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## *Inference Materials*

GERNSBACHER, M. A., NELSON, J., & ROBERTSON, R. R. W. (1998). Suppressing erroneously drawn inferences during comprehension. Unpublished manuscript.

### *Practice:*

1. Fred went to sit on the bench.  
TEST WORD: PARK
  
- 2a. The ballerina stretched at the bar in the studio.
- 2b. She needed to warm up before she could begin dancing.  
TEST WORD: TAVERN
  
3. The plumber installed the new pipe in the bathroom.  
TEST WORD: TOBACCO
  
- 4a. Eric really liked the suit he had.
- 4b. He couldn't believe he had been dealt a straight.  
TEST WORD: OUTFIT
  
5. Emily admired the pretty stamp.  
TEST WORD: MAIL
  
6. The huge wave crashed over the surf.  
TEST WORD: GREETING
  
- 7a. The stereo speaker fell off the bookshelf.
- 7b. It had been teetering there for several days.  
TEST WORD: ORATOR
  
- 8a. The mole was barely noticeable.
- 8b. It had burrowed into the ground.  
TEST WORD: FRECKLE

### *Experimentals:*

1. INF: Susan was upset because she had broken her glasses.  
SPC: Susan was upset because she had broken her crystal glasses.  
SEC: The entire set of goblets had been a wedding present from her grandmother.  
TEST WORD: EYE-WEAR

2. INF: Troy spent a lot of money on the diamond.  
SPC: Troy spent a lot of money on the new baseball diamond.  
SEC: He wanted his team to have the best playing field in the league.  
TEST WORD: JEWELRY
3. INF: Andrew looked all over for the missing key.  
SPC: Andrew looked all over for the missing test key.  
SEC: He was worried that it might have been stolen and he would have to write a new test.  
TEST WORD: LOCK
4. INF: Jeff got a ticket after parking his car.  
SPC: Jeff bought a ticket after parking his car.  
SEC: As he headed into the movie theater, he handed the ticket to the usher.  
TEST WORD: FINE
5. INF: Mark decided it was time to surprise Katie by giving her a ring.  
SPC: Mark decided it was time to surprise Katie by giving her a call.  
SEC: It had been a long time since he had telephoned his sister Katie, and he thought she'd be surprised to hear from him.  
TEST WORD: ENGAGEMENT
6. INF: Mr. Smith gave the paper boy a tip.  
SPC: Mr. Smith gave the paper boy a helpful pointer.  
SEC: The tip was how to fold the paper tighter so that it could be thrown farther.  
TEST WORD: MONEY
7. INF: Elaine said she had to run.  
SPC: Elaine said she had to jog.  
SEC: Failing to exercise made her very crabby.  
TEST WORD: HURRY
8. INF: Joe left his job at the Post Office today.  
SPC: Joe left his desk at the Post Office today.  
SEC: He returned with coffee and donuts for everyone.  
TEST WORD: QUIT
9. INF: Jason called his mother before he left for the soccer game.  
SPC: Jason called out to his mother before he left for the soccer game.  
SEC: She was way out in the garden, so he had to yell pretty loudly.  
TEST WORD: TELEPHONE
10. INF: Kim bent the nail.  
SPC: Kim bent her fingernail.  
SEC: Then her finger began bleeding where the nail had ripped away from the skin.  
TEST WORD: HAMMER
11. INF: Sheila reluctantly entered the pool.  
SPC: Sheila reluctantly entered the basketball pool.  
SEC: She wasn't used to betting on sporting events.  
TEST WORD: WATER

12. INF: Sarah drove frantically all the way to the Emergency Room.  
SPC: Sarah drove frantically all the way to her job at the hospital.  
SEC: She was already running 15 minutes late for her shift that evening.  
TEST WORD: ACCIDENT
13. INF: Trisha looked closely at the woman's palm.  
SPC: Trisha looked closely at the woman's palm tree.  
SEC: She was trying to identify what was causing the yellow spots on the leaves.  
TEST WORD: HAND
14. INF: Lorraine was alarmed when she saw the smoke billowing out of the room.  
SPC: Lorraine was alarmed when she saw all the cigarette smoke billowing out of the room.  
SEC: It seemed like everyone at the party was puffing on a cigarette.  
TEST WORD: FIRE
15. INF: Gina told her friend that he would need another coat.  
SPC: Gina told her friend that he would need another coat of paint.  
SEC: She thought that it would take several coats of white paint to cover up the deep purple walls.  
TEST WORD: JACKET
16. INF: Ryan was upset when he saw the litter.  
SPC: Ryan was upset when he saw the litter of puppies.  
SEC: He had intended to get the dog spayed.  
TEST WORD: GARBAGE
17. INF: The conductor looked at the ticket Mary had.  
SPC: The orchestra conductor looked at the concert ticket Mary had.  
SEC: It was for Friday night's performance.  
TEST WORD: TRAIN
18. INF: With precision, the nurse quickly passed the sponge to the doctor.  
SPC: The nurse quickly passed the paper towel to the doctor.  
SEC: He needed it to mop up the soft drink he had just spilled.  
TEST WORD: SURGERY
19. INF: The cowboy drew his gun.  
SPC: The cowboy sketched his gun.  
SEC: He wasn't much of an artist, but the sketch was enough to get an idea of its appearance.  
TEST WORD: SHOOT-OUT
20. INF: Janis wished she would have brought her umbrella.  
SPC: Janis wished she would have brought her visor.  
SEC: It would have helped shield her from the bright sun on the beach.  
TEST WORD: RAIN
21. INF: George became too bored to finish the history book.  
SPC: George became too bored to finish writing the history book.  
SEC: He had already spent five years writing it.  
TEST WORD: READ

22. INF: The blood ran from Peter's arm.  
SPC: The blood ran from Peter's arm into the plastic vial.  
SEC: He donated blood every year.  
TEST WORD: LACERATION
23. INF: Claire decided it was time to change her habit.  
SPC: Claire decided it was time to change into a clean habit.  
SEC: She had spilled wine on it at communion earlier that day.  
TEST WORD: BEHAVIOR
24. INF: Bill looked down and realized that he had lost a button.  
SPC: Bill looked down at his electric blender and saw that the button for "HI SPEED" was missing.  
SEC: It was constantly falling off his blender's control panel.  
TEST WORD: SHIRT
25. INF: At the neighborhood potluck, everyone remarked about Mary Jo's wonderful dish.  
SPC: At the neighborhood potluck, everyone remarked about Mary Jo's beautiful and rare dish.  
SEC: Her porcelain serving tray was a valuable family heirloom.  
TEST WORD: RECIPE
26. INF: Kathy was horrified when she found bugs under the sink.  
SPC: Kathy was horrified when she found bugs and other recording equipment under the sink.  
SEC: She couldn't believe that someone had been listening to her private conversations.  
TEST WORD: INSECTS
27. INF: Sally took a pen and paper with her to meet the famous baseball player.  
SPC: Sally took a tape recorder with her on her appointment with the famous baseball player.  
SEC: The article she was writing would include comments on nuclear power by well-known people.  
TEST WORD: AUTOGRAPH
28. INF: The old film was not very good.  
SPC: The old film in the Polaroid camera was not very good.  
SEC: Without even finishing the roll, Karen took it out of the camera and threw it away.  
TEST WORD: MOVIE
29. INF: Jack painted the boat a bright red.  
SPC: In the painting he was working on, Jack painted the boat a bright red.  
SEC: Then he painted the ocean a deep blue and the sun a bright orange.  
TEST WORD: REFINISH
30. INF: The baker left the dough on the counter.  
SPC: The baker left the money on the counter.  
SEC: He answered the phone and then returned to finish counting the money from today's sales.  
TEST WORD: BATTER
31. INF: When he saw her at the photo shoot, Arthur thought that Angel looked hot.  
SPC: When he saw her in her the photo shoot, Arthur thought that his dog Angel looked overheated.  
SEC: He was worried that the photographers had kept his poodle under the bright lights for too long while shooting the Alpo ad.  
TEST WORD: SEXY

32. INF: Ben just missed the train.  
SPC: Ben just missed getting hit by the train.  
SEC: Someone pushed him out of the way and saved his life.  
TEST WORD: LATE
33. INF: Sam wrote down the notes in his notebook as fast as he could.  
SPC: Sam wrote down musical notes in his notebook as fast as he could.  
SEC: He needed to write down the tune before he forgot it.  
TEST WORD: LECTURE
34. INF: Christine stopped by the store to buy alcohol before the party.  
SPC: Christine stopped by the store to buy rubbing alcohol before the party.  
SEC: She wanted to prevent the cut on her finger from becoming infected.  
TEST WORD: BEER
35. INF: Laura drove for miles to see the famous star.  
SPC: Laura drove for miles to see the star that the astronomer had recently discovered.  
SEC: A professor at the college had agreed to let her use the observatory.  
TEST WORD: CELEBRITY
36. INF: John needed to pick up his prescription.  
SPC: John needed to pick up his prescription for new eyeglasses.  
SEC: His vision was getting worse and worse.  
TEST WORD: MEDICINE
37. INF: Bob was overjoyed to be marrying his grade-school friend.  
SPC: Bob was overjoyed to be officiating at the marriage of his grade-school friend.  
SEC: Years ago, when he and his friend Conrad were Boy Scouts together, neither imagined that Bob would later become a minister.  
TEST WORD: SWEETHEART
38. INF: Denise put the file back in the drawer.  
SPC: Denise put the nail file back in the drawer.  
SEC: This customer did not want the complimentary manicure with her haircut.  
TEST WORD: FOLDER
39. INF: The children ran quickly out of the school building when they heard the bell ring.  
SPC: The children ran quickly out of the school building when they heard the emergency bell ring.  
SEC: They were afraid that the building was on fire.  
TEST WORD: RECESS
40. INF: Brad asked if the pitcher was full.  
SPC: Brad asked the pitcher if he'd had enough to eat.  
SEC: Brad didn't want any player on the baseball team to go away hungry after his banquet.  
TEST WORD: CONTAINER

*Fillers:*

*10 - 1 sent, answer yes*

1. FilY1-1  
Larry spent a long time on the letter.  
TEST WORD: WRITE
2. FilY1-2  
The shooting of the hunter was very accurate.  
TEST WORD: RIFLE
3. FilY1-3  
The man shocked the governor.  
TEST WORD: SURPRISE
4. FilY1-4  
Jane attended the mass.  
TEST WORD: CHURCH
5. FilY1-5  
Matt got caught in the shower this morning.  
TEST WORD: STORM
6. FilY1-6  
Melissa baked the tart.  
TEST WORD: COOK
7. FilY1-7  
Renee searched for an hour before she found the ruler.  
TEST WORD: MEASURE
8. FilY1-8  
Diane searched the library for a book about camping.  
TEST WORD: RESEARCH
9. FilY1-9  
Chad slipped and dropped the case.  
TEST WORD: BOX
10. FilY1-10  
Wanda invited Jenny to stop by and see the new plant.  
TEST WORD: FLOWER

## *10 - 1 sent, answer no*

1. FilN1-1  
Bart spent all afternoon typing the page.  
TEST WORD: ASSISTANT
2. FilN1-6  
Aaron was impressed with the club's credentials.  
TEST WORD: WEAPON

3. FilN1-3  
Jennifer was already halfway across the frozen lake when she called for help.  
TEST WORD: WADE
4. FilN1-10  
Jacob was unable to understand the football play.  
TEST WORD: THEATER
5. FilN1-5  
Brenda was confident the street was on the right.  
TEST WORD: WRONG
6. FilN1-2  
Kelly held the key to Ronald's success.  
TEST WORD: LATCH
7. FilN1-7  
Jill's roommates gave her a bill for the long-distance phone calls that she had made.  
TEST WORD: DOLLAR
8. FilN1-8  
Shaun picked up the racket.  
TEST WORD: NOISE
9. FilN1-9  
Dwayne was very excited about the date.  
TEST WORD: FRUIT
10. FilN1-4  
Hank waited for the change.  
TEST WORD: SEASON

## *20 - 2 sent, answer yes, all invite true inference*

1. FilY2-1  
Mandy walked over to where her pen was.  
She wrote down the message and put it where her roommate would see it.  
TEST WORD: NOTE
2. FilY2-2  
Paul returned to the house with onions, cauliflower, and broccoli.  
There had been a special on produce that day.  
TEST WORD: GROCERIES
3. FilY2-3  
Mel had never been this nervous about a match.  
He couldn't believe he was playing in Wimbledon tomorrow.  
TEST WORD: TENNIS

4. FiLY2-4  
Everyone knew Steve was an expert on gin.  
He was taught the game by one of the best players in the world.  
TEST WORD: CARDS
5. FiLY2-5  
The lead actress almost missed her cue.  
She wasn't paying attention when the director said "Action!"  
TEST WORD: PERFORMER
6. FiLY2-6  
Luke tried to tune in his favorite television station.  
He couldn't wait until the cable was installed in his new apartment.  
TEST WORD: RECEPTION
7. FiLY2-7  
By Wednesday afternoon, Mike really needed the rest.  
He had been working since Monday without much sleep.  
TEST WORD: NAP
8. FiLY2-8  
The port was generally considered to be one of the best in the world.  
Most of the nation's produce was shipped from there.  
TEST WORD: BOATS
9. FiLY2-9  
Jeanine had never had much experience with the mob before.  
But, she realized that she could become rich laundering money for them.  
TEST WORD: CRIMINAL
10. FiLY2-10  
Shane couldn't believe he walked right past the mint.  
It had fallen on the floor near the couch.  
TEST WORD: CANDY
11. FiLY2-11  
Stan met Marjorie when she was organizing a lobby in Washington DC.  
She wanted Congress to pass a law limiting logging in the Northwest.  
TEST WORD: ENVIRONMENT
12. FiLY2-12  
Pat had difficulty getting everything into the trunk.  
He had too many suitcases piled into it.  
TEST WORD: CAR
13. FiLY2-13  
Martha was very tired when she finally reached the top.  
She had been hiking straight up for almost three hours.  
TEST WORD: CLIMB

14. FiY2-14  
The sound of drilling made Chad nervous.  
He hated getting cavities filled, even though he knew it was good for him.  
TEST WORD: DENTIST
15. FiY2-15  
Gary was pleasantly surprised when he saw the tab.  
The prices were very reasonable for such good food.  
TEST WORD: RESTAURANT
16. FiY2-16  
Mara noticed that her watch stopped at 3 o'clock.  
She worried that she would be late for her 5 o'clock meeting.  
TEST WORD: BROKEN
17. FiY2-17  
Jeremy was afraid that he would lose his position at the bank.  
He accidentally transferred ten thousand dollars into the wrong account.  
TEST WORD: MISTAKE
18. FiY2-18  
Nicole stared at the birthday cards, trying to decide which one to pick.  
Her mother's birthday was tomorrow.  
TEST WORD: HALLMARK
19. FiY2-19  
Shannon decided to pick up her pace.  
Her next class started in five minutes.  
TEST WORD: WALKING
20. FiY2-20  
Quentin double-checked the score in disbelief.  
He couldn't believe that his team was behind by four touchdowns.  
TEST WORD: LOSE