

Word Superiority

All answers should be clearly identified (i.e. which question you are responding to) and must be typed. If you choose to do this lab, please hand in a paper copy on the day of the first exam, along with your other chosen lab assignment.

Section One

Please answer all of the following questions

1. Do your results indicate a word superiority effect? Explain your answer.
2. What do you think would happen on trials where letters were presented in non-words? For instance, you are given EMESD and asked to report the letter in the last position. How would performance compare with D presented by itself or in a word like HEARD?
3. A “sentence superiority effect” has been demonstrated for words. What would this effect be?
4. Look at the group mean percent correct detections for the word trials and the isolated letter trials. Do the results confirm the word superiority effect?

Section Two

Please answer 2 of the following.

1. What general implications does the word superiority effect have for our understanding of the reading process?
2. How do you think the word superiority effect might change with age? Why?
3. How would reading be different if the word superiority effect didn't exist?