

**Introduction**

## Rutgers Laboratory for Developmental Language Studies

### Acquisition, Development, and Representation of Linguistic Knowledge

#### **INFORMED CONSENT FORM – Adults, Subject Pool, Online**

You are invited to participate in a research study that is being conducted by Dr. Kristen Syrett, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Linguistics and the Center for Cognitive Science at Rutgers University – New Brunswick. The purpose of this research is to investigate what children and adults understand about aspects of meaning in their native language and how this knowledge is acquired.

In this study, we will ask you to read some words or sentences, or look at some images or videos. You will be asked to provide your judgment about these materials, make a selection given certain instructions, or follow the experimenter's directions to perform some action with the materials. Your reaction time may be monitored. You may provide your consent to be audio and/or video-recorded. Over the course of this particular study, approximately 20 to 100 participants will participate. The study lasts between 20 and 45 minutes.

You will receive course credit (extra credit or points towards the fulfillment of your experimental requirement) for your participation in this study, according to the guidelines of the subject pool and/or your instructor. If you choose not to participate, you will be offered other opportunities to earn experimental course credit and/or extra credit in your course, such as video viewing or a short report. These guidelines will be provided by your instructor and may be listed on your course syllabus.

Participation in this study is voluntary. You will not be compensated for your participation in this study. While your linguistic skills are not likely to improve from participation in this research, your responses may provide us with valuable data about the process of child language acquisition and development, and the nature of the adult grammar and language processor.

There are no foreseeable risks to participation in this study. You may choose not to participate, and you may withdraw at any time during the study procedures without any penalty to you. In addition, you may choose not to answer any questions with which you are not entirely comfortable.

This research is confidential. *Confidential* means that we will collect information from you, including your gender, age, race and ethnicity, other expertise, and possibly your IP address, which will remain on file. This information will not be used to identify you in any way, and your IP address will not be used for any purposes other than to ensure that you do not participate in the same study twice. We use this information to understand more about our findings and the factors involved in language development and comprehension. Responses and demographic information are collected for all participants and analyzed to report trends across participants. This information will be stored in such a manner that some link between your identity and responses in the research will exist. You will be assigned an arbitrary code that will be associated with your data. Should an individual response be used as example, personal identifying information will be removed beforehand. Please note that we will keep this information confidential by limiting access to the research data and keeping it in a secure location in our lab. All electronic files are password-protected.

Our research team and the Institutional Review Board at Rutgers University are the only parties that will be allowed to see the data, except as may be required by law. If a report of this study is published, or the results are presented at a professional conference, no results that can be linked to an individual will be presented. All study data will be kept for the duration of the study and its publication for a finite period of time between three and ten years.

If you have any questions about the study procedures, you may contact Dr. Syrett at

Phone: 732-932-1234 | Email: [kristen.syrett@rutgers.edu](mailto:kristen.syrett@rutgers.edu)

Please fill out the following fields.

First name

Last name

4-digit SONA ID

## Training

In the following screens, you will read a series of short scenarios one by one.

Read each one carefully. At the end, someone will deliver an utterance. This will be followed by a question asking whether that person was right.

Your job is to respond YES or NO based on the corresponding scenario that you read.

You will ONLY get credit if you surpass the minimum threshold of correct responses and time spent. Surveys taking less than 10 minutes will not get credit.

We will now go through 2 examples.

Example story.

***The setting: decorating an apartment***

B and M went to the store to buy a lamp for their apartment.

When they got to the check-out, M realized that she forgot to bring her wallet.

B went to pull his out, but realized he also forgot it at the apartment.

The cashier reports, "B and M remembered to bring their wallets to the store."

*Is the cashier right?*

☐ Yes

☐ No

**Incorrect.**

They didn't remember to bring their wallets at all. Both B and M forgot their wallets at the apartment.

**Correct.**

Example story.

***The setting: a search for a book***

R is looking for a rare book on sperm whales.

He drove all over town, to three different libraries, without success.

Finally, he found the book in a used book store in a remote section of town.

His friend P calls to ask whether he finally found the book he was looking for.

R responds, "I did!"

P reports, "R found the book he was looking for."

*Is P right?*

☐ Yes

☐ No

**Incorrect.**

R did find the book he was looking for. It was in a used book store in a remote section of town.

**Correct.**

**Yellow**

Sparky the dog buried his toys in the backyard last week. He hid them so well that now he cannot seem to find any. A neighbor, Jill, comes over to help Mary, Sparky's owner, find the toys in the yard. Jill asks Mary to guess where they are hidden.

Mary says, "In the middle of the yard and near the mailbox."

After hours of searching, they find the toys behind the shed, next to the large tree, under the swing set, and under the deck. No toys were in the middle of the yard, on the side of the house, or near the mailbox.

Jill reports, "Mary predicted where to find the toys."

*Is Jill right?*

☐ Yes

☐ No

Jenna is in a sorority and is in charge of recruitment this year. She hopes to recruit girls who have a lot to contribute to the organization. This year, they have four pledges: Mary, Susan, Britney, and Shiela. Jenna and her friend Sam are guessing who will be the best sisters.

Sam says, "Mary."

Jenna ends up recruiting all four girls, but it turns out Susan, Britney and Shiela become really great members of the sorority, but Mary becomes a huge trouble-maker and gives the sorority a bad reputation.

Jenna reports, "Sam predicted who to recruit for the sorority."

Is Jenna right?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Davey eats too much chocolate. He went to Costco the other day and bought a bulk package of Ferrer Roche. He asks his friend Mackenzie to hide the chocolate for him. Mackenzie asks her friend Ruth to guess where to hide the chocolate.

Ruth says, "In the freezer and in the desk."

Mackenzie hides the chocolate in the dresser drawers, in the linen closet and inside Davey's suitcase, but also in the freezer and in Davey's desk. Davey finds the chocolate in the freezer and in the desk, but not in the other places.

Mackenzie reports, "Ruth predicted where to hide the chocolate."

Is Mackenzie right?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Ralph and Ortcutt are gardeners. Their garden is festively decorated with garden gnomes, for which they have a particular predilection. One day, they notice that their gnomes have been vandalized. They are considering who to call: The Society for Garden Well-Being (SGWB), The National Gnome Association (NGA), Gnomes Anonymous (GA), the Police, and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Gnomes (ASPCG). Ralph asks Ortcutt to guess who to call.

Ortcutt says, "The SGWB and the NGA."

Ralph calls all five places, but as it turns out, the only organizations that deal with garden varieties of vandalism are the Police, the ASPCG, and GA. The other two organizations express their condolences and abhorrence of vandalism, but offer no further support.

Ortcutt reports, "Ralph predicted who to call about the vandalism."

Is Ortcutt right?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Mary has a special bucket list item she wishes to check off her list, and first on the list is to view the Northern Lights. She is willing to travel wherever she will be able to have a great view of the lights. Her friend, Abby, is helping Mary guess which places are good to see the Northern Lights.

Abby responds, "Alaska, Denmark, Scotland, Greenland and New York."

In fact, Alaska, Denmark, Scotland, and Greenland are great places to find the best view of the northern lights, while New York, Texas and Arizona have too low latitude to see the lights.

Mary reports, "Abby predicted where to view the Northern Lights."

Is Mary right?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Dima and Masha are running from political turmoil in their home country. They first have to bury their most valuable possessions, to keep them safe from the government. They could bury them in the backyard of their house, in the stables down the street or in the local cemetery. Masha asks Dima to guess where to bury their possessions.

Dima says, "In the stables down the street, in the cemetery and in the backyard."

To play it safe, Masha buries their possessions in all three locations. The government however, finds the possessions buried in the backyard.

Masha reports, "Dima predicted where to bury our possessions."

Is Masha right?

☐ Yes

☐ No

The psychologist at a local primary school is looking to hire an intern. The application process is competitive, so there is a need to conduct interviews. This year they have five candidates: John, Gwen, Greg, Sam, and Megan. The psychologist and her supervisor discuss who they should interview.

The supervisor says, "Megan, John, and Gwen."

The psychologist contacted Megan, John, Gwen, and Sam to set up interviews. All were offered internships, but after a month or so into the internship, Gwen and Sam quit unexpectedly and without notice.

The psychologist reports, "The supervisor predicted who to interview for the internship."

Is the psychologist right?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Julia and Peter are running a summer camp, and they need to hire counselors. They are considering hiring Vera, Kristen, Jess, Morgan and Stephen. Julia asks Peter to guess who to hire.

Peter says, "Vera, Kristen, Jess, Morgan, and Stephen."

They end up hiring all five candidates, but Stephen ends up getting kicked out because he's a trouble maker.

Julia reports, "Peter predicted who to hire as a camp counselor."

Is Julia right?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Since it is almost Christmas time, the Santa's workshop is a mess. He needs to become more organized in order to get all the presents to the children in time. He is calling in all his elves into the workshop to help clean up. They have a surplus of wrapping paper that must be put away. He asks Mrs. Clause to guess where to store the paper.

Mrs. Claus says, "Under the bed."

When they finally get around to storing the paper, there is space under the bed and in the closet, but the cupboard is too full to fit any paper.

Santa reports, "Mrs. Claus predicted where to store the wrapping paper."

Is Santa right?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No



Danny is trying to sell his collection of ugly Christmas sweaters. He has permits to sell at the mall, at the local boutique, at a pop-up in town, and online. He asks his friend Felicia to guess which places will be successful.

Felicia says, "The pop-up in town."

As it turns out, the online store and mall location did poorly, but the local boutique and the pop-up did very well.

Danny reports, "Felicia predicted where to sell the sweaters."

Is Danny right?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

The Paris Hotel only accommodates seven people in a hotel room. The Vellucis have decided to go on vacation and stay in a fancy hotel. Mom and Dad allowed Amanda to invite three friends to come on vacation with them: Jenny, Buster, Janice, and Sally. Mom and Dad are guessing which friends will actually be good guests at the hotel.

Mom guesses, "Jenny."

Turns out, Sally was quite the raucous guest, and created havoc wherever she went. The other three were very well-behaved.

Dad reports, "Mom predicted who to invite on vacation."

Is Dad right?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Christina and Gabe are deciding who they're going to select for office party planning committee this year. They ask Bill, Jimmy, Cate, Veronica and Ezra to be on the committee. Now they are wondering which of these people will be good party planners. Gabe asks Christina to guess who she thinks will be good.

Christina says, "Cate."

As it turns out, Cate, Veronica and Ezra do a really great job making the party memorable. On the other hand, Billy and Jimmy slack off and don't do any work.

Gabe reports, "Christina predicted who to select to be on the committee."

Is Gabe right?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

At the popular EDC concert, Ultra, there was an all-time high of attendees this year: almost 20,000 people. There aren't a ton of places to easily get a good view of the stage. Jim and Mary have general admission tickets. He asks her to guess a good dance spot.

Mary says, "Either side of the stage, and farther away on the hill in back."

As it turns out, the best spots were on either side of the stage, or farther away on the hill in back. The orchestra pit and right at the front of the stage were bad because there were too many people.

Jim reports, "Mary predicted where to locate a good spot."

Is Jim right?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

The preschoolers always make cards for their parents on Valentine's Day, and their parents are expected to hang these cards up somewhere in their houses. Michelle gave a card to her parents and is wondering where to hang it. Michelle asks her sister Maddie to guess where to display her card.

Maddie says, "The bedroom, and the kitchen walls."

Actually, the surface of the refrigerator is very slippery, the living room walls are too crowded, and the bathroom is too damp. However, the bedroom and kitchen walls are quite good for hanging things.

Michelle reports, "Maddie predicted where to display the card."

Is Michelle right?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

There are six sales associates working at Nordstrom's on Black Friday. A notoriously difficult but regular customer has come into the store today. The manager and assistant manager, who usually help this customer, are very busy. There are several new employees, so the manager asks her assistant to guess which sales associates to send.

The assistant manager says, "Dana, Crystal, and Morgan."

As it turns out, Dana, Crystal and Morgan are all incredibly professional sales associates, but Sue, Parker, and Taylor are inattentive and uninterested in helping customers.

The manager reports, "The assistant manager predicted who to ask to take care of the customer."

Is the manager right?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

There is a family emergency at home and parents need to get a hold of their kids Melissa and Dan. Fortunately, the kids are all at the movies together, with their friend Mitch's parents Chris and Jim. Mom and Dad don't know who would most likely be on their phone during the movie. Mom asks Dad to guess who they should call.

Dad says, "Dan, Chris, and Jim."

As it turns out, Dan, Chris and Jim were all on their phones, but Melissa and Mitch had turned their phones off.

Mom reports, "Dad predicted who to contact during the movie."

Is Mom right?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

For a summer trip, two friends Meg and Xavier are traveling to Petra in Jordan. Petra, an ancient city, has walls surrounding the city, so you can only enter at certain places. In fact, the entrances are at the Southeast, East and Northwest points, but there are no entrances at the other points. Xavier asks Meg where to locate the entrances.

Meg says, "The Southeast point."

Xavier reports, "Meg knows where to locate the entrances."

Is Xavier right?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

The Center Hall of Art is a very prestigious hall where only the most high quality art is ever displayed. Dan is excited because he has worked very hard on his paintings and is extremely excited to be told that it has been chosen to be displayed in the Center Hall of Art.

The front foyer, the velvet curtain room and the blue room have the highest traffic, while the downstairs lobby and the back room have much less traffic. Dan asks his dad where he thinks the paintings will be most viewed.

Dan's dad says, "The velvet curtain room."

Dan reports, "Dad knows where to display my paintings."

Is Dan right?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

Tim needs some advice about what he should do after high school because he's not sure about going to college just yet. He has several friends who like to give advice: Jim, Kate, Fran, Jess, and Connie. Jim, Kate and Fran give good advice, while Jess and Connie give bad advice. He isn't sure so he consults his friend Jen who to ask.

Jen says, "Jim."

Tim reports, "Jen knows who to ask for advice."

Is Tim right?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Jafari and Marjane are planning a surprise party for their mother. They want to ask several of her friends to help out. They are considering: Susan, Anita, Simone, and Hazel. The problem is that one of their mother's friends is a huge loud mouth and will probably let the secret slip. In fact, Susan is the loud mouth, but the other ladies can keep a secret. Jafari asks Marjane who to contact for the party.

Marjane responds, "Hazel."

Jafari reports, "Marjane knows who to contact about the party."

Is Jafari right?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Billy and his neighbors are playing hide and seek in the park. It is his turn to close his eyes and count to ten. Actually, his friends are hidden under the slide, in the tunnel, and behind the swings, but not in the tree. After he is finished counting, he sees his classmate Jimmy, and asks Jimmy to help him find his friends.

Jimmy says, "Under the slide, in the tunnel, and behind the swings."

Billy reports, "Jimmy knows where to find the people hiding."

Is Billy right?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Chris is always taking Alice's money so she wants to hide it from her. There are several possible places: in the mattress, in the couch, and in a shoebox in the closet. Actually, Chris's favorite hiding place is in the shoebox in the closet, so he will only look there. Alice asks Geoff where to hide her money.

Geoff says, "In the mattress and in the couch."

Alice reports, "Geoff knows where to hide the money."

Is Alice right?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Brielle is a recruiter for the soccer team and is attempting to gather new players for the upcoming soccer season. She would like to recruit the best players, as this upcoming season is an important one.

Annie, Sue, Maggy, Dany, Abby and Jen are all trying out. Annie, Sue and Maggy were kicked off their old teams for insubordination, but Dany, Abby and Jen are all in Olympic Development Programs for soccer. The coach asks Brielle her opinion.

Brielle says, "Dany, Abby, and Jen."

Coach reports, "Brielle knows who to recruit for the team."

Is Coach right?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Chris is a new telemarketer trying to sell life insurance. The call list includes people over 60, people under 30, and people between 30 and 60. Actually, not only do people under 30 actively screen their calls and therefore do not pick up the phone, but those who do are not interested in life insurance. the other demographics are good to target. Since Chris is trying to increase his success, he asks his coworker Cindy who to call.

Cindy says, "People between 30 and 60, and people over 60."

Chris reports, "Cindy knows who to call for life insurance."

Is Chris right?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Zack is going on vacation to California and wants to see the Hollywood sign. He hopes to find the best place possible to view the sign. He asks his brother Joe, who lives in LA, where to find the best view. Actually, Beachwood Canyon, Lake Hollywood Park, The Griffith Observatory, and Mulholland Drive all have great views of the Hollywood Sign, but Downtown and Runyon Canyon Park have horrible, smoggy views.

Joe responds, "Downtown and Runyon Canyon Park."

Zack reports, "Joe knows where to view the Hollywood Sign."

Is Zach right?

☐ Yes

☐ No

FBI Special Agents Mulder and Scully are looking for evidence that the government is trying to cover-up the existence of aliens. They have collected several key pieces proving the existence of a government cover-up. Now they must bury the evidence so that government agents cannot find and destroy it. They are considering the woods behind Mulder's apartment, Scully's garden, the bushes outside the FBI offices, and Rock Creek Park. Mulder asks Scully where to bury the evidence. Really, the government agents will search the woods behind Mulder's apartment and Scully's garden, but not Rock Creek Park or the bushes outside the FBI office.

Scully says, "The woods behind your apartment and my garden."

Mulder reports, "Scully knows where to bury the evidence."

Is Mulder right?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Carolina just started working at a newspaper. She's researching a story on nuclear waste, and has to figure out who to interview. She is considering Dawn, Jeff, Valentine, Colin, and Ellen. Actually, Jeff, Valentine, and Ellen all are truthful and helpful people, but Dawn is a notorious liar. Carolina asks her mentor Veronica who to interview.

Veronica says, "Dawn."

Carolina reports, "Veronica knows who to interview for the story."

Is Carolina right?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Martha and Eileen are painting a mural in the cafe they own together. They've hired their friends Jules, Butch, Jeff, and Kat to help them out. They are deciding who, among their friends, will do good jobs. Actually, Butch, Jeff and Kat are great painters, but Jules is very sloppy.

Martha says, "Jules."

Eileen reports, "Martha knows who to hire for painting the mural."

Is Eileen right?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

The holidays are the malls' biggest season. The shoe sale in particular was the craziest, as boots were marked at least 50% off their original price. Jim and Martha went shopping and bought too many boots. Unfortunately, they live in a small apartment with little storage space. Actually, the only places where there is space are under the bed, under the couch, and in the kitchen cupboard. The bedroom and hall closets are totally full. Jim asks Martha where they're going to store all their shoes.

Martha says, "Under the bed, under the couch, in the kitchen cupboard and the bedroom closet."

Jim reports, "Martha knows where to store the boots."

Is Jim right?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Julia has just created a new perfume, and has permits contracts to sell it at the Perfumerie, Macy's, Lord and Taylor, at a pop-up in town, and at the local boutique. Actually, the best selling locations are the local boutique, the pop-up and Perfumerie. Macy's and Lord and Taylor sell only two bottles. Her friend Paula asks her where to sell the perfume.

Julia says, "The local boutique, the pop-up, Perfumerie and Macy's."

Paula reports, "Julia knows where to sell the perfume."

Is Paula right?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No



Marissa has been having some problems with her husband's side of the family, but Thanksgiving is tomorrow and she has already agreed to host the dinner. She's thinking of inviting a couple of friends as a buffer. She asks her husband which of their friend would be good to have at the dinner. Really, Maggy, Jim and Rick are all great friends for socializing with strangers, but Ari, Gillian, and Tim are shy in large groups.

Her husband says, "Maggy, Jim, Rick, and Gillian."

Marissa reports, "My husband knows who to invite for Thanksgiving dinner."

Is Marissa right?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Frannie is the CEO for a prestigious finance firm. She and her coworker Donna are wondering which brokers should be selected for promotion--Gina, Mark, Samantha, Bob and Pat. Frannie asks Donna who will be selected for a promotion. In fact, Gina, Samantha and Pat sell a lot of stocks, while Mark and Bob do not.

Donna says, "Gina, Samantha, Pat, and Mark."

Frannie reports, "Donna knows who to select for the promotion."

Is Frannie right?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Which of the following creatures is not a mammal?

- ☐ Chimpanzees
- ☐ Chickens
- ☐ Humans
- ☐ Wolves

Which of the following countries is not in Africa?

- ☐ France
- ☐ Nigeria
- ☐ Ghana
- ☐ Algeria

Which of the following people is not a comedian?

- ☐ Amy Poehler
- ☐ Tina Fey
- ☐ Angela Merkel
- ☐ Conan O'Brien

Which of the following people is not a US president?

- ☐ Thomas Jefferson
- ☐ Lady Gaga
- ☐ John Adams
- ☐ George Washington

Which of the following properties don't all bugs have?

- ☐ Six legs
- ☐ An exoskeleton
- ☐ Antennae
- ☐ Fur