

Experimental Sentences by Factor: Relative Clause, Act-Out Task¹

Comprehension (Act-Out Task): Experimental Sentences by Design

Lexically Headed	
I. Concrete Headed	
Object Subject	Object Object
Big Bird touches the tissue which bangs Ernie. (A5)	Ernie touches the candy which Big Bird holds. (A2)
Scooter throws the tissue which hits Fozzie Bear. (B4)	Fozzie Bear kicks the balloon which Scooter hugs. (B2)
II. Empty Headed	
Ernie hugs the thing which hits Cookie Monster. (A4)	Cookie Monster hits the thing which Ernie throws. (A6)
Scooter hits the thing which touches Kermit the Frog. (B1)	Kermit Frog grabs the thing which Scooter kisses. (B5)
III. Free Relatives/Headless	
Big Bird kisses what touches Cookie Monster. (A1)	Cookie Monster eats what Big Bird kisses. (A3)
Fozzie bear touches what hits Kermit the Frog. (B6)	Scooter pushes what Kermit the Frog scratches. (B3)

¹Data from Flynn and Lust (1980).

Sentence Batteries (Randomized)

Pretraining sentences:

1. Ernie pushes Big Bird.
2. Cookie Monster fell down, and Ernie jumped up.
3. Cookie Monster turned around when he sat down.
4. Big Bird does something to Ernie.

Battery A:

1. Big Bird kisses what touches Cookie Monster.
2. Ernie touches the candy which Big Bird holds.
3. Cookie Monster eats what Big Bird kisses.
4. Ernie hugs the thing which hits Cookie Monster.
5. Big Bird touches the tissue which bangs Ernie.
6. Cookie Monster hits the thing which Ernie throws.

Battery B:

1. Scooter hits the things which touches Kermit the Frog.
5. Fozzie Bear kicks the balloon which Scooter hugs.
3. Scooter pushes what Kermit the Frog scratches.
6. Scooter throws the tissue which hits Fozzie Bear.
7. Kermit Frog grabs the thing which Scooter kisses.
8. Fozzie Bear touches what hits Kermit the Frog.