**Appendix A: Fill in the Gaps Task**

Table A1 below shows the nature of the items used in the Fill in the Gaps Task. In the count noun conditions, *inherently kind* verb and adjectives are compatible with a definite singular or a bare plural. *Kind-compatible* verbs are compatible with an indefinite singular, a definite singular, or a bare plural. Mass nouns, on the other hand, are only compatible with a bare singular.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject** | | **Object** | |
| **Count** | **Mass** | **Count** | **Mass** |
| Inherently kind Verb  (e.g., die out) | Inherently kind Adjective  (e.g., scarce) | Inherently kind Verb  (e.g., exterminate) | Kind-compatible Verbs  (e.g., prefer) |
| Inherently kind Adjective  (e.g., widespread) | Kind-compatible Verbs  (e.g., love) |
| Kind-compatible Verbe  (e.g., eat) | Kind-compatible Verbe  (e.g., hunt) |

**<caption>Table A1:** A breakdown of the items in the Fill in the Gaps Task[[1]](#footnote-1)

Each of the eight experimental conditions was tested with four items. Thus, there were 32 experimental items. In addition, there were 16 fillers, all in object position, requiring an indefinite singular. Due to space considerations, the fillers are not included here.

**Subject/Count/Inherently kind verb**

(1) Due to the change in climate and too much hunting, \_\_\_\_ may become extinct soon. (picture of a Siberian tiger).

(2) Some scientists argue that \_\_\_\_ may become extinct due to too much hunting. (picture of a peacock).

(3) Due to overhunting in the last couple decades, \_\_\_\_ will most likely die out in the United Kingdom. (picture of a red fox).

(4) A National Geographic documentary shows that, because of the rising temperatures in the Arctic, \_\_\_\_ could gradually die out. (picture of a polar bear).

**Subject/Count/Inherently kind adjective**

(5) Florida is full of exotic animals that one cannot see in other parts of the US. For instance, \_\_\_\_ can be widespread in Florida. (picture of an American alligator).

(6) Being the largest animal known to have ever existed, \_\_\_\_ can be quite common in the Atlantic Ocean. (picture of a blue whale).

(7) Found in all oceans of the world, \_\_\_\_ can be most common in the Arctic and the Antarctic. (picture of a killer whale).

(8) Being one of the most beautiful birds, \_\_\_\_ can be pretty common in zoos. (picture of a flamingo).

**Subject/Count/Kind-compatible verb (Eventive)**

(9) Some animals can eat a lot. For example, \_\_\_\_ can eat up to 100 pounds of food every day. (picture of an African elephant).

(10) Certain animals have adapted to water pretty well. For instance, \_\_\_\_ can remain under water for up to 18 minutes. (picture of an emperor penguin).

(11) Some sea creatures reproduce in great numbers. To illustrate, \_\_\_\_ can give birth to as many as 2000 babies at one time. (picture of a seahorse).

(12) Some animals are quite social. To give an example, \_\_\_\_ can usually be seen living in large groups. (picture of a gorilla).

**Subject/Mass/Inherently kind adjective**

(13) Being a sweet food substance produced by bees, \_\_\_\_ can be quite scarce in most African countries. (picture of honey).

(14) Because of its slightly acidic and stimulating effect on humans, as well as its caffeine

content, \_\_\_\_ can be common as an everyday drink in most countries. (picture of coffee).

(15) A spicy sauce made from tomatoes and vinegar, \_\_\_\_ can be quite common in restaurants in the US. (picture of ketchup).

(16) An important food source for the world’s longest-living cultures, \_\_\_\_ can be abundant in the Mediterranean region. (picture of olive oil).

**Object/Count/Inherently kind verb**

(17) The Department of Sanitation in New York City has released a plan to exterminate \_\_\_\_ all over the state. (picture of a cockroach).

(18) In Africa, public health officials want to eradicate \_\_\_\_ to prevent the spread of certain

diseases. (picture of a racoon).

(19) A deadly virus, which has negatively affected other reptiles, may wipe out \_\_\_\_ in Thailand. (picture of a king cobra).

(20) Despite efforts by nature conservationists, too much hunting may wipe out \_\_\_\_. (picture of an Arctic fox).

**Object/Count/Kind-compatible verb (Stative)**

(21) While on a safari, many people love seeing exotic animals. Most of those people love \_\_\_\_.

(picture of a giraffe).

(22) Since most Chinese people love \_\_\_\_, they form long lines in zoos. (picture of a giant panda).

(23) Many animal lovers adore \_\_\_\_, considered to be extremely fast. (picture of a cheetah).

(24) Certain pets have an easygoing and friendly nature. Thus, many pet owners in the US prefer \_\_\_\_ due to those characteristics. (picture of a husky).

**Object/Count/Kind-compatible verb (Eventive)**

(25) According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), it is illegal to hunt \_\_\_\_ . (picture of an African elephant).

(26) The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) advises visitors to the Arctic not to get too close to certain animals. In particular, they warn visitors not to feed \_\_\_\_ . (picture of an Emperor penguin).

(27) In coastal cities in Australia, it is illegal to kill \_\_\_\_ . (picture of a seahorse).

(28) While on a wildlife tour, visitors are advised to stay in their vehicles and not to exit them under any circumstances. Visitors are told not to touch any animals. In particular, they are advised not to approach \_\_\_\_ . (picture of a gorilla).

**Object/Mass/Kind-compatible verb (Stative)**

(29) Most individuals, striving to have a healthy diet, do not prefer \_\_\_\_ . (picture of butter).

(30) Unlike in the US, where many people start the day with a cup of coffee, most Turkish people love \_\_\_\_. (picture of tea).

(31) Some people in Asian countries do not prefer \_\_\_\_. (picture of yogurt).

(32) Most Americans enjoy eating snacks. There is one thing they definitely like. They love \_\_\_\_. (picture of ice cream).

**Appendix B: Acceptability Judgment Task**

In the count noun conditions in the AJT, inherently kind verb and adjectives are compatible with a definite singular or a bare plural. Kind-compatible verbs are compatible with an indefinite singular, a definite singular, or a bare plural. Mass nouns are only compatible with a bare singular. The breakdown of the items was the same as the one in the FTG (see Table A1). Each of the eight experimental conditions was tested with eight items. Thus, there were 64 experimental items. The participants were asked to judge the acceptability of each sentence following the context on a four-point Likert scale. The continuations included a bare singular, an indefinite singular, a definite singular, a bare plural, and a definite plural noun. It should be noted that each of the continuations was set on a separate line in the test.

**Subject/Count/Inherently kind verb**

(1) Owing to a decrease in food sources, and too much hunting by humans, Siberian tiger/a

Siberian tiger/the Siberian tiger/Siberian tigers/the Siberian tigers is/are dying out.

(2) There are many interesting theories about why blue whale/a blue whale/the blue whale/blue whales/the blue whales is/are dying out.

(3) The Thai government is warning that if the predators are not controlled, king cobra/a king cobra/the king cobra/king cobras/the king cobras will die out in a couple of decades.

(4) Native to the Arctic regions of the Northern Hemisphere, Arctic fox/an Arctic fox/the Arctic fox/Arctic foxes/the Arctic foxes is/are gradually dying out.

(5) Due to the massive scale of hunting and the rapid loss of habitat, polar bear/a polar bear/the polar bear/polar bears/the polar bears is/are slowly becoming extinct.

(6) Due to deforestation in China, giant panda/a giant panda/the giant panda/giant pandas/the giant pandas may become extinct in 60 years.

(7) Being present across the entire Northern Hemisphere from the Arctic Circle to North Africa, red fox/a red fox/the red fox/red foxes/the red foxes is/are not expected to become extinct soon.

(8) Despite being a common bird in India, peacock/a peacock/the peacock/peacocks/the peacocks may become extinct in a couple decades.

**Subject/Count/Inherently kind adjective**

(9) Being one of the tallest mammals, giraffe/a giraffe/the giraffe/giraffes/the giraffes is/are common in Africa.

(10) More likely to be found in basements, in bathtubs and near drains, cockroach/a cockroach/the cockroach/cockroaches/the cockroaches is/are widespread in New York City.

(11) Australia is known for its wildlife and exotic animals. For instance, killer whale/a killer whale/the killer whale/killer whales/the killer whales is/are common in Australia.

(12) Having a broad, rounded mouth and nose and with no lower teeth visible when the jaw is closed, American alligator/an American alligator/the American alligator/American alligators/the American alligators is/are widespread in Florida.

(13) Traditionally having been used to carry heavier loads but being kept as pets today, husky/a husky/the husky/huskies/the huskies is/are prevalent in many European countries.

(14) In addition to being present in Africa, and Australia, cheetah/a cheetah/the cheetah/cheetahs/the cheetahs is/are prevalent in the US.

(15) Despite being one of the most common bird types in Florida, flamingo/a flamingo/the flamingo/flamingos/the flamingos is/are rare in the US.

(16) Due to the extremely low temperatures in the area, racoon/a racoon/the racoon/racoons/the racoons is/are rare in Norway, Denmark, and Sweden.

**Subject/Count/Kind-compatible verb (Eventive)**

(17) Some animals can eat a lot. For instance, gorilla/a gorilla/the gorilla/gorillas/the gorillas can eat up to 50 pounds of food every day.

(18) There are similarities between certain animal species and humans. To illustrate, similar to humans, gorilla/a gorilla/the gorilla/gorillas/the gorillas live in groups.

(19) Unlike humans, some animals have a large number of babies when giving birth. To give an example, seahorse/a seahorse/the seahorse/seahorses/the seahorses can have up to 2000 babies at one time.

(20) Due to not having teeth, seahorse/a seahorse/the seahorse/seahorses/the seahorses suck/s in food and swallow/s it whole.

(21) Some animals are excellent swimmers. For example, emperor penguin/an emperor penguin/the emperor penguin/emperor penguins/the emperor penguins can dive to depths of almost 550 meters.

(22) Living on Antarctic ice and in its waters, emperor penguin/an emperor penguin/the emperor penguin/emperor penguins/the emperor penguins hunt/s fish for a considerable amount of time.

(23) Being one of the largest animals on Earth, African elephant/an African elephant/the African elephant/African elephants/the African elephants usually live/s in groups.

(24) Animal communication has long fascinated scientists. To illustrate, it is known that

African elephant/an African elephant/the African elephant/African elephants/the African elephants use/s their trunk for communication.

**Subject/Mass/Inherently kind adjective**

(25) Every country and region has their preferred dish. For example, yogurt/a yogurt/the yogurt/yogurts/the yogurts is/are common in Turkey.

(26) Having negative effects on health, butter/a butter/the butter/butters/the butters is/are rare in Mediterranean cuisine.

(27) Containing fatty acids that can protect against heart disease and other serious conditions, olive oil/an olive oil/the olive oil/olive oils/the olive oils is/are widespread in Mediterranean cuisine.

(28) Despite health benefits such as treating wounds, healing skin conditions, and boosting energy, honey/a honey/the honey/honeys/the honeys is/are rare in the US.

(29) Comprising tomatoes, vinegar, and sugar, ketchup/a ketchup/the ketchup/ketchups/the ketchups is/are quite widespread in the US.

(30) An aromatic beverage commonly prepared by pouring hot or boiling water, tea/a tea/the tea/teas/the teas is/are common in Turkey.

(31) A brewed drink prepared from roasted beans, coffee/a coffee/the coffee/coffees/the coffees is/are widespread in the US.

(32) Despite being considered unhealthy, ice cream/an ice cream/the ice cream/ice creams/the ice creams is/are quite common among people who love desserts.

**Object/Count/Inherently kind verb**

(33) The Indian government has been fighting against species that cause numerous diseases. In particular, the authorities want to eradicate racoon/a racoon/the racoon/racoons/the racoons due to the spread of certain diseases.

(34) Although farmers in southern France suffered from certain rodents harming their harvest in the past, today, they are able to grow anything anytime they want because they exterminate cockroach/a cockroach/the cockroach/cockroaches/the cockroaches.

(35) Some reptiles are causing a lot of problems in Australia and tourists are reluctant to visit the country. Therefore, government officials are trying to find ways to wipe out king cobra/a king cobra/the king cobra/king cobras/the king cobras.

(36) A deadly virus has caused many animals to die in the Arctic. It may also wipe out red fox/a red fox/the red fox/red foxes/the red foxes.

(37) Wildlife experts are trying to raise awareness about how some animal species threaten Florida’s fragile ecosystem. As a solution, they believe that it is necessary to eradicate American alligator/an American alligator/the American alligator/American alligators/the American alligators.

(38) A serious disease that is affecting thousands of animal species is concerning animal activists. It is possible for the disease to wipe out cheetah/a cheetah/the cheetah/cheetahs/the cheetahs.

(39) Climate change is impacting the population of many Arctic creatures. The changes may particularly eradicate polar bear/a polar bear/the polar bear/polar bears/the polar bears.

(40) Despite a number of regulations by the authorities, illegal hunting of certain endangered animals still continues. Authorities believe that such actions may eventually wipe out Siberian tiger/a Siberian tiger/the Siberian tiger/Siberian tigers/the Siberian tigers.

**Object/Count/Kind-compatible verb (Stative)**

(41) Many people who go to safaris like seeing exotic animals. For example, many of those people like giraffe/a giraffe/the giraffe/giraffes/the giraffes.

(42) Zoos around the world try to keep animals that attract more visitors, to make money. For example, most zoos prefer flamingo/a flamingo/the flamingo/flamingos/the flamingos to attract visitors.

(43) For Chinese people, certain animals have a special place. For example, they adore giant panda/a giant panda/the giant panda/giant pandas/the giant pandas as it is/they are associated with good luck.

(44) Some animals fascinate animal activists. For instance, many animal activists adore blue whale/a blue whale/the blue whale/blue whales/the blue whales as it is/they are the largest animals on earth.

(45) Americans love pets, but certain animals are more common. For example, many Americans like husky/a husky/the husky/huskies/the huskies since it has/they have special features not found in other dogs.

(46) Many visitors who go to zoos adore animals. Particularly, zoo-goers like peacock/a peacock/the peacock/peacocks/the peacocks.

(47) Oceans are full of strong predators. Naturally, many sea creatures escape when they see killer whale/a killer whale/the killer whale/killer whales/the killer whales.

(48) There are many reasons why lots of people are fascinated by the Northern Hemisphere. One reason is the natural beauty and the plant and animal species that live there. For example, many people adore Arctic fox/an Arctic fox/the Arctic fox/Arctic foxes/the Arctic foxes.

**Object/Count/Kind-compatible verb (Eventive)**

(49) The World Wildlife Fund states that it is illegal to hunt African elephant/an African elephant/the African elephant/African elephants/the African elephants.

(50) Due to the low numbers, it is unethical to kill African elephant/an African elephant/the African elephant/African elephants/the African elephants.

(51) Visitors to the Arctic experience great views and enjoy seeing exotic animals. They sometimes try to feed animals, which may be quite dangerous. Visitors are especially advised not to feed emperor penguin/an emperor penguin/the emperor penguin/emperor penguins/the emperor penguins.

(52) Not everyone who visits the Arctic goes there to enjoy the scenery and exotic animals.

Some people kill animals to sell their parts or use in scientific research. The visitors are reminded that it is illegal to kill emperor penguin/an emperor penguin/the emperor penguin/emperor penguins/the emperor penguins.

(53) Many large aquariums in the world keep exotic animals, but it is not considered ethical. Some animals need large spaces and cannot survive in aquariums. Therefore, it is unethical to keep seahorse/a seahorse/the seahorse/seahorses/the seahorses in aquariums.

(54) Some aquariums have open spaces where visitors can illegally feed animals. However, some animals should never be fed by visitors. In particular, it is illegal to feed seahorse/a seahorse/the seahorse/seahorses/the seahorses in aquariums.

(55) Some zoogoers might have pretty bad experiences if chased by a large animal. Therefore, they are usually advised to stay far away from certain animals. In particular, they are told not to approach gorilla/a gorilla/the gorilla/gorillas/the gorillas.

(56) Some hunters take pride in hunting and killing large animals and exhibiting them. However, killing certain animals is punishable by law. For instance, due to the extremely low numbers, it is illegal to kill gorilla/a gorilla/the gorilla/gorillas/the gorillas.

**Object/Mass/Kind-compatible verb (Stative)**

(57) Certain food and drinks have a number of positive effects on health. For example, many people prefer coffee/a coffee/the coffee/coffees/the coffees since it protects/they protect against diabetes.

(58) In the winter months, most people prefer tea/a tea/the tea/teas/the teas when not feeling well.

(59) For someone not used to it, French cuisine may taste strange since French people love butter/a butter/the butter/butters/the butters and use it/them quite a lot while cooking.

(60) Certain food and drinks have a number of positive effects on health. For example, most people love honey/a honey/the honey/honeys/the honeys since it treats/they treat wounds and boost/s energy.

(61) There are considerable differences between American and European cuisine. For example, many Americans dislike olive oil/an olive oil/the olive oil/olive oils/the olive oils although it is/they are commonly used in Europe.

(62) Certain foods are not consumed much although they have health benefits. For example, many Americans dislike yogurt/a yogurt/the yogurt/yogurts/the yogurts although it protects/they protect against heart diseases.

(63) Europeans are quite conscious about their eating habits. For instance, many Europeans do not prefer ketchup/a ketchup/the ketchup/ketchups/the ketchups with their food.

(64) Many Americans like consuming snacks while watching a movie at home. They particularly like ice cream/an ice cream/the ice cream/ice creams/the ice creams.

1. Ve stands for an eventive verb (e.g., *hunt*) while Vs stands for a stative verb (e.g., *know*). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)