

Grammatical Class Spelling (Controlling for Imageability): Instructions for Use

This task looks for effects of grammatical word class in written spelling to dictation. Sets of 10 nouns and functors were selected. Words are matched across groups (on a one-to-one basis) as far as possible for word frequency and number of letters, syllables and morphemes. Nouns and functors are matched for imageability and frequency. The words are a reduced set of those used in Oral Reading [33].

Grammatical class effects in spelling to dictation (less success in spelling functors than nouns) have been noted in some acquired dysgraphic disorders (eg. Bub, D. & Kertesz, A. (1982) *Brain & Language*, 17, 145 - 165; Shallice, T. (1981) *Brain*, 104, 413 - 429). Such effects may be due to underlying syntactic-semantic difficulties, or may be due to the fact that words like functors, that often take a purely grammatical role, are generally lower in imageability than other word-classes. This task allows one to separate effects of grammatical class and imageability.

Special Points:

Find out about pre-morbid spelling ability.

Descriptive Statistics (for 28 control subjects):

Nouns	(n = 10)	Mean = 9.04	Std. Dev. = 1.26
Functors	(n = 10)	Mean = 9.39	Std. Dev. = 0.92

Suggestions for Where to go next: If there appears to be no difference in the subject's ability to spell nouns and functors, look for effects of imageability in written spelling [40] and in other tasks (eg. Oral Reading [31]). If the subject is more successful in spelling nouns than functors, look for grammatical class effects in other modalities (eg. Oral Reading [33]). In both cases, examine performance in spelling nonwords to dictation [45] and carry out an analysis of error types in word and nonword spelling.

Grammatical Class & Imageability: Presenter's Form

Name: _____

Date: _____

Instructions to Subject: Please write down the word that I say.

1.	yourself	F	
2.	whom	F	
3.	affair	N	
4.	method	N	
5.	thing	N	
6.	thus	F	
7.	truth	N	
8.	maybe	F	
9.	soon	F	
10.	anyone	F	
11.	century	N	
12.	idea	N	
13.	therefore	F	
14.	situation	N	
15.	theory	N	
16.	outside	F	
17.	below	F	
18.	belief	N	
19.	effort	N	
20.	seldom	F	
NOUNS		/10	FUNCTORS
			/10

Grammatical Class Spelling (Controlling for Imageability):

Marking Form

Name:	Date:
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Nouns	Error Type	Funcutors	Error Type
method		anyone	
effort		below	
theory		maybe	
century		outside	
affair		seldom	
idea		soon	
situation		therefore	
thing		thus	
truth		whom	
belief		yourself	
Total Correct		Total Correct	