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Homographs

GERNSBACHER, M. A., & FAUST, M. (1991). The mechanism of suppression: A component of general comprehension skill. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, 17, 245-262. [[View PDF](#)]

U = Context is unbiased toward either meaning of the homograph

B = Context is biased toward the meaning of the probe word

JAIL

U: He described the cell

B: He walked around in the cell

ACCUSATION

U: He made the charge

B: He denied the charge

BALL

U: He saw the bat

B: He swung the bat

MACHINE

U: He saw the crane

B: He operated the crane

DOG

U: She recognized the bark

B: She heard the bark

FISH

U: He saw the bass

B: He caught the bass

GOAT

U: He fed the kid

B: He bought the kid

FIRE

U: She thought about the match

B: She blew out the match

HOTEL

U: He wasn't impressed by the lobby

B: He met in the lobby

FRUIT

U: She hated dates

B: She ate some dates

CONTAINER

U: He closed the case

B: He made a wooden case

CHALK

U: She approached the board

B: She wrote on the board

KING

U: She saw the ruler

B: She obeyed her ruler

MINUTE

U: She knew a second

B: She waited for a second

RAIN

U: He waited for the showers

B: He forecasted showers

CEMETARY

U: He saw the plot

B: He was buried in the plot

STUDENT

U: He looked at his pupils

B: He instructed his pupils

MUSIC

U: She didn't recognize the note

B: She didn't play the note

TOY

U: He pointed to the top

B: He played with the top

JELLY

U: She avoided the jam

B: She ate the jam

GAME

U: She hadn't ever heard of squash

B: She played squash

BROKEN

U: He hated the cast

B: He applied the cast

LOCK

U: She pointed to the correct keys

B: She opened the door with the keys

DRINK

U: She avoided the punch

B: She tried the punch

CHEESE

U: She looked at the mold

B: She grew some mold

DUCK

U: She was annoyed by the quack

B: She heard a sound like a quack

HOLE

U: He forgot about the pit

B: He dug the pit

TOCK

U: She was bothered by the tick

B: She heard the tick

BIT

U: He began the drill

B: He bought the drill

OVEN

U: He became familiar with the range

B: He used the range

ZOO

U: She examined the seal

B: She trained the seal

SHOE

U: She picked up the sole

B: She mended the sole

STICK

U: He bought the club

B: He swung the club

SIGNAL

U: She picked up the cue
B: She understood the cue

WART

U: She carefully looked at the mole
B: She had a mole

RIP

U: He looked down at the tear
B: He mended the tear

COMMAND

U: He announced the order
B: He gave the order

HEAD

U: She defined the word "temple"
B: She rubbed her temple

FINGER

U: She adjusted the ring
B: She put on the ring

STONE

U: He talked about the rock
B: He threw the rock

SEASON

U: She studied the spring
B: She looked forward to spring

DELAY

U: He was responsible for the stall
B: He wanted to stall

COUNTRY

U: She liked china
B: She went to China

DULL

U: She said it was blunt
B: She said the knife was blunt

DIFFICULT

U: He said the stuff was hard
B: He said the test was hard

TRASH

U: He was surprised by the litter
B: He took out the litter

BRACELET

U: She was proud of her charm
B: She bought the charm

INSTRUMENT

U: He needed the organ
B: He played the organ

FOLLOWER

U: He wished there were more fans
B: He cheered with the fans

FUNERAL

U: He avoided the wake
B: He attended the wake

CATHOLIC

U: She observed the mass
B: She attended the mass

DOPE

U: He picked up the pot
B: He smoked the pot

WISE

U: He recognized the sage
B: He consulted the sage

SWIM

U: She read the word "pool"
B: She played in the pool

WAITER

U: He picked up the tip
B: She left a big tip

FACTORY

U: He moved closer to the plant
B: He worked at the plant

SHIP

U: He looked at the deck
B: He walked on the deck

WOOD

U: He disliked the panel
B: He nailed up the panel

WORM

U: He felt the slug
B: He stepped on the slug

WATER

U: He enjoyed some bridge
B: He jumped from some bridge

JUSTICE

U: She looked very fair
B: She never acted fair

LEFT

U: She searched for the right
B: She turned to the right

RUMMY

U: He often enjoyed gin
B: He played some gin

COW

U: She was annoyed by the beef
B: She ate the beef

POISE

U: She didn't remember her grace
B: She was full of grace

COINS

U: She waited for the change
B: She counted the change

PENCIL

U: She wanted the lead
B: She sharpened the lead

TREASURE

U: He admired the chest
B: He found the chest

GLASS

U: She noticed the pitcher
B: She filled up the pitcher

LECTURER

U: She picked up the speaker
B: She introduced the speaker

SHOVEL

U: He picked up the spade
B: He dug with the spade

GIFT

U: She liked the present
B: She wrapped up the present

ARROW

U: He moved the bow
B: He shot with the bow

BEER

U: He didn't like the draft
B: He drank the draft

LEG

U: She cut one foot
B: She stepped on one foot

CANDY

U: She saw the mint
B: She tasted the mint

CABINET

U: She picked up the file
B: She read over the file

TENNIS

U: She wasn't happy with the racket
B: She picked up her racket

CLOTHES

U: She held the iron
B: She plugged in the iron.

LEDGE

U: She saw the perch.
B: She sat on the perch.

FEATHERS

She tried to duck

BARN

She held the object stable

FAKE

She climbed to the top of the bluff

HANDS

He fired the arms

MINOR

He was promoted to Major

NECKLACE

He ran around the diamond

PLANE

He swatted the fly

HAMMER

She lost a pound

BREAD

He often loafed

BOOK

He was hard to page

KITCHEN

She did not want to sink

BUTTER

She had to roll

TOOL

She began to shed

SKY

She was a movie star

AIR

He forgot to wind

FATIGUE

He fixed the tire

HAY

She drank through the straw

FLOWER

He always rose early

CORN

She tried to stalk

CHIPS

He jabbed with a poker

FOOL

She was supposed to jerk

JOKE

She started to gag

ROB

He drank from the mug

BOUNCE

She was invited to the ball

FLAME

He got fired

FIX

He took a five-minute break

NUMBER

She had never seen a Count

RIVER

She made a withdrawal from the bank

TREE

He began to leave

SHELL

He acted like a nut

BAD

She wore a habit

EGG

He lowered the hatch

WRINKLE

She was a member of the press

SEE

She cleaned off the saw

WORDS

He was captured by the spell

RAISIN

He began to prune

TRACKS

He wasn't well trained

CAR

She traded the steer

INGEST

She photographed the swallow

KNIT

She told a yarn

GLUE

He swung the stick

CASH

She needed to check

TANTRUM

She said that it fit

PAYMENT

He voted for the new bill

BRAIN

He couldn't get his children to mind

MAIL

He pounded in the post

PORK

He was quite a ham

GUN

He drank a shot

TEXAS

He was overstated

UNUSUAL

He cooked the steak rare

PIG

She forgot to sow

WRIST

She liked to watch

WHISKEY

She was very still

POLE

He locked the vault

CEREAL

She liked to bowl

BEACH

He soon began to coast

SLOW

He will fast

LOOK

He didn't have a peer

CONCEAL

He tanned the hide

SOUND

She climbed to the top rung

COACH

She walked out onto the stage

REMAINDER

She wanted to rest

WRITE

She looked like the type

TALE

She fell from the second story

SQUARE

He learned how to box

UP

He was allergic to down

MARSH

She was totally swamped

INSECT

He said the room was bugged

YOURS

He excavated the mine

OVER

She was very lean

COLUMN

He liked to row

WORK

She didn't know how to shift

HIT

He went on strike

BREAKFAST

She proposed the toast

HAT

She gave the wood a second coat

DOT

He ran the 100 yard dash

PROFIT

She served the ball into the net

HAIR

She closed the lock

SLIDE

She wore the slip

PUT

He lost the set