Full Stimuli List

Item 1

Stranger: A person has struck up a conversation with a stranger while taking a walk in a local nature preserve. They are just making small talk.

Persuasive: A person is trying to persuade a wealthy individual to make a sizeable donation to a local nature preserve. The person is trying to make the most convincing argument possible.

Bonding: A person has just met some friends of a friend at a party, and is telling them a little about a local nature preserve. They are enjoying hanging out together and getting to know each other better.

For the record: A person is giving a legal deposition in a court case involving an environmental lawsuit for polluting a local nature preserve. It is crucial to be accurate.

There are {about 300/300/298} different species of birds living in the preserve, which is {about 90%/90%/91%} of the species recorded in the state.

Item 2

Stranger: A person has struck up a conversation about nearby restaurants with a stranger at a bus stop. They are just making small talk.

Persuasive: A person is trying to persuade some acquaintances to vote for a local restaurant in a contest for the town's Restaurant of the Year. The person is trying to make the most convincing argument possible.

Bonding: A person is chatting about nearby restaurants with some nice new colleagues who have just moved to town. They are enjoying hanging out together and getting to know each other better.

For-the-record: A person is providing information about local restaurants to the authors working on a new edition of a well-known local guidebook. It is crucial to be accurate.

The Main Street Diner serves {around 50/50/52} different types of omelette and has been open for {about 40/40/43} years.

Item 3

Stranger: A person has struck up a casual conversation about their car with a stranger at a gas station. They are just making small talk.

Persuasive: A person wants to sell their car and is trying to talk a potential buyer into buying it. The person is trying to make the most convincing argument possible.

Bonding: A person is driving to a fun event with some new friends and is telling them about the car they're in. They are enjoying hanging out together and getting to know each other better.

For the record: A person's car was hit overnight in a parking lot and heavily damaged. The person is providing information to an insurance adjustor. It is crucial to be accurate.

It has {about 60 thousand/60 thousand/ 60,451 miles} on the odometer, and it still gets {around 30/30/29.4} miles to the gallon.

Item 4

Stranger: While waiting in a ticket line, a person is chatting with a stranger about an acquaintance with an interesting profession. They are just making small talk.

Persuasive: A person is talking to their supervisor, trying to convince them to hire an acquaintance to organize a large company meeting. The person is trying to make the most convincing argument possible.

Bonding: A person is having a friendly conversation with some people they know, filling them in on what a mutual friend has been doing lately. They are enjoying hanging

out together and getting to know each other better.
For the record: A person is providing information to a lawyer about someone who was recently hired at their company. The lawyer is investigating a supposed case of discrimination in hiring. It is crucial to be accurate.

She is an event planner with {around 20/20/19} corporate clients, and has planned {about 40/40/41} major conventions and events.

Item 5
Stranger: A person is waiting at a bus stop near a very busy intersection, chatting with another stranger. They are just making small talk.
Persuasive: A person is speaking at a town meeting, trying to persuade the town council to install a new traffic light at a very busy intersection. The person is trying to make the most convincing argument possible.
Bonding: A person is at a restaurant that looks out on a very busy intersection, having a casual lunch with some new colleagues. They are enjoying hanging
out together and getting to know each other better.
For the record: A person is providing information to a reporter who is writing an article about the dangerous traffic conditions at a very busy intersection. It is crucial to be accurate.

Since the beginning of the year, there have been {around 50/50/49} accidents at this intersection, and {about 20/20/23} people have been hospitalized.

Item 6
Stranger: A person is on a local commuter train, chatting with the stranger sitting next to them about public transportation in the area. They are just making small talk.
Persuasive: A person is trying to persuade a town council member to propose a bill that would increase funding for public transportation in the area. The person is trying to make the most convincing argument possible.
Bonding: A person is bonding with some new colleagues, commiserating with them about the poor public transportation in the area. They are enjoying hanging
out together and getting to know each other better.
For the record: A person is testifying in court as part of a lawsuit relating to the dysfunctional public transportation system in their area. It is crucial to be accurate.

Normally the trip to the airport takes {around 20/20/21} minutes, but since the storm damage to the tracks last year it takes {about 50/50/49} minutes.

Fillers

Note: All filler items were followed by the ten evaluation questions; moreover, three filler items were also followed by a True/False comprehension question that was used to ensure that participants were paying attention during the task.

Filler 1
A person talking to a friend about Michael, a mutual friend who just graduated from college. They are both excited about his success.

The graduation party will be at Michael's apartment this coming Saturday.

Comprehension question: Michael is going to host his graduation party at his own apartment: True (correct) / False (incorrect)

Filler 2
A person is walking along a street in the downtown area, and has been approached by a stranger asking where the closest ATM is. The person wants to be as helpful as they can.

There is an ATM just around the next corner on the right side of the street.

Filler 3
A person is talking to a friend with whom they are planning a backpacking trip to Yosemite National Park. They are carefully going through all the details of their trip.

I think the closest airport is in Merced, but it's probably cheaper to fly into San Francisco.

Comprehension question: The interlocutors would like to go on a trip to Glacier National Park:
True (incorrect) / False (correct)

Filler 4
A person wants to go hiking on the weekend with a friend, and is discussing the weather forecast with them. They are trying to decide if a hiking trip makes sense.

It's probably not going to rain, but it's going to be overcast.

Filler 5
A person is talking to a friend who they haven't seen for a long time. They are enjoying catching up about what is going on.

Did you hear that Dana and Jordan are getting married?? I think it's great!

Comprehension question: The two friends have not seen each other for a long time.
True (correct) / False (incorrect)

Filler 6

A person is talking to an acquaintance about the latest events in town. There have been a lot of changes recently.

I think it was the mayor who decided to shut down the movie theater in town.