

Exercise 3.0 Sentence predictability

Speaker Copy

Instructions to the Speaker

- 1 Give the listener their copy of the written sentences presented on page 209.
- 2 Say the entire sentence, including the missing word or phrase. Present the missing word or phrase under limited accessibility (for example, visual-only or in background noise). Missing word and phrase suggestions are given below, or you can make up your own to suit the listener's needs.
- 3 Ask the listener to repeat or write down the missing word or phrase.
- 4 Once the sentences are completed, discuss with the listener the influence of within-sentence context cues (primarily lexical and semantic) on the perception of missing portions of the sentence.

High predictability sentences

- 1 He was so angry, he slammed the
Missing word suggestion: door
- 2 My car has another flat
Missing word suggestion: tire
- 3 Please wipe your on the mat.
Missing word suggestion: feet
- 4 Don't forget to water the
Missing word suggestion: plants
- 5 The little girl clapped her
Missing word suggestion: hands
- 6 Dig the over here, by this bush.
Missing word suggestion: hole
- 7 He baked a cake for her birthday.
Missing word suggestion: chocolate
- 8 Would you like another cup of?
Missing word suggestion: coffee

Moderate predictability sentences

- 1 My dog refuses to eat
Missing word suggestions: dog food; chicken

¹⁰⁶ Source: Erber, 1996

2 We've just moved from South
Missing word suggestions: Australia; America

3 She and her husband have children.
Missing word suggestions: three; five

4 The flew away when we got close.
Missing word suggestions: birds; geese

5 He gave the bicycle to the boy.
Missing word suggestions: red; brand new

6 This radio has a broken
Missing word suggestions: dial; speaker

7 We fed some bread to the
Missing word suggestions: ducks; black swans

8 We saw in the barn.
Missing word suggestions: chickens; hay bales

Low predictability sentences

1 We often talked about the
Missing word suggestions: weather; news headlines; gravy

2 After dinner, she showed me the
Missing word suggestions: bathroom; vacation, photos; dishwasher

3 I just bought a
Missing word suggestions: house; second-hand car; loaf of bread

4 He didn't know about the
Missing word suggestions: new book; missing van; sale

5 Please don't ask me about the
Missing word suggestions: accident; latest current affairs; broken windows

6 I've never heard of a
Missing word suggestions: talking hamster; two-headed ghost; blue-ringed octopus

7 Do you have a?
Missing word suggestions: new car; second bathroom; spare key

8 We couldn't remember the name of the
Missing word suggestions: hotel; art gallery; film

Exercise 3.0 Sentence predictability

Listener Copy

Instructions to the Listener

- 1 The sentences below all have missing words or phrases.
- 2 The speaker will read the entire sentence, including the missing word or phrase.
- 3 Repeat or write down the missing word or phrase.

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- 2 My car has another flat
- 3 Please wipe your on the mat.
- 4 Don't forget to water the
- 5 The little girl clapped her
- 6 Dig the over here, by this bush.
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- 8 Would you like another cup of?

Moderate predictability sentences

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- 2 We've just moved from South
- 3 She and her husband have children.
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- 6 This radio has a broken
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- 2 After dinner, she showed me the
- 3 I just bought a
- 4 He didn't know about the
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- 6 I've never heard of a
- 7 Do you have a?
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