grade for his college application.” (false), “Bernard took a final exam in biology.” (uncertain), “Bernard is not the best student of his class.” (true), “Bernard wants to get to the next grade.” (true)

Competence statement: “Bernard’s teacher knows whether all of the answers Bernard gave on the exam are correct.”

Prior statement: “If at least some of the answers Bernard gave on the exam are correct, then all of them are correct.”

Relevance statement: “It is important for Bernard to know whether all of the answers he gave on the exam are correct.”

Critical utterance: “Bernard’s teacher says: ‘Some of the answers you gave are correct.’”

Implicature statement: “From what Bernard’s teacher said we may conclude that not all of Bernard’s answers are correct.”

Question: “How likely is it that the statement in the blue box is true given the story?”