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Experiment 3 Materials

GERNSBACHER, M. A., VARNER, K. R., & FAUST, M. (1990). Investigating differences in general comprehension skill. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, 16, 430-445. [[Link to PDF](#)]

Story 1 (Written)

1

A: Sam could hardly wait for the weekend this particular week.

B: This particular week Sam could hardly wait for the weekend.

2

A: Saturday would be the first meeting of his newly formed club.

B: The first meeting of his newly formed club would be Saturday.

3

A: All the members arrived at his club house early in the morning.

B: Early in the morning all the members arrived at his club house.

4

A: "Why isn't Susan or Cindy here?" asked one of the members.

B: One of the members asked, "Why isn't Susan or Cindy here?"

5

A: Sam replied, "Because no girls are allowed in my special club."

B: Sam replied, "Because in my special club no girls are allowed."

6

A: Another member asked, "Why isn't Jeffrey or Robert here?"

B: "Why isn't Jeffrey or Robert here?" asked another member.

7

A: Sam said, "Because in my club no one with red hair is allowed."

B: Sam said, "Because no one with red hair is allowed in my club."

8

A: Another member asked, "How about Kenny, Steve, Ted, and Mark?"

B: Another member asked, "How about Ted, Mark, Steve, and Kenny?"

9

A: "No one who has blue eyes is allowed to join," Sam replied.

B: "No one is allowed to join who has blue eyes," Sam replied.

10

A: Every Saturday after that Sam’s special club was to meet.

B: Sam’s special club was to meet every Saturday after that.

11

A: But each week fewer and fewer of the members would show up.

B: But fewer and fewer of the members would show up each week.

12

A: Finally no one else except Sam showed up one Saturday.

B: Finally one Saturday no one else except Sam showed up.

13

A: All Sam’s friends had resigned from his club and had joined a better one.

B: All Sam’s friends had joined a better club and had resigned from his.

14

A: Because it allowed girls to join this club was really special.

B: This club was really special because it allowed girls to join.

15

A: Anyone was welcome in with any color eyes or hair.

B: Anyone with any color eyes or hair was welcome in.

16

A: Perhaps because even Sam could join it was the most special.

B: Perhaps it was the most special because even Sam could join.

Counterbalance Scheme

Condition	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
READY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	01A	01A	01B	01B	12A	12A	12B	12B
	02A	02A	02B	02B	02A	02A	02B	02B
	03A	03A	03B	03B	07A	07A	07B	07B
	04A	04A	04B	04B	16A	16A	16B	16B
	05A	05A	05B	05B	01A	01A	01B	01B
	06A	06A	06B	06B	08A	08A	08B	08B
	07A	07A	07B	07B	13A	13A	13B	13B
	08A	08A	08B	08B	11A	11A	11B	11B
TEST	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Test1	02A	01B	02A	01B	02A	12A	02A	12A
Test1	04B	03B	04B	03B	16A	07B	16A	07B
Test1	05A	06A	05A	06A	01B	08A	01B	08A
Test1	07B	08A	07B	08A	13B	11B	13B	11B

Condition	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
THE STORY CONTINUES...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	09A	09A	09B	09B	05A	05A	05B	05B
	10A	10A	10B	10B	15A	15A	15B	15B
	11A	11A	11B	11B	10A	10A	10B	10B
	12A	12A	12B	12B	04A	04A	04B	04B
	13A	13A	13B	13B	14A	14A	14B	14B
	14A	14A	14B	14B	09A	09A	09B	09B
	15A	15A	15B	15B	03A	03A	03B	03B
	16A	16A	16B	16B	06A	06A	06B	06B
TEST	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Test1	09B	10A	09B	10A	05A	15B	05A	15B
Test1	11B	13B	11B	13B	10A	14A	10A	14A
Test1	12A	15B	12A	15B	04B	03B	04B	03B
Test1	14A	16A	14A	16A	09B	06A	09B	06A
Test2	01B	02A	01B	02A	12A	02A	12A	02A
Test2	03B	04B	03B	04B	07B	16A	07B	16A
Test2	06A	05A	06A	05A	08A	01B	08A	01B
Test2	08A	07B	08A	07B	11B	13B	11B	13B
Test2	10A	09B	10A	09B	15B	05A	15B	05A
Test2	13B	11B	13B	11B	14A	10A	14A	10A
Test2	15B	12A	15B	12A	03B	04B	03B	04B
Test2	16A	14A	16A	14A	06A	09B	06A	09B
SUMMARY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Story 2 (Oral)

1

A: Ann Hamilton was a twelve-year-old girl who was very shy.

B: Ann Hamilton was a very shy girl who was twelve years old.

2

A: No one ever heard what she said because she talked so softly.

B: Because she talked so softly no one ever heard what she said.

3

A: When her teacher asked for questions she would never raise her hand.

B: She would never raise her hand when her teacher asked for questions.

4

A: She was scared to join the others in jumping rope at recess.

B: At recess she was scared to join the others in jumping rope.

5

A: Instead she would just wander around the school yard by herself.

B: She would just wander around the school yard by herself instead.

6

A: A new girl whose name was Jane Bannister came to school one day.

B: One day a new girl came to school whose name was Jane Bannister.

7

A: When Ann was off by herself at recess Jane walked up behind her.

B: Jane walked up behind Ann when she was off by herself at recess.

8

A: Ann asked Jane, "Why aren't you jumping rope with the other girls?"

B: "Why aren't you jumping rope with the other girls?," Ann asked Jane.

9

A: "I'm too scared to ask them to let me play," Jane confessed.

B: Jane confessed, "I'm too scared to ask them to let me play."

10

A: So the two girls made their own jump rope by stringing flowers together.

B: So by stringing flowers together the two girls made their own jump rope.

11

A: Jane brought a real jump rope the next day and the two had more fun.

B: The next day Jane brought a real jump rope and the two had more fun.

12

A: Ann told Jane that she liked her company and Jane said the same.

B: Jane told Ann that she liked her company and Ann said the same.

13

A: From being friends with Jane Ann developed more self confidence.
B: Ann developed more self confidence from being friends with Jane.

14

A: She spoke up when she talked and people heard what she had to say.
B: When she talked she spoke up and people heard what she had to say.

15

A: In class she would raise her hand and the teacher would call on her.
B: She would raise her hand in class and the teacher would call on her.

16:

A Now Ann and Jane jumped rope with all the other girls at recess.
B: At recess Ann and Jane now jumped rope with all the other girls.

Counterbalance Scheme

Condition	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
READY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	15A	15A	15B	15B	01A	01A	01B	01B
	06A	06A	06B	06B	02A	02A	02B	02B
	02A	02A	02B	02B	03A	03A	03B	03B
	10A	10A	10B	10B	04A	04A	04B	04B
	05A	05A	05B	05B	05A	05A	05B	05B
	01A	01A	01B	01B	06A	06A	06B	06B
	12A	12A	12B	12B	07A	07A	07B	07B
	16A	16A	16B	16B	08A	08A	08B	08B
TEST	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Test1	15B	06A	15B	06A	01A	02A	01A	02A
Test1	02A	10B	02A	10B	03B	04B	03B	04B
Test1	05B	01A	05B	01A	05B	06A	05B	06A
Test1	16A	12B	16A	12B	08A	07B	08A	07B
THE STORY CONTINUES...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	04A	04A	04B	04B	09A	09A	09B	09B
	11A	11A	11B	11B	10A	10A	10B	10B
	14A	14A	14B	14B	11A	11A	11B	11B
	07A	07A	07B	07B	12A	12A	12B	12B
	09A	09A	09B	09B	13A	13A	13B	13B
	13A	13A	13B	13B	14A	14A	14B	14B
	08A	08A	08B	08B	15A	15A	15B	15B
	03A	03A	03B	03B	16A	16A	16B	16B
TEST	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Condition	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Test1	04B	14A	04B	14A	09A	11B	09A	11B
Test1	11B	07B	11B	07B	10B	12B	10B	12B
Test1	09A	13A	09A	13A	13A	14A	13A	14A
Test1	08A	03B	08A	03B	15B	16A	15B	16A
Test2	06A	15B	06A	15B	02A	01A	02A	01A
Test2	10B	02A	10B	02A	04B	03B	04B	03B
Test2	01A	05B	01A	05B	06A	05B	06A	05B
Test2	12B	16A	12B	16A	07B	08A	07B	08A
Test2	14A	04B	14A	04B	11B	09A	11B	09A
Test2	07B	11B	07B	11B	12B	10B	12B	10B
Test2	13A	09A	13A	09A	14A	13A	14A	13A
Test2	03B	08A	03B	08A	16A	15B	16A	15B
PLEASE WRITE YOUR SUMMARIES...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Story 3 (Pictures)

Images for this picture story are available upon request (GernsbacherLab@gmail.com)

Counterbalance Scheme

Condition	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
READY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	01A	01A	01B	01B	06A	06A	06B	06B
	02A	02A	02B	02B	11A	11A	11B	11B
	03A	03A	03B	03B	16A	16A	16B	16B
	04A	04A	04B	04B	02A	02A	02B	02B
	05A	05A	05B	05B	09A	09A	09B	09B
	06A	06A	06B	06B	14A	14A	14B	14B
	07A	07A	07B	07B	01A	01A	01B	01B
	08A	08A	08B	08B	08A	08A	08B	08B
TEST	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Test1	02B	01A	02B	01A	11B	06B	11B	06B
Test1	03A	04A	03A	04A	16A	02B	16A	02B
Test1	05A	06B	05A	06B	09B	14A	09B	14A
Test1	07B	08B	07B	08B	01A	08B	01A	08B
THE STORY CONTINUES...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	09A	09A	09B	09B	15A	15A	15B	15B
	10A	10A	10B	10B	04A	04A	04B	04B
	11A	11A	11B	11B	07A	07A	07B	07B
	12A	12A	12B	12B	12A	12A	12B	12B
	13A	13A	13B	13B	03A	03A	03B	03B
	14A	14A	14B	14B	05A	05A	05B	05B
	15A	15A	15B	15B	10A	10A	10B	10B
	16A	16A	16B	16B	13A	13A	13B	13B
TEST	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Test1	09B	10A	09B	10A	15B	04A	15B	04A
Test1	11B	12B	11B	12B	07B	12B	07B	12B
Test1	13A	14A	13A	14A	03A	05A	03A	05A
Test1	16A	15B	16A	15B	13A	10A	13A	10A
Test2	01A	02B	01A	02B	06B	11B	06B	11B
Test2	04A	03A	04A	03A	02B	16A	02B	16A
Test2	06B	05A	06B	05A	14A	09B	14A	09B
Test2	08B	07B	08B	07B	08B	01A	08B	01A
Test2	10A	09B	10A	09B	04A	15B	04A	15B
Test2	12B	11B	12B	11B	12B	07B	12B	07B

Condition	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Test2	14A	13A	14A	13A	05A	03A	05A	03A
Test2	15B	16A	15B	16A	10A	13A	10A	13A
SUMMARY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Story 4 (Pictures)

Images for this picture story are available upon request (GernsbacherLab@gmail.com)

Counterbalance Scheme

Condition	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
READY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	12A	12A	12B	12B	01A	01A	01B	01B
	02A	02A	02B	02B	02A	02A	02B	02B
	07A	07A	07B	07B	03A	03A	03B	03B
	16A	16A	16B	16B	04A	04A	04B	04B
	01A	01A	01B	01B	05A	05A	05B	05B
	08A	08A	08B	08B	06A	06A	06B	06B
	13A	13A	13B	13B	07A	07A	07B	07B
	11A	11A	11B	11B	08A	08A	08B	08B
TEST	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Test1	02A	12A	02A	12A	02A	01B	02A	01B
Test1	16A	07B	16A	07B	04B	03B	04B	03B
Test1	01B	08A	01B	08A	05A	06A	05A	06A
Test1	13B	11B	13B	11B	07B	08A	07B	08A
THE STORY CONTINUES...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	05A	05A	05B	05B	09A	09A	09B	09B
	15A	15A	15B	15B	10A	10A	10B	10B
	10A	10A	10B	10B	11A	11A	11B	11B
	04A	04A	04B	04B	12A	12A	12B	12B
	14A	14A	14B	14B	13A	13A	13B	13B
	09A	09A	09B	09B	14A	14A	14B	14B
	03A	03A	03B	03B	15A	15A	15B	15B
	06A	06A	06B	06B	16A	16A	16B	16B
TEST	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Test1	05A	15B	05A	15B	09B	10A	09B	10A
Test1	10A	14A	10A	14A	11B	13B	11B	13B
Test1	04B	03B	04B	03B	12A	15B	12A	15B
Test1	09B	06A	09B	06A	14A	16A	14A	16A
Test2	12A	02A	12A	02A	01B	02A	01B	02A
Test2	07B	16A	07B	16A	03B	04B	03B	04B
Test2	08A	01B	08A	01B	06A	05A	06A	05A
Test2	11B	13B	11B	13B	08A	07B	08A	07B
Test2	15B	05A	15B	05A	10A	09B	10A	09B
Test2	14A	10A	14A	10A	13B	11B	13B	11B

Condition	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Test2	03B	04B	03B	04B	15B	12A	15B	12A
Test2	06A	09B	06A	09B	16A	14A	16A	14A
SUMMARY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Story 5 (Oral)

1

A: Jim visited his grandmother at the beach every summer.

B: Every summer Jim visited his grandmother at the beach.

2

A: Somehow Jim sensed that this summer would be very special.

B: Jim sensed somehow that this summer would be very special.

3

A: He went out to collect sea shells the day after he arrived.

B: The day after he arrived he went out to collect sea shells.

4

A: When a thunderstorm started blowing in he ran for cover.

B: He ran for cover when a thunderstorm started blowing in.

5

A: He waited out the storm huddled safely inside a rock cave.

B: Huddled safely inside a rock cave he waited out the storm.

6

A: From deep inside the cave he thought he heard puppies crying.

B: He thought he heard puppies crying from deep inside the cave.

7

A: Soon he spotted two puppies one black and the other brown.

B: Soon he spotted two puppies one brown and the other black.

8

A: When the storm was over he showed his grandmother what he'd found.

B: He showed his grandmother what he'd found when the storm was over.

9

A: Back home they fed the puppies some milk and built a cozy fire.

B: Back home they built a cozy fire and fed the puppies some milk.

10

A: The rest of the summer Jim played with his special puppy friends.

B: Jim played with his special puppy friends the rest of the summer.

11

A: They often played on the seashore, and in the house and the yard.

B: They played in the house, in the yard, and often on the seashore.

12

A: The brown puppy liked the house; the black one preferred the beach.

B: The black puppy preferred the beach; the brown one liked the house.

13

A: Jim faced a difficult decision at the end of the summer.

B: At the end of the summer Jim faced a difficult decision.

14

A: Back in the city his home was too small for two full grown dogs.

B: His home back in the city was too small for two full grown dogs.

15

A: He left the black one with grandma since it was really a beach dog.

B: Since it was really a beach dog he left the black one with grandma.

16

A: But each summer Jim and the brown dog would come back to visit.

B: But Jim and the brown dog would come back to visit each summer.

Counterbalance Scheme

Condition	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
READY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	01A	01A	01B	01B	15A	15A	15B	15B
	02A	02A	02B	02B	06A	06A	06B	06B
	03A	03A	03B	03B	02A	02A	02B	02B
	04A	04A	04B	04B	10A	10A	10B	10B
	05A	05A	05B	05B	05A	05A	05B	05B
	06A	06A	06B	06B	01A	01A	01B	01B
	07A	07A	07B	07B	12A	12A	12B	12B
	08A	08A	08B	08B	16A	16A	16B	16B
TEST	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Test1	01A	02A	01A	02A	15B	06A	15B	06A
Test1	03B	04B	03B	04B	02A	10B	02A	10B
Test1	05B	06A	05B	06A	05B	01A	05B	01A
Test1	08A	07B	08A	07B	16A	12B	16A	12B
THE STORY CONTINUES...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	09A	09A	09B	09B	04A	04A	04B	04B
	10A	10A	10B	10B	11A	11A	11B	11B
	11A	11A	11B	11B	14A	14A	14B	14B
	12A	12A	12B	12B	07A	07A	07B	07B
	13A	13A	13B	13B	09A	09A	09B	09B
	14A	14A	14B	14B	13A	13A	13B	13B
	15A	15A	15B	15B	08A	08A	08B	08B
	16A	16A	16B	16B	03A	03A	03B	03B
TEST	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Condition	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Test1	09A	11B	09A	11B	04B	14A	04B	14A
Test1	10B	12B	10B	12B	11B	07B	11B	07B
Test1	13A	14A	13A	14A	09A	13A	09A	13A
Test1	15B	16A	15B	16A	08A	03B	08A	03B
Test2	02A	01A	02A	01A	06A	15B	06A	15B
Test2	04B	03B	04B	03B	10B	02A	10B	02A
Test2	06A	05B	06A	05B	01A	05B	01A	05B
Test2	07B	08A	07B	08A	12B	16A	12B	16A
Test2	11B	09A	11B	09A	14A	04B	14A	04B
Test2	12B	10B	12B	10B	07B	11B	07B	11B
Test2	14A	13A	14A	13A	13A	09A	13A	09A
Test2	16A	15B	16A	15B	03B	08A	03B	08A
PLEASE WRITE YOUR SUMMARIES...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Story 6 (Written)

1

A: John had just begun first grade and was all of six years old.

B: John was all of six years old and had just begun first grade.

2

A: John wanted to play baseball more than anything else in the world.

B: More than anything else in the world John wanted to play baseball.

3

A: Up at bat he'd swing real hard but he could never hit the ball.

B: He'd swing real hard up at bat but he could never hit the ball.

4

A: He'd run real fast out in the field but he couldn't catch the ball.

B: Out in the field he'd run real fast but he couldn't catch the ball.

5

A: When the boys played at school none of them wanted him on their team.

B: None of the boys wanted him on their team when they played at school.

6

A: One day John's big brother Tom heard some of John's schoolmates talking.

B: John's big brother Tom heard some of John's schoolmates talking one day.

7

A: Since it sounded pretty bad Tom decided that he should help.

B: Tom decided that he should help since it sounded pretty bad.

8

A: Every day after school Tom played ball with his little brother.

B: Tom played ball with his little brother every day after school.

9

A: Every night they practiced until it was too dark to see the ball.

B: They practiced every night until it was too dark to see the ball.

10

A: Before long John could hit and catch every ball that Tom would throw.

B: Before long every ball that Tom would throw John could hit and catch.

11

A: One day the boys at school were picking teams for a baseball game.

B: One day at school the boys were picking teams for a baseball game.

12

A: John was the very last person to be chosen as usual.

B: As usual John was the very last person to be chosen.

13

A: When it was John's turn up at bat the rest of the team all moaned.

B: The rest of the team all moaned when it was John's turn up at bat.

14

A: John scored a home run after hitting the ball way over the fence.

B: After hitting the ball way over the fence John scored a home run.

15

A: When his team was out in the field John caught three fly balls.

B: John caught three fly balls when his team was out in the field.

16

A: John was never the last one chosen for a team after that day.

B: After that day John was never the last one chosen for a team.

Counterbalance Scheme

Condition	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
READY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	06A	01A	06B	06B	01A	06A	01B	01B
	11A	02A	11B	11B	02A	11A	02B	02B
	16A	03A	16B	16B	03A	16A	03B	03B
	02A	04A	02B	02B	04A	02A	04B	04B
	09A	05A	09B	09B	05A	09A	05B	05B
	14A	06A	14B	14B	06A	14A	06B	06B
	01A	07A	01B	01B	07A	01A	07B	07B
	08A	08A	08B	08B	08A	08A	08B	08B
TEST	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Test1	11B	01A	11B	06B	02B	06B	02B	01A
Test1	16A	04A	16A	02B	03A	02B	03A	04A
Test1	09B	06B	09B	14A	05A	14A	05A	06B
Test1	01A	08B	01A	08B	07B	08B	07B	08B
THE STORY CONTINUES...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	15A	09A	15B	15B	09A	15A	09B	09B
	04A	10A	04B	04B	10A	04A	10B	10B
	07A	11A	07B	07B	11A	07A	11B	11B
	12A	12A	12B	12B	12A	12A	12B	12B
	03A	13A	03B	03B	13A	03A	13B	13B
	05A	14A	05B	05B	14A	05A	14B	14B
	10A	15A	10B	10B	15A	10A	15B	15B
	13A	16A	13B	13B	16A	13A	16B	16B
TEST	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Condition	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Test1	15B	10A	15B	04A	09B	04A	09B	10A
Test1	07B	12B	07B	12B	11B	12B	11B	12B
Test1	03A	14A	03A	05A	13A	05A	13A	14A
Test1	13A	15B	13A	10A	16A	10A	16A	15B
Test2	06B	02B	06B	11B	01A	11B	01A	02B
Test2	02B	03A	02B	16A	04A	16A	04A	03A
Test2	14A	05A	14A	09B	06B	09B	06B	05A
Test2	08B	07B	08B	01A	08B	01A	08B	07B
Test2	04A	09B	04A	15B	10A	15B	10A	09B
Test2	12B	11B	12B	07B	12B	07B	12B	11B
Test2	05A	13A	05A	03A	14A	03A	14A	13A
Test2	10A	16A	10A	13A	15B	13A	15B	16A
SUMMARY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-