**Appendix S1: Item list and details of distractors in the MC test (Experiment 1)**

| **#** | **Collocation** | **Word class** | **Item type** | **Distractor 1** | | | | **Distractor 2** | | | **Distractor 3** | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **COCA frequency** | **COCA MI score** | | **Item** | **COCA frequency** | **COCA MI score** | **Item** | **COCA frequency** | **COCA MI score** |
| 1 | full responsibility | AN | congruent | empty | 0 | \_\_\_ | | separate | 2 | -0.28 | existing | 0 | \_\_\_ |
| 2 | golden rule | AN | congruent | far | 0 | \_\_\_ | | shining | 0 | \_\_\_ | familiar | 0 | \_\_\_ |
| 3 | natural birth | AN | congruent | lucky | 1 | -0.36 | | odd | 0 | \_\_\_ | ordinary | 1 | -0.15 |
| 4 | final result | AN | congruent | local | 0 | \_\_\_ | | shiny | 0 | \_\_\_ | stable | 0 | \_\_\_ |
| 5 | strong feeling | AN | congruent | huge | 6 | -0.33 | | firm | 1 | -2.58 | concerned | 0 | \_\_\_ |
| 6 | turning point | AN | congruent | quiet | 1 | -3.85 | | proper | 8 | -0.16 | continuous | 0 | \_\_\_ |
| 7 | bright side | AN | congruent | forced | 1 | -3.66 | | careful | 0 | \_\_\_ | formed | 0 | \_\_\_ |
| 8 | limited ability | AN | congruent | gentle | 0 |  | | narrow | 0 |  | big | 0 |  |
| 9 | smart move | AN | congruent | weak | 0 |  | | thin | 1 | -2.68 | calm | 0 |  |
| 10 | comfortable chair | AN | congruent | early | 1 | -3.84 | | long | 7 | -1.98 | painful | 0 |  |
| 11 | soft drinks | AN | incongruent | original | 1 | 0.05 | | easy | 0 |  | slow | 0 |  |
| 12 | fresh start | AN | incongruent | mad | 0 |  | | actual | 9 | 0.28 | general | 1 | -5.13 |
| 13 | serious mistake | AN | incongruent | angry | 0 | |  | steady | 0 |  | exact | 0 |  |
| 14 | heavy traffic | AN | incongruent | wide | 1 | -1.44 | | loud | 2 | 0.92 | crazy | 3 | 0.86 |
| 15 | short notice | AN | incongruent | absolute | 1 | 0.54 | | major | 1 | -2.75 | high | 0 |  |
| 16 | good faith | AN | incongruent | positive | 1 | -2.03 | | fine | 1 | -2.30 | honest | 1 | -0.44 |
| 17 | tall building | AN | incongruent | complete | 1 | -3.24 | | apparent | 0 | \_\_\_ | straight | 0 | \_\_\_ |
| 18 | deep trouble | AN | incongruent | broad | 0 | \_\_\_ | | fast | 0 | \_\_\_ | difficult | 0 | \_\_\_ |
| 19 | hard copy | AN | incongruent | firm | 0 | \_\_\_ | | low | 1 | -1.44 | tough | 1 | -0.43 |
| 20 | poor weather | AN | incongruent | low | 1 | -2.55 | | flat | 0 | \_\_\_ | basic | 3 | 0.03 |
| 21 | appreciate concern | VN | congruent | allow | 0 | \_\_\_ | | build | 0 | \_\_\_ | choose | 1 | -2.63 |
| 22 | raise hand | VN | congruent | observe | 4 | -0.68 | | kick | 2 | -2.38 | relate | 0 | \_\_\_ |
| 23 | collect information | VN | congruent | hit | 3 | -4.36 | | answer | 4 | -3.77 | face | 7 | -4.18 |
| 24 | improve image | VN | congruent | increase | 6 | -1.30 | | deal | 1 | -4.52 | realize | 3 | -1.31 |
| 25 | cross river | VN | congruent | walk | 2 | -2.98 | | divide | 0 | \_\_\_ | arrive | 0 | \_\_\_ |
| 26 | lose money | VN | congruent | wave | 8 | -1.26 | | deny | 4 | -1.15 | serve | 2 | -4.33 |
| 27 | accept fact | VN | congruent | arrange | 0 | \_\_\_ | | draw | 1 | -4.28 | open | 2 | -5.81 |
| 28 | play role | VN | congruent | carry | 5 | -1.53 | | join | 0 | \_\_\_ | form | 6 | -2.59 |
| 29 | use force | VN | congruent | fix | 1 | -2.73 | | handle | 0 | \_\_\_ | follow | 2 | -3.10 |
| 30 | waste time | VN | congruent | blow | 4 | -3.83 | | hurry | 6 | -2.20 | push | 11 | -3.20 |
| 31 | catch cold | VN | incongruent | happen | 1 | -4.29 | | ignore | 1 | -1.71 | attract | 0 | \_\_\_ |
| 32 | pay visit | VN | incongruent | present | 5 | -1.66 | | inform | 0 | \_\_\_ | honor | 1 | -2.46 |
| 33 | throw party | VN | incongruent | blow | 2 | -2.00 | | close | 3 | -4.26 | act | 6 | -2.82 |
| 34 | meet challenge | VN | incongruent | drive | 2 | -2.56 | | lead | 1 | -3.83 | dream | 3 | -1.22 |
| 35 | make appointment | VN | incongruent | find | 1 | -3.04 | | charge | 1 | -0.56 | know | 1 | -5.01 |
| 36 | break promise | VN | incongruent | split | 0 | \_\_\_ | | drop | 0 | \_\_\_ | send | 0 | \_\_\_ |
| 37 | eat soup | VN | incongruent | expect | 0 | \_\_\_ | | pull | 0 | \_\_\_ | press | 1 | -2.09 |
| 38 | deliver baby | VN | incongruent | provide | 5 | -2.41 | | develop | 4 | -1.60 | refuse | 2 | -0.24 |
| 39 | satisfy need | VN | incongruent | treat | 2 | -3.68 | | save | 2 | -4.71 | count | 2 | -4.01 |
| 40 | bring peace | VN | incongruent | control | 1 | -4.80 | | check | 1 | -3.43 | finish | 2 | -1.43 |

**Appendix S2: Target collocations and control pairs in the acceptability judgement task (Experiment 2)**

| **#** | **Target collocation** | **Word class** | **Item type** | **Raw corpus frequency (COCA)** | **MI score (COCA)** | **Control pair** | **Raw corpus frequency (COCA)** | **MI score (COCA)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | full responsibility | AN | congruent | 424 | 5.76 | filled responsibility | 0 | \_ |
| 2 | golden rule | AN | congruent | 410 | 7.59 | shining rule | 0 | \_ |
| 3 | natural birth | AN | congruent | 73 | 4.07 | ordinary birth | 1 | -0.15 |
| 4 | final result | AN | congruent | 244 | 4.51 | closing result | 0 | \_ |
| 5 | strong feeling | AN | congruent | 295 | 4.69 | huge feeling | 6 | -0.33 |
| 6 | turning point | AN | congruent | 3180 | 7.64 | running point | 3 | -3.58 |
| 7 | bright side | AN | congruent | 547 | 5.62 | burning side | 0 | \_ |
| 8 | limited ability | AN | congruent | 155 | 4.82 | narrow ability | 0 | \_ |
| 9 | smart move | AN | congruent | 358 | 5.91 | keen move | 0 | \_ |
| 10 | comfortable chair | AN | congruent | 138 | 5.84 | pleasant chair | 0 | \_ |
| 11 | soft drinks | AN | incongruent | 800 | 10.19 | easy drinks | 0 | \_ |
| 12 | fresh start | AN | incongruent | 720 | 5.81 | recent start | 9 | -1.60 |
| 13 | serious mistake | AN | incongruent | 236 | 6.32 | angry mistake | 0 | \_ |
| 14 | heavy traffic | AN | incongruent | 263 | 6.69 | fat traffic | 0 | \_ |
| 15 | short notice | AN | incongruent | 516 | 6.76 | plain notice | 0 | \_ |
| 16 | good faith | AN | incongruent | 1419 | 5.31 | fine faith | 1 | -2.30 |
| 17 | tall building | AN | incongruent | 120 | 4.46 | straight building | 0 | \_ |
| 18 | deep trouble | AN | incongruent | 442 | 6.14 | difficult trouble | 0 | \_ |
| 19 | hard copy | AN | incongruent | 375 | 6.24 | firm copy | 0 | \_ |
| 20 | poor weather | AN | incongruent | 85 | 4.32 | low weather | 1 | -2.53 |
| 21 | appreciate your concern | VN | congruent | 69 | 4.19 | realize your concern | 0 | \_ |
| 22 | raise his hand | VN | congruent | 623 | 4.48 | advance his hand | 2 | -2.95 |
| 23 | collect information | VN | congruent | 442 | 5.70 | grow information | 0 | \_ |
| 24 | improve the image | VN | congruent | 162 | 4.43 | increase the image | 6 | -1.30 |
| 25 | cross the river | VN | congruent | 261 | 5.10 | pass the river | 1 | -3.71 |
| 26 | lose money | VN | congruent | 776 | 4.36 | fail money | 0 | \_ |
| 27 | accept a fact | VN | congruent | 485 | 4.43 | gain a fact | 0 | \_ |
| 28 | play a role | VN | congruent | 3058 | 5.70 | carry a role | 5 | -1.53 |
| 29 | use force | VN | congruent | 3556 | 5.06 | practice force | 3 | -3.19 |
| 30 | waste time | VN | congruent | 2787 | 4.96 | ruin time | 4 | -2.11 |
| 31 | catch a cold | VN | incongruent | 142 | 3.95 | attract a cold | 1 | \_ |
| 32 | pay a visit | VN | incongruent | 179 | 3.02 | present a visit | 5 | -1.66 |
| 33 | throw a party | VN | incongruent | 134 | 3.41 | blow a party | 2 | -2.00 |
| 34 | meet a challenge | VN | incongruent | 348 | 4.68 | hit a challenge | 1 | -4.03 |
| 35 | make an appointment | VN | incongruent | 440 | 4.66 | fit an appointment | 0 | \_ |
| 36 | break a promise | VN | incongruent | 74 | 3.12 | split a promise | 0 | \_ |
| 37 | eat soup | VN | incongruent | 67 | 4.75 | pick soup | 2 | -0.31 |
| 38 | deliver a baby | VN | incongruent | 116 | 4.71 | provide a baby | 5 | -2.41 |
| 39 | satisfy the need | VN | incongruent | 83 | 3.57 | treat the need | 2 | -3.68 |
| 40 | bring peace | VN | incongruent | 530 | 4.72 | bear peace | 0 | \_ |