**Appendix A**

**Paragraph Stimuli**

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| Cognates |  |  | Noncognates |
|  | Biased Contexts | Neutral Contexts |  | Biased Contexts | Neutral Contexts |
| actor | Rodrigo always dreamed of being on stage. | Rodrigo always dreamed of achieving his goal. | cook | Rodrigo dreamed of owning a restaurant | Rodrigo worked to achieve his goals |
| He had performed in many plays and wanted to be an actor known worldwide. | He had worked for many years and his skill as an actor was growing. | He had prepared many meals and his skill as a cook was widely known. | He was constantly praised for his skill as a cook, and won several local contests. |
| His mentor warned him that it was a tough career goal to pursue. | His mentor warned him that it was a tough career goal to pursue. | Although very demanding, it was the perfect career for him. | Although very demanding, it was the perfect career for him. |
| bomb | The explosion surprised everyone. | The event surprised everyone. | wound | It was a very bad accident. | It was a very tough situation |
|  | The terrorists had gone into the building and planted a bomb on the bottom floor. | Many people read about the bomb that they had detonated during the game. |  | The paramedics applied bandages to the patient's wounds that covered his body. | He would go out every day despite all the wounds from his falls. |
|  | The investigators were surprised by the damage it had done. | The investigators were surprised by the damage it had done. |  | Within a few months they had mostly healed. | Within a few months they had mostly healed. |
| author | The novel had great potential. | It was another successful year. | coach | It was the night of the big game.  | It was the night they had been waiting for. |
| This was the second best-selling book written by the author in less than two years. | This was the second award given to the author in less than two months. | The football team was trained by the best coach in high school sports. | Everyone felt confident because they had the best coach in high school sports. |
| The critics claimed that she was likely to get the Pulitzer prize. | The critics claimed that she was likely to get the Pulitzer prize. | The players poured Gatorade on him after the victory. | The players poured Gatorade on him after the victory. |
| captain | The ship had been sailing for a long time. | Things were going smoothly the entire trip. | disease | Doctors were worried about a new epidemic.  | The community was faced with a new problem. |
| The ship’s crew was instructed by their captain to slow the engines and prepare for impact. | They were instructed by the captain to slow the engines and prepare for impact. | Many people were sick from a new deadly disease for which there is no vaccine. | Many parents were warned about the disease in hospitals and clinics. |
| A horrible accident was avoided thanks to his knowledge and skill. | A horrible accident was avoided thanks to his knowledge and skill. | Despite these precautions it still made many people sick. | Despite these precautions it still made many people sick. |

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| chocolate | Sometimes I need to allow myself a sweet treat. | Sometimes I get the urge to snack. | mattress | I have not been resting well at night. | I have not been feeling well lately. |
|  I went to the candy store to buy dark chocolate, which always hits the spot. | I went to the local store and bought expensive chocolate, which always hits the spot. | My bed was uncomfortable so I shopped for a firm mattress that would be better for my back. | My muscles were aching so I shopped for a mattress that would be better for my back. |
| Some people claim it is actually good for blood pressure. | Some people claim it is actually good for blood pressure. | After sleeping on it the first night, I felt immediately better. | After sleeping on it the first night, I felt immediately better. |
| debate | It was the end of the election year. | Newspapers and magazines were full of conflicting stories. | mirror | The woman was self-conscious about her appearance | She is very meticulous about everything she does. |
|  | The presidential candidates only insulted each other during the debate and did not really answer questions. | We left work early that afternoon so that we could see the debate on Monday night. |  | She spends a long time looking at herself in the mirror before leaving her home. | She spends a long time doing thins like checking the mirror before leaving her home. |
|  | We thought we would learn a lot, but it was long and boring. | We thought we would learn a lot, but it was long and boring. |  | She keeps one on the wall right by the front door. | She keeps one on the wall right by the front door. |
| diet | Many people are concerned about their health. | I was too early for my appointment. | cash | I planned to treat my friend to dinner and a movie. | My friend and I were planning to go out. |
| My friend restricts what she eats because she is on a diet that had become popular. | Luckily there were lots of magazines and I read an interesting article about a diet that lots of people are trying. | I am trying to reduce my debt, so, instead of a credit card, I paid in cash and left a big tip. | It took us way longer to arrive than we had planned because I needed cash from the ATM. |
| My doctor informed me that it is not effective and can be harmful. | My doctor informed me that it is not effective and can be harmful. | At the theater I realized it was all gone and my friend had to pay. | By the time our night out was finished it was all spent. |

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| exam | It was finals week at the university. | I had no free time this entire week. | Bakery | It is better to go to small local shops. | I had a long to-do list for the day. |
| Sheila studied very hard for her exam in history without hardly a break. | It took a lot of concentration to create the exam for the history class I teach.  | Fresh bread and pastries are sold at the bakery down the street. | I first made a brief stop at the bakery that opened up downtown. |
| Many students complained that it was too hard. | Many students complained that it was too hard. | My neighbors claim it is the best place to get pastries. | My neighbors claim it is the best place to get pastries. |
| guitar | The teenager loved to play music. | The teenager had many hobbies. | tuition | The cost of an education keeps going up. | The cost of living keeps going up. |
| He sat for hours strumming the guitar he had bought second hand from a friend. | He had waited months to get the guitar he had bought second hand from a friend. | Students are in debt because universities keep raising the cost of tuition every year. | Many young people do not realize that tuition costs can get them into debt. |
| He plans to play it in the talent show. | He plans to play it in the talent show. | There is hardly a year that it does not go up. | There is hardly a year that it does not go up. |
| hospital | The ambulance came speeding up our street. | Today was a weird day. | kitchen | Emily was going to prepare a feast. | Emily decided to take the day off. |
| The sick girl was admitted to the hospital because her fever got too high. | My best friend went to the hospital because her fever got too high. | She spent the day cooking in the kitchen and then got ready for her guests. | She got things organized in the kitchen and then got ready for her guests. |
| Fortunately for the family it is one of the best in the state. | Fortunately for the family it is one of the best in the state. | She sometimes says it is her favorite room in the house. | She sometimes says it is her favorite room in the house. |

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| hero | Many people are fascinated by batman and Spiderman stories. | I recently finished reading a well-known book series. | wings | There was a nest in the tree by our home. | The school had a field trip to the zoo. |
| In the comics the villain is always defeated by the hero who saves the entire city. | In these stories the plot is always based on a hero who saves the entire city. | We watched the baby bird flap its wings and stretch its neck. | The children asked the teacher how wings allow birds to fly. |
| Most of the time it is a man in a cape. | Most of the time it is a man in a cape. | He could not fly yet because they were still too small. | She explained that they have feathers that causes the air to lift them up in the air. |
| helicopter | The border patrol was searching for the escaped man. | The man had been in hiding for several hours already. | jeweler | Tammy loves pearls and diamonds. | Tammy likes to give a good first impression. |
| He heard the propellers of the helicopter flying right above him. | He heard the loud sound of the helicopter flying right above him. | She has several necklaces and other pieces of jewelry in a locked box. | She makes sure to have nice jewelry to go with her outfit. |
| As he tried to run away he saw it land just a few meters away. | As he tried to run away he saw it land just a few meters away. | One day they will be given to a future generation. | One day, they will be given to a future generation. |
| hotel | Sheila began to make arrangements for her vacation. | Sheila had been pulling fifty hour work weeks for months. | summer | The days were finally get warmer. | Time was going by very quickly. |
| After booking the flight she reserved a room in the hotel that her father recommended. | After her long day at work she called the hotel that her father recommended. | Spring was ending and we looked forward to the beginning of summer and vacation. | We made plans to visit friends when the summer temperatures started to get too hot. |
| When she arrived she discovered it was located in the center of the city. | When she arrived she discovered it was located in the center of the city. | The meteorologists predicted it would be a very hot one this year. | The meteorologists predicted it would be a very hot one this year. |

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| model | We were at fashion week. | We had a great view. | date | I need an agenda to keep track of upcoming events. | Every year I seem more absent-minded. |
| Walking down the runway was a beatiful model wearing a bright dress. | We got our cameras ready right before the model walked down the runway. | My friend's birthday is soon but I can't remember the exact date or how old he is turning. | Just the other day I realized that I could not remember the date of my friend's birthday. |
| We could not help admiring her beauty and grace. | We could not help admiring her beauty and grace. | I'm not sure how to ask what it is without feeling embarrassed. | I'm not sure how to ask what it is without feeling embarrassed. |
| ocean | Lola loves living along the coast. | Lola moved away last month. | weapon | As time passes by, the threat of international violence continues. | The newspapers are full of troubling news. |
| From her balcony she can see the waves of the ocean and beautiful sunsets. | From where she lives now she can see the ocean and beautiful sunsets. | Countries on the verge of war are stockpiling deadly weapons at an alarming rate. | According to the latest reports, there have been drastic increases in the number of weapons being stockpiled across countries. |
| Early in the morning it is so calm that it looks like a mirror. | Early in the morning it is so calm that it looks like a mirror. | People fear these will be used without considering the consequences for future generations. | People fear these will be used without considering the consequences for future generations. |
| piano | This was their first time at a concerto. | The parents were very proud of their son. | flower | It was spring and everything was in bloom. | It was a relaxing Sunday afternoon. |
| The composer placed his hands on the ivory keys of the piano that had been moved into center stage. | From their seats they watched excitedly as the piano was moved into center stage. | In the garden the little girl bent over and picked a flower for her mother.  | Outside, the little girl ran to give her mother a flower she had picked.  |
| The conductor was a little concerned that it was not properly tuned. | The conductor was a little concerned that it was not properly tuned. | Her mother was touched, even though it was actually a weed. | Her mother was touched, even though it was actually a weed. |

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| pilot | It was the little boy's first trip on an airplane. | The little boy was very friendly to everyone around him. | keys | Janeth had to call the locksmith. | Janeth had to call for help. |
| He was allowed in the cockpit to meet the pilot who showed him the different controls. | As a special treat he got to meet the pilot who showed him the different controls. | She was locked out because she left her keys in her car.  | She was outside because the keys were locked in her car. |
| The boy was very impressed by him and asked him tons of questions. | The boy was very impressed by him and asked him tons of questions. | This time she is going to keep them in her purse. | This time she is going to keep them in her purse. |
| poet | Tanya was a creative writer. | Tanya is young but very productive. | tutor | My GPA at school was dropping. | Sometimes, I struggle to stay motivated. |
| She read many sonnets by her favorite poet and even met him in person. | She feels inspired by her favorite poet and even met him in person. | To help me with math I hired a tutor to work with me every day. | To stay focused I worked with a tutor every day. |
| She wad delighted to discover that he was warm and friendly. | She wad delighted to discover that he was warm and friendly. | I will never forget her and all that I learned during that time. | I will never forget her and all that I learned during that time. |
| police | My friend witnessed a burglary today. | My friend decided to take action. | friends | Taylor is active on social media. | Taylor is a very relaxed person. |
| She reported the crime to the police who arrived within minutes. | She had great confidence in the police who arrived within minutes. | She is outgoing and easily makes new friends when she is out. | She likes to travel and has friends that go with her. |
| By the end of the day they had captured the culprit. | By the end of the day they had captured the culprit. | Through time they have become her support system. | Through time, they have become her support system. |

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| professor | Universities should pay attention to quality teaching. | It is not often easy to ensure quality. | college | Dough wanted to get an advanced degree. | Douglas was not sure what to do. |
| A college class can be great if it's taught by a motivated professor who cares about learning. | It does not seem worth all the money you pay when a professor is a lousy teacher. | After high school, he immediately went off to college across the country. | Over the weekend he visited the college his parents went to. |
| Students soon realize that this makes all the difference. | Students soon realize that this makes all the difference. | After a few years, he decided it was too expensive, and decided to transfer somewhere else. | After some thought, he decided it was too expensive and decided to look elsewhere. |
| student | Things in the classroom were becoming unfair. | Things were becoming unfair. | brother | Tony has several siblings. | Tony is very affectionate. |
| The teacher only called on her favorite students and ignored the rest. | The new hire only cared about her favorite students and ignored the rest. | He has three sisters and an older brother who goes to college. | He has several close friends and a brother who he calls every day. |
| Soon she was getting lots of complaints from them and their parents. | Soon she was getting lots of complaints from them and their parents. | Tony enjoys visiting him on weekends.  | Tony enjoys visiting him on weekends.  |
| tiger | The school children were learning about wild cats. | The class was on a field trip. | throne | The royal family was surrounded by riches. | The brothers were history buffs. |
| At the zoo they admired the orange and black stripes of the tigers as they walked by. | The children admired the big and powerful tigers as they walked by. | Inside the castle the king sat on his throne made of gold and rubies. | Inside the museum they stared at a throne made of gold and rubies. |
| The teacher said they were the best hunters in the wild. | The teacher said they were the best hunters in the wild. | Every morning it had to be polished by five servants. | Every morning it had to be polished by five people.  |

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| train | We were stopped at a railroad crossing. | We heard loud noises. | welfare | Many people need public assistance at times. | This was a very difficult decision for her. |
| A whistle blew and coming down the tracks was a train that seemed miles long.  | We were stuck in a bad part of town as a very long train passed slowly by. | The single mom had no more money and had to go on welfare just to feed her children. | Over the months she came to recognize that the best option was welfare until her husband could find a job. |
| I was amazed by how much cargo it was carrying across the land. | I was amazed by how much cargo it was carrying across the land. | People with economic disadvantages say it is a great way to ensure everyone has access to food. | People with economic disadvantages say it is a great way to ensure everyone has access to food. |
| camera | Timothy enjoys photography. | Timothy knows how to enjoy simple things in life. | costume | Halloween is right around the corner. | They love spending time together. |
| He was always taking pictures with his phone's camera he had bought years ago. | He was always thinking ahead and carried his camera with him everywhere. | Emma loves to dress up so she bought a new costume at the store that just opened. | This year, Emma decided to get herself a new costume at the store that just opened. |
| Even though technology has changed he will not trade it for a new one. | Even though technology has changed he will not trade it for a new one. | My neighbor says that it was hand made in Guatemala. | My neighbor says that it was hand made in Guatemala. |
| dollar | International economies can be unpredictable. | Political movements can be unpredictable. | shark | The ocean has some scary animals. | They enjoyed doing sports together. |
| Currency values change and the exchange rate for the U.S. dollar has plummeted.  | The world has changed a lot and the dollar has gone down drastically. | In the ocean the surfer was attacked by a shark a short distance from the shore. | However, they had to cut their training short because there was a shark in the water. |
| Not too long ago it was the strongest currency in the world. | Not too long ago it was the strongest currency in the world. | No one knows if it is still nearby. | No one knows if it is still nearby. |

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| family | The old woman has relatives that live far away. | The old woman has lived in this town her entire life. | country | My father lives in a rural area. | My father lives in a different area. |
| She has many siblings and comes from a large family that was once politically powerful. | She knows many people and is part of a large family that was once politically powerful. | Although his brothers are in the city, he moved out to the country and bought a farm. | All of his brothers live near us but he is in the country and has a farm. |
| A few decades ago they were considered like royalty. | A few decades ago they were considered like royalty. | He tells everyone that it is the best place to live. | He tells everyone that it is the best place to live. |
| fruit | Many people don't understand which foods are best for them. | Some things are worth small sacrifices. | sand | We went to see the sunset over the ocean. | We went to take in some sights. |
| Apples are the healthiest type of fruit because they have the most fiber.  | I will buy the most expensive type of fruit as long as it has lots of fiber. | After walking along the beach my shoes were filled with sand and my skin was burned. | As we headed back to the house I noticed sand was in my shoes. |
| There are also many different varieties that one can enjoy. | There are also many different varieties that one can enjoy. | I don't know how, but it got all over my car as well. | I don't know how, but it got all over my car as well. |
| menu | We went eat at a new restaurant. | We went to a new place yesterday. | pitcher | We were watching a little league game. | We were talking to some parents. |
| The waiter said all the specials were listed in the menu as well as new items. | I did not realize that they had a different menu for the summer. | The baseballs were thrown very fast by the pitcher who had just started playing. | Things had gotten very exciting during the game because the pitcher was throwing many strikes. |
| I tried to read it but the print was too small. | I tried to read it but the print was too small. | The coaches agree that he is going to be a star. | The coaches agree that he is going to be a star. |

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| muscle | I was waiting to lift weights at the gym. | I was in a big hurry to finish. | movie | I took my little brother to the cinema. | I took my little brother out with me. |
| I did not stretch enough and pulled a muscle doing my exercises. | I started too quickly and messed up a muscle doing my exercises. | Even though it was rated R, I let him watch the movie because he is mature. | He said he was not in the mood to go to another movie after seeing so many. |
| I could barely concentrate later because it hurt so bad. | I could barely concentrate later because it hurt so bad. | Afterwards we agreed it was one of the best we had seen in a while. | Afterwards we agreed it was one of the best we had seen in a while. |
| oxygen | The topic in science class was the atmosphere and gases. | The teacher started a new topic he hoped would be interesting. | juice | Linda only consumes healthy drinks. | Linda is very careful about what she consumes. |
| The children learned that humans need to breathe in oxygen in order to live. | He carefully explained to the children why people need oxygen in order to live. | She bought oranges to make her own juice with her new blender. | When we went out she complained that the juice was not freshly squeezed. |
| Many planets have it in their atmosphere but it is not in large enough quantities.  | Many planets have it in their atmosphere but it is not in large enough quantities.  | I was very impressed because it was delicious. | I was very surprised because it was delicious. |
| pension | Dorothy did not have to worry about her financial future. | Dorothy was thinking thoroughly about the future. | factory | My friend works in an assembly line. | My friend has been working at the same place for 15 years. |
| After retirement, the employees of the company get a nice pension for many years. | She wanted to know if it was reasonable for her to later on rely on her pension and very little money from social security. | Her company manufactures its products in a large factory across the border. | She was very happy working at the factory near her house. |
| The accountant told Dorothy that it would provide enough money for her needs | The accountant told Dorothy that it would provide enough money for her needs | After the recession, it closed permanently and most of the workers lost their jobs. | After the recession, it closed permanently and most of the workers lost their jobs. |

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| plastic | Manufacturing materials have changed a lot. | There are some things I am not satisfied with. | guilty | The trial was finally over. | The long wait was over. |
| Today toys are almost all made of plastic and they are not nearly as durable. | I don’t like that all toys are plastic because they are not nearly as durable. | The defendant cried because the jury found him guilty of first degree murder. | Thefamily cried as soon as they heard the guildy verdict from the jury. |
| A major problem is that it hurts the environment. | A major problem is that it hurts the environment. | They should decide that only when it is clear beyond a reasonable doubt. | They should decide that only when it is clear beyond a reasonable doubt. |
| soup | Clara grabbed some chicken broth from the pantry. | I wanted to try something new that night. | toys | The children needed something to entertain themselves with. | The children were cranky and annoying me. |
|  | She was sick and made herself a bowl of hot soup with chicken and noodles. | I went to the store to buy different ingredients for the soup I wanted to prepare. |  | They think they are too old to play with toys and want to watch TV. | They were not interested in the new toys they got for Christmas. |
|  | She was surprised at how delicious it tasted. | I followed a recipe and it came out a bit too salty. |  | I think it's because they were not the appropriate age level. | I think it's because they were not the appropriate age level. |
| tomato | We were walking through my uncle's huge garden. | We were taking a walk together with my uncle. | notebook | It is time to go back to school and all the students are getting their supplies. | Children often struggle to get things organized. |
| I plucked from the vine a red juicy tomato and ate it right on the spot. | I reached out for a big, round tomato and ate it right on the spot. | The students need pens and a college-ruled notebook with folder pockets. | The boy was upset because he lost his big blue notebook with lots of notes. |
| My sister took some herbs and cooked with them that night. | My sister took some herbs and cooked with them that night. | Teachers suggest it should also have the student's name in the front of it. | Teachers suggested it should also have the student's name in the front of it. |

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| tractor | It was getting close to harvest season. | It was the end of summer. | wallet | Mario needed to take out some cash. | Mario was running some errands. |
| Before plowing the fields the farmer got his tractor out and gave it a tune up. | Before the break of dawn the worker got his tractor out and gave it a tune up. | He kept all his credit cards in his wallet that his wife gave him. | Last Christmas his wife got him a wallet made of beautiful leather. |
| His wife kept the equipment organized but it was not well cared for. | His wife kept the equipment organized but it was not well cared for. | He misplaced it and could not get money that day. | He misplaced it and could not get money that day. |
| adopt | The couple had struggled with infertility for years. | The couple did a lot of research on their own. | flag | There are several patriotic traditions in the US. | It was early in the morning on a cold Monday. |
| They visited orphanages before deciding to adopt an older child. | They looked into many options before deciding to adopt an older child. | Every morning students pledge allegiance to the flag before starting the day. | The children all looked up at the flag and pledged allegiance. |
| The lawyer told the family to be patient and they knew it would be a long process. | The lawyer told the family to be patient and they knew it would be a long process. | Each classroom has one hanging from the wall. | The teacher noticed that it had a tear and needed to be replaced. |
| taxi | In the city it's hard to get from one place to another. | It was one of those mornings. | jail | The criminal was caught. | It was as if he was living a bad dream. |
| The subway was backed up so I tried to get a taxi instead of wasting more time. | I was very stressed and out of patience so I tried to get a taxi instead of wasting more time. | After being arrested, the man was taken to the jail on the edge of town. | In complete disbelief the man found himself in a jail at the edge of town. |
| A driver stopped at an intersection but it turned green before I could hop in. | A driver stopped at an intersection but it turned green before I could hop in. | His family tried to go there and set bond. |  |

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| angel | Tamara liked the idea of heaven and holiness. | Tamara wanted to look beautiful. | bride | The groom stood nervously at the front of the church. | The couple waited nervously. |
| She bought a pretend harp, halo and wings to dress up as an angel for the Halloween party. | She bought make-up and other accessories to dress up as an angel for the Halloween party. | The wedding march played and down the aisle came the bride, beaming with joy. | The music started to play and it was time for the bride to walk down the aisle. |
| Her husband bought a devil costume but it was too small for him to wear. | Her husband bought a devil costume but it was too small for him to wear. | Guests quickly took pictures of her while she smiled. | Guests quickly took pictures of her while she smiled. |