

A Stimuli and fillers of the experiment

Continuations *A*, *B_{with}* and *C* are displayed to the subjects under the *with competitor* condition, as well as in the fillers. Continuations *A*, *B_{no}* and *C* are displayed under the *no competitor* condition. Continuation *A* is set as the target in the stimulus questions, while continuations *B_{with}* or *C* are the targets in the fillers. The connective options are in the order: ambiguous / unambiguous / unrelated.

- 1 Hard work is the key to success... [and / also / unless]
A. patience is important.
B_{with}. honesty is the key to friendship.
B_{no}. you are always lucky.
C. you are a genius.

- 2 Harry was born in Scotland... [and / and then / but]
A. he lived in Glasgow for 20 years.
B_{with}. his ancestors had originated from Scotland.
B_{no}. both his parents are not Scottish.
C. he would not have said so.

- 3 I listened to music on my mobile phone... [while / when / because]
A. I was walking back home from work.
B_{with}. I knew there are more important things I should do instead.
B_{no}. it helped me to concentrate.
C. I was bored waiting for you for half an hour.

- 4 I will buy a bag for my son as promised... [or / otherwise / because]
A. he will be very disappointed.
B_{with}. I will buy him a watch instead.
B_{no}. he did well in his exams.
C. it is his birthday tomorrow.

- 5 You must have been studying this afternoon... [since / as / but]
A. I did not hear music from your room.
B_{with}. you came back from school.
B_{no}. it doesn't mean you will certainly get good marks in the exam.
C. John has been playing video games all the time.

- 6 I had been longing for a cup of coffee... [since / as / so]
A. you woke me up at five this morning.
B_{with}. the teacher of the first class came in.
B_{no}. I rushed to the cafeteria as soon as the bell rang.
C. please do me a favour and buy me an espresso.

- 7 I will finish this homework now... [then / after that / although]
A. I will go to chill with my friends.
B_{with}. I can have something to hand in tomorrow.
B_{no}. I don't know the answers for half of the questions.
C. it is not interesting at all.

- 8 Big cities are fun to visit ... [and / therefore / but]
A. I visit at least one of those every year.
B_{with}. they are usually easier to access as well.
B_{no}. surprisingly my sister prefers small towns.
C. unfortunately those places are often packed with tourists.

- 9 Your joints will feel better... [when / if / but]
A. you do these stretches regularly.
B_{wth.} the summer comes.
B_{no.} still you should not start running yet.
C. the symptom will never go away unfortunately.
- 10 The older children stopped talking at once... [as / since / but]
A. they understood that it was not a joke.
B_{wth.} the train approached the station.
B_{no.} that lasted for a minute only.
C. the younger ones were still noisy.
- 11 Jane finished the obstacle course the fastest... [and / so / but]
A. she ended up winning the first prize overall.
B_{wth.} Mary finished it very quickly, too.
B_{no.} she was disqualified.
C. still she could not win.
- 12 I started to watch over my calorie intake... [since / as / so]
A. you said I ate too much.
B_{wth.} I moved back to my parents'.
B_{no.} I might finally be able to lose some weight.
C. you'd better not offer me chocolates and chips.
- 13 Let's just follow Peter's idea... [or / otherwise / because]
A. we will never finish the project on time.
B_{wth.} we can adopt Tom's alternative instead.
B_{no.} no one is suggesting anything better.
C. I think his idea is simple but great.
- 14 Maggie grabbed her coat and sweater... [as / while / but]
A. she followed the crowd into the playground.
B_{wth.} it was snowing outside.
B_{no.} Tom went out with short sleeves.
C. she did not take her hat.
- 15 Mark was almost an hour late to the station last evening... [while / but / and]
A. Harry was even two hours late.
B_{wth.} he was on his way to London.
B_{no.} he even said he was going to quit.
C. he was late again this morning.
- 16 Dave ordered a tall glass of fine scotch... [as / since / but]
A. we could order what ever we want.
B_{wth.} the host was giving a speech.
B_{no.} he could not finish half of it.
C. Mary just ordered a soft drink.
- 17 Mary always wore a fancy dress to a ball... [when / if / whereas]
A. her boyfriend was going as well.
B_{wth.} she was at her 20s.
B_{no.} she did not care much about her hair.
C. she dressed casually to work.

- 18 That pizzeria has always been my favourite... [since / as / but]
 A. I like Italian food a lot.
B_{wth.} I had dinner with Jill there two years ago.
B_{no.} my boyfriend doesn't really like it.
 C. I think this restaurant is not bad, too.
- 19 My parents will visit Canada again in December... [and / and then / although]
 A. they will visit South America in spring.
B_{wth.} it will be their third visit in two years.
B_{no.} the air tickets are expensive in that season.
 C. they hate cold weather.
- 20 I am sure David will burst into tears... [when / if / but]
 A. his children come to visit one day.
B_{wth.} he comes home tonight.
B_{no.} Kathy probably will not react much.
 C. that will be tears of happiness.
- 21 Leo is taking orders from the guests... [while / at the same time / so]
 A. George is serving the food.
B_{wth.} there are too many tables for him to serve alone.
B_{no.} he is not able to pick up the call right now.
 C. have patience, he will come to our table sooner or later.
- 22 Peter was watching the baseball match on TV this morning... [while / at the same time / because]
 A. his wife was making breakfast for him in the kitchen.
B_{wth.} he didn't understand the rules at all.
B_{no.} there were not any other good shows on TV.
 C. he recently became a fan of the team that was playing.
- 23 Please buy some fruits for me... [and / and then / if]
 A. come home immediately afterwards.
B_{wth.} don't forget the milk.
B_{no.} you still have money left.
 C. you pass by a supermarket.
- 24 Sam is going on a business trip to Seoul... [while / at the same time / and]
 A. his children are going to a summer camp.
B_{wth.} he is not very optimistic about the Korean market.
B_{no.} he will come back with signed contracts.
 C. later he will travel to Japan for an exhibition.
- 25 That task took me a lot of time... [and / so / but]
 A. I expected a higher reward.
B_{wth.} it was so boring.
B_{no.} it was not the worst.
 C. I enjoyed doing it.
- 26 The carnival was held on the main street for a week... [while / at the meantime / because]
 A. a film festival was being held in the same period.
B_{wth.} it was held in the park for only one day.
B_{no.} the central park was not big enough.
 C. people complained that three days were too short.

- 27 The cat always behaves weird at night ... [when / if / but]
A. we have a visitor at home.
B_{wth.} dad comes back from work early.
B_{no.} she was normal last night.
C. she will be fine the next morning.
- 28 The cleaning lady will come to clean our house in the morning... [and / also / otherwise]
A. she will wash the cars.
B_{wth.} we can just leave the dishes in the kitchen.
B_{no.} we will have to do it ourselves.
C. I think the house will just be in a mess forever.
- 29 The current situation is likely to change... [while / however / before]
A. our standard of living is unlikely to improve.
B_{wth.} the management is planning the next move.
B_{no.} the summer holiday starts.
C. you even notice it.
- 30 The talk will be delayed for an hour... [meanwhile / however / because]
A. the conference room is already full of people.
B_{wth.} people are having a coffee break.
B_{no.} there is a technical problem.
C. the speaker is coming late.
- 31 The teddy bear dropped from the baby's hand... [and / and then / as]
A. he cried aloud.
B_{wth.} he has dropped it twice in a minute.
B_{no.} he fell asleep.
C. the stroller entered the elevator.
- 32 That tennis player has been losing his matches... [since / as / but]
A. we know he is still recovering from the injury.
B_{wth.} the season started.
B_{no.} he was close in every match.
C. his coach believes that he still has chance.
- 33 The next concert will be held this summer here in this city... [and / so / but]
A. we are definitely going.
B_{wth.} I heard that it will be an outdoor concert.
B_{no.} unfortunately I cannot go this time.
C. the dates are not yet confirmed.
- 34 We fell asleep immediately... [as / whilst / but]
A. the moon rose higher in the sky.
B_{wth.} we had been working the whole day.
B_{no.} we woke up shortly in the middle of the night.
C. the kids stayed up until early in the morning..
- 35 We should not walk but take the bus... [or / alternatively / although]
A. we can take a taxi instead.
B_{wth.} we will not arrive on time.
B_{no.} it would have been nice to walk through the forest.
C. it is still not the fastest way to get there.
- 36 You should bring something to eat... [or / otherwise / although]
A. you will starve yourself.
B_{wth.} alternatively, you can bring some drinks.
B_{no.} it is not compulsory.
C. some snacks will be served there.