

Attentional focus affects how events are segmented and updated in narrative reading

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Abstract Readers generate situation models representing described events, but the nature of these representations may differ depending on the reading goals. We assessed whether instructions to pay attention to different situational dimensions affect how individuals structure their situation models (Exp. 1) and how they update these models when situations change (Exp. 2). In Experiment 1, participants read and segmented narrative texts into events. Some readers were oriented to pay specific attention to characters or space. Sentences containing character or spatial-location changes were perceived as event boundaries—particularly if the reader was oriented to characters or space, respectively. In Experiment 2, participants read narratives and responded to recognition probes throughout the texts. Readers who were oriented to the spatial dimension were more likely to update their situation models at spatial changes; all readers tracked the character dimension. The results from both experiments indicated that attention to individual situational dimensions influences how readers segment and update their situation models. More broadly, the results provide evidence for a *global* situation model updating

mechanism that serves to set up new models at important narrative changes.

Keywords Text comprehension · Event segmentation · Situation model updating · Incremental updating · Global updating

Situation models are representations constructed during narrative text comprehension that are thought to represent information about the protagonists, their goals, and the objects they interact with, as well as the spatial locations where they interact (Zwaan & Radvansky, 1998). In addition to the information stated directly in the text, situation models are elaborated by general knowledge that readers have about the world (van Dijk & Kintsch, 1983; Zwaan, Langston, & Graesser, 1995). Stories naturally describe a changing set of events and situations. As the narrated situation changes in a story, readers must update their current situation models to accommodate those changes. In the experiments reported here, we investigated how updating the current situation model in working memory is affected by the reader's attention to situational information during comprehension.

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Situation models are organized around events

Readers build situation models centered on events (Zacks, Speer, Swallow, Braver, & Reynolds, 2007; Zwaan, Langston, & Graesser, 1995). As events change in the story, readers update their situation models, and these time points may be seen as boundaries between events. In Zacks, Speer, and Reynolds (2009), participants read extended narratives and explicitly segmented them into large (coarse) and small (fine) meaningful events. Narratives were coded separately for

changes in six situational dimensions: cause, character, goal, time, objects, and space. Zacks et al. (2009) found that participants were more likely to perceive event boundaries when there was a change on a situational dimension than when there was continuity, and that reading times slowed down at event boundaries.

The event segmentation system likely interacts with attention control processes. Event segmentation theory (Zacks et al., 2007) proposes that event segmentation is a spontaneous process and may serve to direct processing to event-related features in the environment. In a think-aloud study, Kurby and Zacks (2012) found that readers were more likely to mention features of the narrative situation at event boundaries than in the middle of events. This suggests that the activation of event information may be moderated by perceived event structure. However, the direction of influence can also run the other way: Goal-related attentional changes may influence perceived event structure. Consistent with this possibility, event segmentation behavior is sensitive to segmentation instructions. Participants are adept at segmenting at different grain sizes depending on instructions, and this manipulation can affect subsequent memory performance (Hanson & Hirst, 1989; Lassiter, Stone, & Rogers, 1988). In this study, we asked whether focusing attention on certain dimensions of a narrative situation during reading affects how those features guide event segmentation and model updating. Focusing on spatial information, for example, may make space feature more strongly in segmentation and updating, whereas focusing on character information may make characters feature more strongly in such processes.

Reader goals and comprehension

To our knowledge, no study has found an effect of reader goals on the segmentation of narrative text; however, a wealth of research has evaluated the effect of goals on other measures of text encoding and comprehension. In particular, McCrudden and Schraw (2007) have put forth a model describing how reader goals influence text processing. Their goal-focusing model proposes that instructions will influence reader goals, which then leads readers to adopt specific strategies. On the basis of these strategies, readers will focus on portions of the text that are more relevant to their goals. Previous work using such instructions has shown that reader goals influence the inferences that readers draw (Linderholm & van den Broek, 2002; Magliano, Trabasso, & Graesser, 1999; Narvaez, van den Broek, & Barron-Ruiz, 1999; van den Broek, Lorch, Linderholm, & Gustafson, 2001). For instance, research has shown that when reading for entertainment, comprehenders tend to generate different inferences than when they read for study (Linderholm & van den Broek, 2002). People reading for study tended to produce

more explanatory and predictive inferences, whereas people reading for entertainment produced more knowledge-based associative inferences. Reader goals can also influence sentence reading times (Lorch, Lorch, & Mogan, 1987), global comprehension ratings (Lehman & Schraw, 2002), text recall (Bohn-Gettler & Kendeou, 2014; Linderholm & van den Broek, 2002; Narvaez et al., 1999; Pichert & Anderson, 1977), eye movements (Kaakinen & Hyönä, 2005, 2008; Kaakinen, Hyönä, & Keenan, 2002, 2003), and self-reported reading strategies (Braten & Samuelstuen, 2004). Moreover, reading goals affect the extent to which comprehenders rely on situation models. Schmalhofer and Glavanov (1986) found that readers remember situational information better if they are reading to learn from a text than if they are reading for entertainment, and Zwaan (1994) found that situational information is remembered better when people think they are reading news stories rather than literature.

Reading goals can affect how situation models are constructed and updated. The event indexing model suggests that readers track at least five situational dimensions when constructing situation models—(1) time, (2) space, (3) goals, (4) causes, and (5) characters and objects—and much research has confirmed that readers track these dimensions during text comprehension (Zwaan & Radvansky, 1998). A previous study asked whether readers can effectively attend to one dimension at a time and whether such focused attention has an impact on situational processing. In two experiments, Theriault, Rinck, and Zwaan (2006) manipulated whether readers attended to space, time, or characters during story comprehension and assessed situation model processing. Reading times were examined for sentences that contained changes along the spatial, time, and character dimensions. (Reading typically slows down at situational changes [see Zwaan & Radvansky, 1998], which has been taken as evidence of situation model updating [but see Radvansky & Copeland, 2010, regarding reading time and spatial changes].) Theriault et al. found that reading times slowed down for spatial shifts only when participants were instructed to attend to space, whereas reading times slowed down for changes in characters and time regardless of attentional focus. The results from this study provide three key findings: (1) Readers can effectively modulate their attention to separate situational dimensions; (2) attentional focus may affect how and when situation models are updated during narrative comprehension; and (3) readers robustly attend to characters and time without specific instructions.

That readers attended strongly to characters is consistent with previous work showing that readers robustly encode character information in situation models (Zwaan & Radvansky, 1998) and that readers track characters closely (e.g., Rapp, Gerrig, & Prentice, 2001; Zwaan, Langston, & Graesser, 1995). The fact that Theriault et al. (2006) found that space was tracked most strongly when readers explicitly

attended to space suggests that although readers *can* track spatial location during comprehension, they do not always do so (see Zwaan & Radvansky, 1998, for a review). Readers are more likely to track space if they have studied a map beforehand (e.g., Bower & Rinck, 2001; Morrow, Bower, & Greenspan, 1989), are instructed to focus on spatial information (e.g., Hakala, 1999; Theriault et al., 2006), or are reading the text a second time (Zwaan, Magliano, & Graesser, 1995).

Given that readers tend to track characters by default, but strongly track the spatial dimension only when they have explicit reasons to do so, we asked whether having such a reason affects online situation model updating. Specifically, as compared to normal reading or attending specifically to characters, does attending to space alter when a situation model is updated and which elements are updated? In the present study, we used instructions that were similar to what McCrudden and Schraw (2007) referred to as *general purpose instructions*. Readers were given goals that focused attention on either the characters or the spatial locations mentioned in the story. Previous work on relevancy had used gross measures of text processing, such as comprehension ratings, overall reading strategies, and reading times (e.g., Braten & Samuelstuen, 2004; Lehman & Schraw, 2002). Here we evaluated moment-to-moment text processing through the use of event segmentation measures (Study 1) and online recognition memory probes (Study 2). The aim of the present experiments was to assess whether instructions to pay attention to different dimensions would affect when situation models were updated and which information within these models was updated. Narrative texts were written that systematically controlled shifts along one dimension at a time. These narratives included shift sentences that contained only a change in characters or a change in spatial locations. In Experiment 1 we evaluated whether readers perceived these character and spatial changes as event boundaries and whether readers' goals influenced which changes they perceived as event boundaries. In Experiment 2 we evaluated how situation models are updated and whether this process is affected by readers' goals.

Experiment 1

In this experiment, participants read narrative texts and segmented them into meaningful events. Participants were instructed to pay attention to characters, pay attention to spatial locations, or read for comprehension. The purposes of this experiment were to (1) assess the points in the narratives at which readers identified boundaries that should trigger situation model updating and (2) evaluate whether attentional instructions influenced which situational changes readers identified as important event boundaries. We predicted that readers would be more likely to segment the narratives at character

and spatial shift sentences than at sentences that contained no shift. We also predicted that readers would be more likely to segment at important changes that occurred along the dimension to which they were attending (Theriault et al., 2006). For example, readers paying attention to space would be more likely to segment at spatial shift sentences than at other sentences, and more likely to segment at spatial shifts than readers paying attention to characters.

Method

Participants

The participants were 62 individuals (ages 18–23, $M = 19.65$ years, $SD = 1.29$; 43 females, 19 males) recruited from introductory psychology courses at Washington University, St. Louis. Participants were randomly assigned to an attention group. Three participants were excluded from the analyses due to failure to comply with the instructions. Of the remaining 59 participants, 19 were in the *character group*, 20 were in the *spatial group*, and 20 were in the *control group*. Participants either received course credit or were paid \$10/h for their participation.

Materials

Narrative texts All participants were given one practice story about two children on a playground and eight experimental texts about (1) a camping trip, (2) touring a castle, (3) a family getting ready in the morning, (4) visiting a relative in the hospital, (5) Christmas shopping, (6) visiting an aquarium, (7) employees in an office, and (8) a trip to the zoo. The practice story consisted of 23 sentences (264 words), and the eight experimental texts ranged from 84 to 118 sentences (1,046–1,405 words) in length. All texts were presented in a single-space, single-paragraph format. They were printed on a single piece of paper in Times New Roman 12-point font. Every sentence contained either a change in character (*character shift*), a change in spatial location (*spatial shift*), or no change (*no shift*). Each story contained four character shift sentences and four spatial shift sentences. (The stories used in this experiment can be found online at <http://pages.wustl.edu/dcl/stimuli>.)

Segmentation task Participants were asked to use a pencil to mark off the stories into the units of activity that seemed natural and meaningful. They were instructed to place a line between two words to mark a boundary when they believed one unit of activity had ended and another had begun.

Attention instructions Participants in the control group were instructed to read the texts for comprehension and were asked

to write a paragraph summarizing each story. Participants in the character group were instructed, before reading, to pay close attention to the characters in the story because afterward they would be asked to write a brief description of the physical appearance, personality traits, and general impressions about a specific character. Each story contained at least two characters, and the participants did not know which of these characters they would be asked to describe. Thus, they were instructed to pay attention to all of the characters in each story. The participants in the spatial group were instructed to pay close attention to all of the spatial locations described in each story. They were told to make a “mental map” of where the characters went and that they would be asked to draw this map on a piece of paper after each story.

Procedure

Participants were tested in a group setting in a large classroom. They first read and segmented the practice story. The participants in the control group were given an example of an appropriate summary of the practice story, whereas the participants in the character group were given an example of an appropriate character description, and the participants in the spatial group were given an example of an appropriate map. Following the practice story the experimenter answered questions, and then participants completed the eight experimental texts. For each text, participants read and segmented it and then composed a summary (control group), wrote a character description (character group), or drew a map (spatial group). Finally, participants completed a short demographics questionnaire.

Data preparation

Most of the boundaries marked by participants were placed at sentence breaks; however, some were placed in the middle of a sentence (e.g., after a semicolon). The boundaries placed in the middle of a sentence only made up 3.5% of the segmentation data (Camping = 3.1%; Castle = 3.5%; Family = 4.1%; Hospital = 2.1%; Shopping = 2.1%; Aquarium = 2.7%; Office = 4.8%; Zoo = 5.6%). Boundaries placed at a sentence break were coded as being associated with the sentence following the break. For each sentence, the probability of segmenting was calculated as the number of participants who segmented there, divided by the total number of participants. The probabilities were then averaged separately for all of the sentences containing no shift, a character shift, or a spatial shift. The proportion of participants who segmented is plotted for each sentence in each story in Fig. S1 of the supplementary materials.

Results and discussion

Effects of shifts on segmentation

Figure 1 plots the probabilities of segmenting at each shift type for each attentional group. To evaluate whether participants identified our shift sentences as event boundaries and whether this differed with attentional instructions, we conducted a 3 (Group: control vs. character vs. spatial) \times 3 (Shift Type: no shift vs. character shift vs. spatial shift) mixed analysis of variance (ANOVA). The main effect of shift type was significant, $F(2, 112) = 276.63, p < .001, \eta^2 = .82$. Tukey's *b* post hoc analyses indicated that participants were more likely to segment at a sentence containing a spatial shift ($M = .59$) than at a sentence containing a character shift ($M = .52$), and they were more likely to segment at both of these sentence types than at a sentence containing no shift ($M = .10$). The main effect of group was also significant, $F(2, 56) = 5.66, p = .006, \eta^2 = .20$. Tukey's *b* post hoc analyses indicated that the spatial group ($M = .46$) segmented more than did the control group ($M = 0.33$), whereas the character group ($M = .41$) did not differ from either of the other groups.

These main effects were qualified by a significant Group \times Shift Type interaction, $F(4, 112) = 2.62, p = .039, \eta^2 = .02$, indicating that the types of shift that participants identified as event boundaries differed by group. Specifically, the spatial group was more likely to segment at a spatial shift ($M = .70, SD = .19$) than at a character shift ($M = .57, SD = .21$), $t(19) = 2.42, p = .026, d = 0.65$, whereas the control group was equally likely to segment at a character shift ($M = .44, SD = .21$) and a spatial shift ($M = .48, SD = .17$), $p = .384$, and the same was true for the character group (character shift: $M = .55, SD = .16$; spatial shift: $M = .58, SD = .18, p = .408$).

These results indicate that the sentences containing a shift were perceived as event boundaries more often than no-shift sentences. Furthermore, the task orientation with which participants read the stories influenced which types of shifts they perceived as event boundaries. Readers who were directed to attend to space segmented more at spatial than at character shifts, whereas readers who were directed to attend to characters segmented equally often at character and spatial shifts. This supports the possibility suggested by Theriault et al. (2006) that explicit instructions to direct attention to particular situational dimensions influence when readers update situation models.

Finally, despite the different task orientations, the three groups did not differ in their probabilities of segmenting at a character shift, $F(2, 59) = 2.11, p = .131$. The fact that readers identified character shifts as meaningful event boundaries is consistent with previous results showing that when people read narrative text for comprehension, they tend to focus on

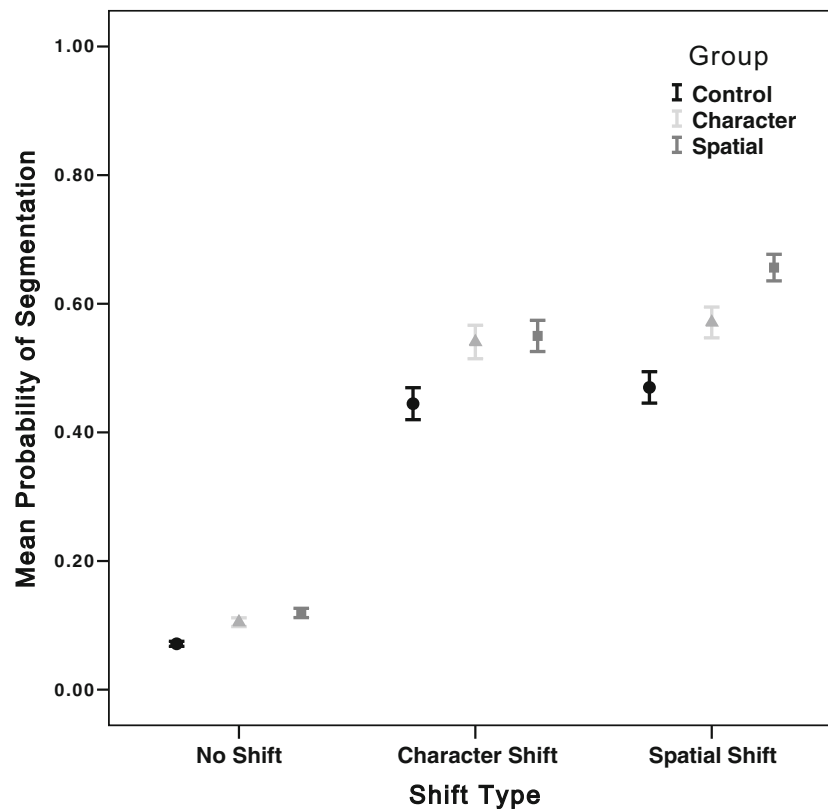


Fig. 1 Mean probabilities that each attention group segmented at no-shift, character-shift, and spatial-shift sentences in Experiment 1. Error bars show standard errors of the means.

characters, their properties, and their goals (Albrecht & O'Brien 1993; Glenberg, Meyer, & Lindem, 1987; Rapp et al., 2001; Rinck & Weber, 2003).

Experiment 2

The results from Experiment 1 indicated that readers segmented at the shift sentences and that the segmentations differed with attentional groups. Given that shift sentences were perceived as event boundaries, we assume that readers need to update their situation models at these sentences (Zwaan & Radvansky, 1998). One possibility is that manipulating attention through the use of relevancy instructions may affect situation model updating mechanisms. If relevancy instructions prompt readers to focus on portions of the text that are more relevant to their goals, it is possible that the instructions will influence when event boundaries are perceived (Exp. 1) and, subsequently, what information is updated within the situation model. We hypothesized that readers paying attention to spatial location would be more likely to update spatial information, and to update at spatial changes, than would readers paying attention to character information, and vice versa.

If readers' attentional focus can influence situation model updating, what mechanisms are affected? Theories of comprehension have proposed two distinct mechanisms by which

situation models are updated. The first is an *incremental* updating mechanism, in which only information relevant to the changing dimension is updated in the situation model (Bower & Rinck, 2001; Zwaan, Langston, & Graesser, 1995). The event indexing model (Zwaan, Langston, & Graesser, 1995) proposes an incremental mechanism. For instance, when individuals read about a character moving from a parking lot into a store, according to the event indexing model, only information related to the spatial location is updated. Information related to the parking lot is backgrounded, information related to the store is now represented, and information related to the character remains active in the situation model.

Recent work by Curiel and Radvansky (2014) has demonstrated evidence of incremental updating in the context of event indexing. They found that readers slowed down at a spatial shift even when it immediately followed a character shift (and at a character shift that immediately followed a spatial shift). This pattern of results suggests that the initial spatial shift did not lead to updating the character information (or vice versa)—that is, the spatial information was updated incrementally at the spatial shift.

The second updating mechanism is a *global* mechanism through which the entire situation model is updated (Bailey & Zacks, 2015; Kurby & Zacks, 2012; Zacks et al., 2007). When one dimension changes, not only is that dimension updated but also the unchanged dimensions. Event

segmentation theory, which incorporates such a global mechanism, proposes that when a change occurs and an event boundary is perceived, the entire model is cleared from working memory and a completely new model is built. For example, when individuals read about the same character moving from the parking lot into the store, event segmentation theory proposes that information about the parking lot as well as information related to the character will be removed from the situation model until a new model is constructed.

Reading comprehension studies have provided evidence for global updating by demonstrating that readers update not only information related to the changed dimension but also information related to the unchanged dimension. For example, readers are slower to respond to *objects* mentioned before a *spatial* shift (e.g., Glenberg et al., 1987; Rinck & Bower, 2000), to *objects* mentioned before a *time* shift (e.g., Ditman, Holcomb, & Kuperberg, 2008), and to *spatial* information mentioned before a *time* shift (e.g., Speer & Zacks, 2005).

Incremental and global updating are different memory-updating mechanisms. However, situation model updating does not necessarily always have to occur in an entirely incremental or an entirely global fashion. For instance, global updating may occur at changes that are perceived as event boundaries, whereas incremental updating may occur at changes that do not trigger the perception of event boundaries. The structure-building framework involves both types of updating mechanisms (Gernsbacher, 1990). In this framework, readers incrementally update their situation models to represent incoming information. However, when there is a large discrepancy between the incoming and previous information, readers globally update and build an entirely new model.

Two recent studies have provided evidence that both global and incremental updating can occur during a single narrative comprehension experience. Kurby and Zacks (2012) used a think-aloud paradigm to measure the extent to which readers mentioned different dimensions of a narrative situation. When changes occurred along a given dimension that did not correspond to an event boundary (i.e., event middles), readers were more likely to mention just the changing dimension. At perceived event boundaries, readers were likely to mention both changed and unchanged information from several dimensions. Kurby and Zacks argued that readers incrementally updated their situation models at changes that occurred in the middle of an event and globally updated them at event boundaries. In another study, Bailey and Zacks (2015) used the memory-updating paradigm that we used in the present study: Participants read narratives that included shifts in the spatial and character dimensions, and also responded to memory probes testing the accessibility of information on those dimensions. Bailey and Zacks found that the likelihood of using a particular updating mechanism (incremental vs. global) varied

with age: Young adults updated more incrementally, whereas older adults updated more globally.

A third study used perceptual and memory tasks to attempt to distinguish between global and incremental updating during television viewing. In their first study, Huff, Meitz, and Papenmeier (2014) measured long-term memory for event boundaries identified in situation comedies, as a function of the number of changing situational dimensions at each boundary (locations, actions, characters, or time). They found that as the number of changing dimensions increased, recognition memory for the event boundary improved. In a second study, they found that viewers' abilities to predict what would happen after the boundary decreased with increasing numbers of situation changes. Huff et al. interpreted these results as supporting a purely incremental updating mechanism. We will return to this claim in the General Discussion.

To evaluate situation model updating in Experiment 2, we presented stories on a computer screen one sentence at a time and used a recognition memory probe technique. Immediately after reading a sentence that contained a shift, participants responded to a probe phrase from the previous situation that was related to either the changed or the unchanged situational dimension. To discourage participants from focusing disproportionately on the shift sentence, probe phrases were also included after control sentences that contained no shift. We measured response times and accuracy to the probe phrases, on the assumption that responses would be relatively fast and accurate if the information was actively represented in the situation model, whereas responses would be relatively slower and less accurate if the information had been removed from the situation model during shift-related updating. In this paradigm, slower or less accurate recognition responses are used to assess updating. If there is a change on a dimension and responses on either dimension are slowed or less accurate relative to a no-change control, this is evidence of updating.

Incremental updating should affect only the changed dimension. For example, imagine reading about a man who parked his car and then headed into a grocery store. After reading about this change in spatial location, an incremental updating mechanism should lead to slower or less accurate responses to information related to spatial locations in the parking lot. However, incremental updating of the spatial location should not influence the accessibility of character information, since it is an unchanged dimension. A global updating mechanism, on the other hand, should influence responses to both probes of information about the parking lot (which changed) and about the man (which did not). More generally, when responses to probes of an unchanged dimension are slower or less accurate than probe responses to a no-change control, this indicates that the situation model has been updated globally. When responses to probes of a changed dimension are slower or less accurate than responses to probes of an unchanged dimension, this indicates that only the

changed dimension of the situation model has been updated, which would be incremental updating.

Attention to situational dimensions may affect both *when* situation model updating happens and *what* is updated—that is, whether incremental or global updating mechanisms are engaged. If a reader is attending to one dimension, changes in that dimension may be more likely to lead to global updating. For example, if a reader were tracking spatial information, reading about a spatial shift might be especially likely to trigger updating of both character and spatial information. Furthermore, if a reader is *not* tracking a dimension while reading, then information related to that dimension may not be updated even during a global update. For example, if a reader were failing to track spatial information, that information likely would be poorly represented in the model and would show little change in accessibility as a function of updating, whether global or incremental. (Note that this does not mean that a reader could not answer questions about such information; the reader just would need to rely on other sources, such as surface information or long-term memory.) Thus, it is possible for global updating to affect only one of the two dimensions if a reader does not represent the other dimension in his or her situation model. It is also possible for global updating to happen only at one kind of situation change, if a reader segments the narrative only on the basis of a dimension of interest.

The main goals of Experiment 2 were (1) to test whether readers update their situation models incrementally, globally, or both, and (2) to evaluate the effects of attentional manipulation on situation model accessibility.

Method

Participants

The participants were 105 individuals (ages 18–29, $M = 18.98$ years, $SD = 1.53$; 90 females, 15 males) recruited from introductory psychology courses at Washington University, St. Louis. Participants were randomly assigned to an attention group: 37 were in the character group, 33 in the spatial group, and 35 in the control group. Participants either received course credit or were paid \$10/h for their participation.

Materials

All participants read the same practice text and the eight experimental texts from Experiment 1. Each of the experimental texts contained 12 recognition memory test trials,

made up of a sentence containing a probe phrase (e.g., “rosy cheek,” “above the sign”), three filler sentences, a critical sentence, and a recognition probe phrase (for examples, see Appx. A). The sentence containing the probe phrase set up the new event and included a phrase related either to the characters in the story (e.g., “rosy cheek”) or to the spatial locations in the story (e.g., “above the sign”). The three filler sentences contained information relevant to the storyline but no major changes along the dimensions represented in situation models, such as characters, space, goals, objects, and time. The critical sentences could contain either a change in character (*character shift*), a change in spatial location (*spatial shift*), or no change (*no shift*). The recognition probe phrases were either targets (e.g., “above the sign”) or plausible foils (e.g., “on the table”). The target and foil probe phrases were matched on syllable length according to the MRC Psycholinguistic Database (Wilson, 1988). All probe phrases were either three or four syllables in length.

Design

The texts were presented one sentence at a time. Participants pressed the spacebar to advance to the next sentence. Each story contained 12 critical sentences: four contained no shifts, four contained a character shift, and four contained a spatial shift. After participants had read a critical sentence, they were presented with a warning signal (#####) in the center of the screen for 500 ms, followed by a probe phrase. The practice story contained four probe phrases, and the eight experimental texts each contained 12 probe phrases. Of the 12 probe phrases in the experimental texts, six were character probe phrases and six were spatial probe phrases. Extensive pilot testing identified probe phrases that reduced ceiling effects in response accuracy. The type of shift sentence (no shift, character shift, or spatial shift) was crossed with the type of probe phrase (character or spatial probe), resulting in six trial types. Thus, we manipulated whether the recognition probe phrase was presented prior to or after the updating process. For two probe types—no-shift character probes and no-shift spatial probes—phrases were presented and probed within the same event (i.e., the event middles in Appx. A), with no shift intervening. These trials were assumed to measure accessibility prior to situation model updating. Other probe phrases were presented following a shift on either the probed dimension (character probes after character shifts or spatial probes after spatial shifts) or the *other* dimension (character probes after spatial shifts or spatial probes after character shifts). If incremental updating occurred, one would expect responses to be impaired following a shift

on the probed dimension relative to shifts on the other dimension. If global updating occurs, one would expect responses to be impaired following a shift on any dimension relative to no shift. Appendix Table 1 illustrates this design.

The probe phrases remained onscreen until a response was recorded. Participants were instructed to press the “Y” key as quickly as possible if they had read the phrase in a recent sentence, and to press “N” as quickly as possible if they had not read the phrase. Response times were recorded, and no feedback was provided. Immediately after a button was pressed, the next sentence in the story was presented onscreen. Text order (i.e., 1–8 vs. 8–1) and probe phrase type (i.e., target vs. foil) were counterbalanced, and participants were randomly assigned to these conditions.

Attention group The same instructions for each group were used from Experiment 1. Again, the control group summarized the stories, the character group wrote character descriptions, and the spatial group drew maps.

Procedure

Participants were seated at a desktop computer and read the practice text. The participants in the control group were given an example of an appropriate summary of the practice story, the participants in the character group were given an example of an appropriate character description, and the participants in the spatial group were given an example of an appropriate map. Following the practice story, the experimenter answered questions, and then participants read the eight experimental texts. After each text, participants composed a summary (control group), wrote a character description (character group), or drew a map (spatial group) for that story. Finally, participants completed a short demographics questionnaire.

Data preparation

Sentence reading times were *z*-scored within participants. All *z* scores more than 3.5 standard deviations different from the participant’s mean were removed from the analyses. For the sentence reading times, 29 values (0.8% of the data) for the control group, 37 values (1.1% of the data) for the character group, and 57 values (1.7% of the data) for the spatial group met this criterion. There were no outliers in the mean accuracies to the probe phrases. The variables were approximately normally distributed ($|\text{skewness}| < 2.0$, $|\text{kurtosis}| < 3.0$).

To control for the large effects of sentence length on reading times, we fit a linear regression for each participant (Ferreira & Clifton, 1986; Trueswell, Tanenhaus, & Garnsey, 1994). The regression predicted the reading time for each sentence from the number of words in the

sentence, and residuals from these regressions were used to analyze the effects of feature changes on reading times to the critical sentences.

Results and discussion

Mixed-model analyses were used to evaluate the effects of attention group on the outcome measures. Linear mixed-effect models were fit to the residual sentence reading times and the probe response times, whereas logistic mixed-effect models were fit to the accuracy data (i.e., responses coded as 0 or 1).

Sentence reading times

Mean residual reading times for the shift sentences are shown in Fig. 2. A linear mixed-model analysis was conducted to evaluate the effects of attention group and shift type on the mean residual sentence reading times. The random effect for items was added separately to the model, and a likelihood ratio test was performed to assess significance. The random effect of items was significant, $\chi^2(1) = 1,498.98$, $p < .001$. The final model contained this random effect, as well as the fixed effects of attention group (control vs. character vs. spatial) and shift type (no shift vs. character shift vs. spatial shift).

The Attention Group \times Shift Type interaction was significant, $F(4, 9771) = 10.88$, $p < .001$, such that participants in the spatial group read sentences containing a spatial shift ($M = 0.14$, $SD = 1.31$) more slowly than sentences containing either a character shift ($M = -0.06$, $SD = 0.76$), $t(2156) = 4.51$, $p < .001$, or no shift ($M = -0.08$, $SD = 0.78$), $t(2185) = 4.95$, $p < .001$, whereas the participants in the control and character groups showed no differences in reading times across the three types of shift sentences. Consistent with the results of Experiment 1, this pattern of results indicates that instructions to pay attention to space caused readers to slow down (and perhaps update their situation models) when they encountered a change in spatial location.

Recognition probe responses

Accuracies and response times to the probe phrases were compared for those that followed a *no-shift* sentence, those related to the *unchanged dimension*—character probes following spatial shifts and spatial probes following character shifts—and those related to the *changed dimension*—character probes following character shifts and spatial probes following spatial shifts. This variable describing the three levels of the changed dimension–probe relationship is referred to as the *updating condition*. Slower or less accurate recognition responses relative to no shift is evidence of updating.

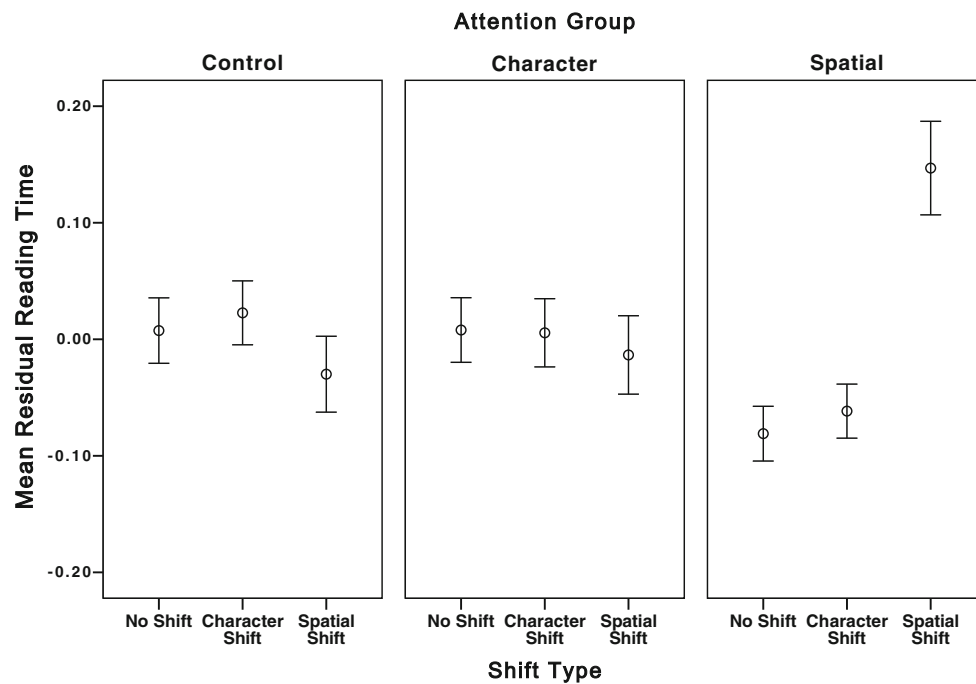


Fig. 2 Mean residual sentence reading times of each attention group for the no-shift, character-shift, and spatial-shift sentences in Experiment 2. Error bars show standard errors of the means.

Given that an incremental updating mechanism should update only the changing information, responses to the changed-dimension probes should be slower or less accurate than responses to the unchanged-dimension and no-shift probes, which should not differ from one another. Alternatively, a global updating mechanism should update all information; thus, responses to both the changed-dimension and unchanged-dimension probes should be slower or less accurate than responses to the no-shift probes. Moreover, if readers engaged a global updating mechanism in this study, response times and accuracies should not differ between the changed- and unchanged-dimension probes.

Response times We used an accuracy threshold of 70%, as had Bailey and Zacks (2015), to ensure that only responses from those individuals who were engaged in the task were analyzed. This resulted in excluding one participant in the control group, one from the character attention group, and three from the spatial attention group from further analysis. For the remaining participants, we included all trials, regardless of whether the participants responded correctly or incorrectly. The mean response times for character and spatial probes following each type of updating-dimension condition are plotted separately for each attention group in Fig. 3. A linear mixed model on the log-transformed response time data was conducted to assess the effects

of attention group, probe type, and updating condition while modeling the random effects of subjects and items. We also included the number of syllables in the probe phrases as a fixed effect, to control for the effects of probe phrase length on response times. The final model included subjects and items as random effects and the fixed effects of attention group (control vs. character vs. spatial), probe type (character vs. spatial), updating condition (no shift vs. unchanged dimension vs. changed dimension), and syllables (three vs. four syllables).

The fixed effect of neither attention group nor probe type was significant, $p_s > .49$, indicating that response times were similar across groups and for character and spatial probes. However, the fixed effect of updating condition was significant, $F(2, 215) = 5.18$, $p = .006$. Tukey's HSD post hoc analyses indicated that participants responded to probes following no shift ($M = 1,296$ ms) significantly faster than to probes from the changed dimension ($M = 1,355$ ms), $p = .002$. Response times in the unchanged-dimension condition ($M = 1,341$ ms) were marginally different from those in the no-shift condition, $p = .066$, but not significantly different from those in the changed-dimension conditions, $p = .370$. When there was a change along a particular dimension, recognition of probes related to that dimension was slowed significantly, whereas recognition of probes unrelated to that dimension was slowed marginally. The results are more nuanced when we examine the effects of the attention group manipulation.

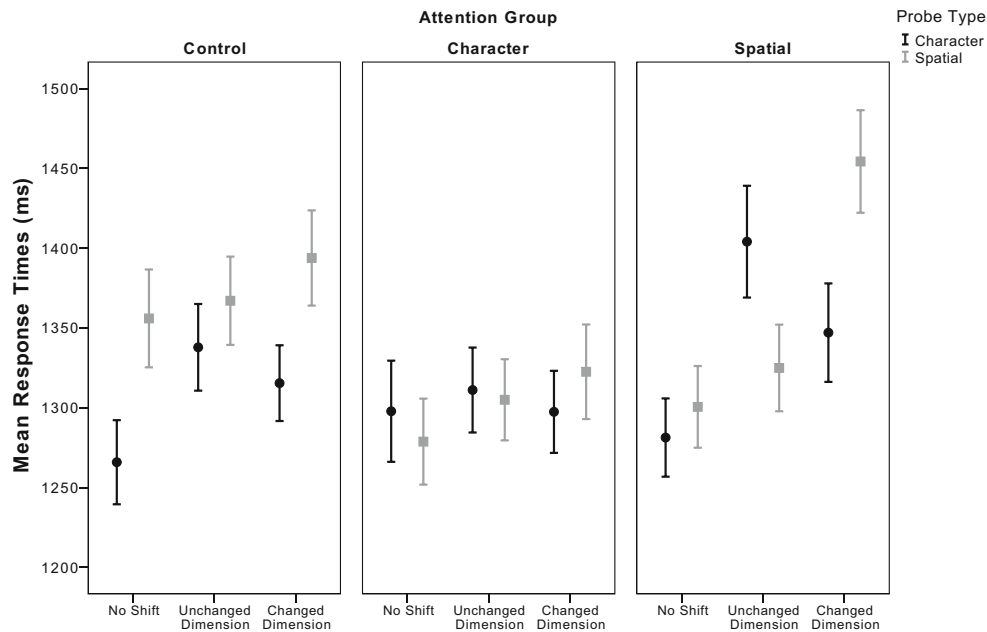


Fig. 3 Mean response times to the probe phrases presented after no shift, probe phrases related to unchanged information, and probe phrases related to changed information for each attention group in Experiment 2. Error bars show standard errors of the means.

The Attention Group × Probe Type × Updating Condition interaction was also significant, $F(4, 7454) = 2.59, p = .035$. Next we break this interaction down by group. For the control group, follow-up contrasts revealed that response times were marginally slower for probes when they were presented after a narrative shift ($M = 1,354$ ms) than for probes following no shift ($M = 1,311$ ms), $p = .053$, which suggests that readers in the control group were updating their situation models at narrative shifts. Furthermore, response times were marginally slower for spatial than for character probes, $p = .063$. The character group showed no significant effects of updating.

The spatial group showed the most interesting pattern of situation model updating. Follow-up contrasts revealed that participants responded to probes following no shift ($M = 1,291$ ms) significantly faster than to probes from the unchanged dimension ($M = 1,365$ ms), $p = .038$, and from the changed dimension ($M = 1,401$ ms), $p = .002$. Importantly, response times did not differ significantly between probes from the changed and unchanged dimensions, $p = .260$. This effect indicates that readers who are instructed to track spatial locations globally updated their situation models, because all—both changed and unchanged—information was

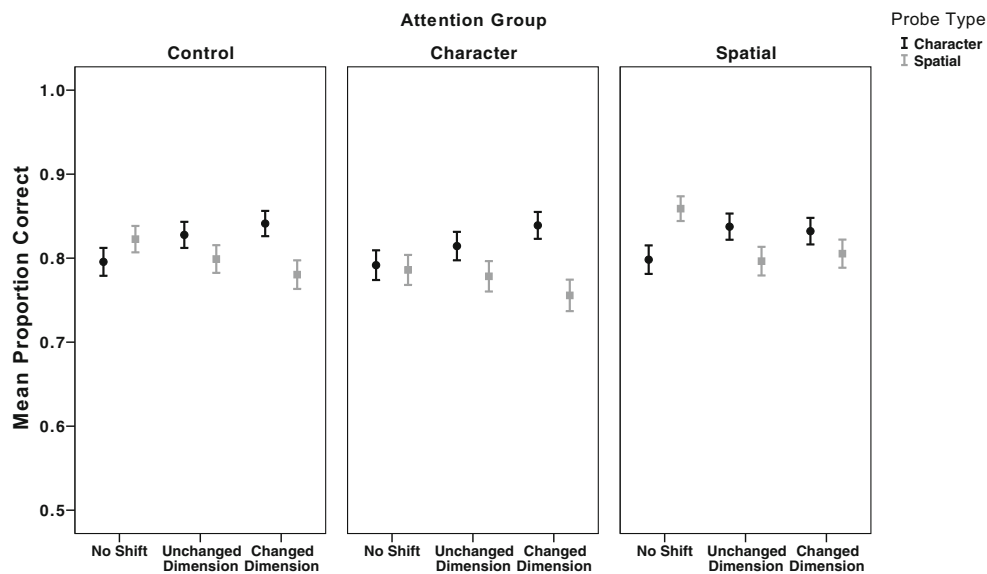


Fig. 4 Mean accuracies for the probe phrases presented after no shift, probe phrases related to unchanged information, and probe phrases related to changed information for each attention group in Experiment 2. Error bars show standard errors of the means.

temporarily less accessible following a narrative shift. Furthermore, this effect was more apparent at spatial shifts: The spatial group responded significantly more slowly to all probes following a spatial shift (character probes: $M = 1,404$ ms; spatial probes: $M = 1,454$ ms) than to all probes following a character shift (character probes: $M = 1,347$ ms; spatial probes: $M = 1,325$ ms), $p = .005$. Thus, for the group attending to space, spatial shifts reduced the availability of both spatial and character information, consistent with global updating of both dimensions in response to spatial shifts.

Accuracy The mean proportions of correctly recognized probe phrases were computed for each participant. The mean response accuracy across all conditions was 80.8%. Figure 4 presents the mean accuracies for character and spatial probes following no-shift, the unchanged-dimension, and changed-dimension sentences separately for each attention group. A logistic mixed-effects model was conducted in order to assess the effects of attention group, probe type, and updating condition on probe phrase accuracy, given that, for each trial, accuracy was a dichotomous variable (i.e., correct vs. incorrect). Random effects for participants and items were added separately to the model, and a likelihood ratio test was performed to assess significance. The random effect of subjects was significant, $\chi^2(1) = 195.91$, $p < .001$, as was the random effect of items, $\chi^2(1) = 1,095.0$, $p < .001$. The final model retained the random effects of both subjects and items, as well as the fixed effects of attention group (control vs. character vs. spatial), probe type (character vs. spatial), and updating condition (no shift vs. unchanged dimension vs. changed condition).

The analysis revealed no significant fixed effects or interactions, all $F_s < 1$.

General discussion

The main goal of the two experiments was to evaluate whether manipulating readers' attentional focus influenced how narratives were segmented and how situation models were updated. The results of both experiments suggest that instructions to pay attention to characters or to spatial location, or simply to read for comprehension, affected the points at which situation models were updated, and which elements of the models were updated.

The results of Experiment 1 demonstrated that readers perceived the spatial and character changes in the narratives as event boundaries. Moreover, participants who attended to space were more likely than the other participants to segment at a spatial change, which suggests that intentionally tracking space increases the

likelihood that event models will be structured by space. Experiment 2 provided converging evidence for the idea that attending to space caused readers to read and update differently from those attending to characters or those reading for comprehension. Specifically, the participants in the spatial group read sentences containing a spatial shift more slowly than those containing either a character shift or no shift. Participants also showed evidence of updating their situation models at spatial shifts and of doing so in a global manner (see Fig. 3). That is, participants who attended to space responded to both spatial and character recognition probe phrases that followed a change in spatial location more slowly than they responded to probe phrases that followed either a character shift or no shift.

Our account of these spatial-updating results is that readers attending to space build new situation models at changes in space. This results in reduced accessibility of the information from the old models, whereas the information in the current situation model is highly accessible and is maintained in a stable state until a new shift is encountered (Kurby & Zacks, 2012; Zwaan & Madden, 2004). However, some have argued that, in contrast, the accessibility of spatial information waxes and wanes, depending on memory-based resonance between the current textual input and the spatial information stored in memory from the prior text (de Vega, 1995; O'Brien, Rizzella, Albrecht, & Halleran, 1998; Smith & O'Brien, 2012). According to these accounts, previously mentioned spatial information is rendered more accessible when it is cued by spatial information in the current text input. In fact, Smith and O'Brien found that readers did not reactivate spatial information when textual references to that spatial information were removed, but did do so when specifically told to track the movements of the protagonist. Our data are somewhat consistent with these findings, but they also suggest that readers use mental models to understand these stories; when readers encountered a shift in spatial locations, the no-longer-relevant spatial information as well as the information related to other situational dimensions (i.e., characters) was reduced in accessibility.

Instructions to pay attention to characters did not appear to affect participants' reading times or memory updating. One likely possibility is that readers naturally track the character dimension. Previous work has demonstrated repeatedly that protagonists are important for comprehension (Zwaan & Radvansky, 1998) and that readers track them closely (e.g., Albrecht & O'Brien 1993; Glenberg et al., 1987; Rapp et al., 2001; Rinck & Weber, 2003; Zwaan, Langston, & Graesser, 1995). Furthermore, Theriault et al. (2006) reported that

character shifts influenced situation model processing regardless of the attentional instructions. They found that all readers slowed down when reading about a change in characters.

In fact, we observed striking similarities between the character and control groups across both studies. Both groups demonstrated similar patterns of segmentation and shift sentence reading times, as well as similar accuracy rates and response times to probe phrases (see Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 4). Thus, one possibility is that participants in the control and character groups were reading and updating their situation models in very similar manners. Importantly, though, readers may not naturally track space as closely as they do characters (Zwaan, Radvansky, Hilliard, & Curiel, 1998). Thus, when they are instructed to attend to space, their goals, reading processes, and situation model updating are all affected.

Global and incremental mechanisms

The pattern of results from Experiment 1 suggests that attentional demands modulate *when* readers update their situation models, but the results from Experiment 2 suggest that attentional demands also modulate *what* they update in their situation models. In particular, participants instructed to attend to spatial characteristics of the narratives updated both character and spatial information at narrative shifts, which was consistent with global updating.

Surprisingly, these data do not provide evidence for incremental updating. In most cases, response times to a probe were slower when it was presented after a situational change, even when the probe came from an unchanged dimension. For instance, when reading about a character Mike moving from his office into a conference room, participants' responses to information about Mike (e.g., "bushy eyebrows") were affected. Even though his bushy eyebrows presumably remained unchanged as he walked from his office to the conference room, this unchanged information was temporarily reduced, leading to slower response times. Of course, this is not evidence that incremental updating does *not* occur, and other studies have provided evidence that it does (e.g., Curiel & Radvansky, 2014; Huff et al., 2014; Kurby & Zacks, 2012).

As we described in the introduction, Huff et al. (2014) evaluated updating during television viewing and interpreted their results as indicating a pure incremental-updating mechanism. This interpretation was based on the fact that increasing numbers of situation dimension changes were associated with graded increases in recognition memory and decreases in prediction accuracy. However, we suggest that the long-term memory and prediction methods do not actually allow one to discriminate between incremental and global updating, for at least two reasons. First, because

performance was averaged across participants, for any individual a particular point in time was only probabilistically associated with being an event boundary. An alternative to the interpretation of Huff et al. is that each individual updated globally when an event boundary was perceived, but the probability of experiencing an event boundary increased with the number of situation dimension changes (Magliano, Miller, & Zwaan, 2001; Zacks et al., 2009). Second, to discriminate incremental from global updating, the most diagnostic information to test is the information that remains unchanged from one event to the next. If global updating occurs, this information should be temporarily removed from working memory at an event boundary, whereas if incremental updating occurs, this information should remain accessible in working memory. The present experiments were designed precisely to compare changed and unchanged information (see also Bailey & Zacks, 2015). However, Huff et al. did not evaluate whether the unchanged information was updated.

To systematically evaluate the effects of change along only one dimension in the present experiments, the narratives used contained shifts along only the spatial dimension or the character dimension. Thus, a limitation was that we were unable to assess other situational dimensions (e.g., time and causality).

Conclusion

Readers slow down and update their situation models when information related to characters and spatial locations changes throughout a narrative. Most importantly, the process of reading and situation model updating is significantly affected when readers are instructed to attend to space. Consistent with previous work using relevancy instructions (see McCrudden & Schraw, 2007), we found that instructing readers to attend to space affected text processing. Importantly, we found that instructions to attend to space influenced readers' strategic control of moment-to-moment text processing, as measured by event segmentation and online recognition memory performance. Readers attending to space were more likely to identify spatial shifts as meaningful changes in the story and to update their entire situation model in response to these spatial shifts. These insights into strategic control of online text processing inform theories of how humans read and understand narratives, which in turn might inform theories of how we perceive and understand our world.

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Appendix

Table 1 Example of a narrative text

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------|
| SETUP SENTENCES | Jim and Kathy were preparing to take their kids on their first camping trip, and they were a little nervous. They had waited longer than their friends to have children. Most of the time they were very happy with this decision; they relished the thought of being retired by the kids' late adolescence and having the time to take long trips with them. They felt they were wiser, more patient parents than they would have been twenty years ago. Both had been workaholics in their joint law practice, and it had paid off in a level of financial security. They could afford to slow down, to take time to really enjoy the kids. But they felt a distance from the other parents, and they were at times self-conscious about being perhaps a little less active. Camping was important. | |
| SENTENCE WITH PROBE PHRASE | Jim picked up his keys from the basket by the front door and paused. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 1 | The basket was supposed to be a place for just keys, but his were always buried under everything else in there. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 2 | Jim hated how it became a place to keep junk. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 3 | From now on he would keep it clean, he vowed. | |
| SPATIAL SHIFT | He found his keys and walked into the garage. | EVENT BOUNDARY |
| SPATIAL PROBE | BY THE FRONT DOOR (TARGET); BY THE BIG TREE (FOIL) | |
| FILLER SENTENCE A | "I don't like the look of those clouds," Jim thought. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE B | He remembered that the forecast said it would be in the upper seventies and sunny the rest of the weekend, so he felt the weather would improve. | |
| SENTENCE WITH PROBE PHRASE | As soon as he entered the garage Jim spotted the tent he had stored in the rafters. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 1 | He loved getting out into nature and was excited about getting everything ready for the trip. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 2 | He knew he wasn't very organized about this, but he figured he would find everything if he just looked around. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 3 | Unfortunately he already had a nagging feeling that he'd probably forget something. | |
| NO SHIFT | He looked around for other things one would need for a camping trip. | EVENT MIDDLE |
| SPATIAL PROBE | IN THE RAFTERS (TARGET); ABOVE THE SHELF (FOIL) | |
| FILLER SENTENCE A | "Ah ha! There it is," he exclaimed. | |
| SENTENCE WITH PROBE PHRASE | On the top shelf in the corner, Jim saw the box that his wife had conveniently labeled "Camping Gear." | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 1 | As he pulled it down, the sleeping bags that had been piled on top fell down around him. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 2 | "At least I won't forget those," he muttered as the last one bounced off his shoulder. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 3 | Opening the tote, he found matches, fire starter, flashlights, camping dishes, and some random pieces of rope. | |
| CHARACTER SHIFT | Walking into the garage, Kathy laughed at the pile of stuff surrounding her husband. | EVENT BOUNDARY |
| SPATIAL PROBE | IN THE CORNER (TARGET); IN THE DOORWAY (FOIL) | |
| FILLER SENTENCE A | He was sitting on the floor, digging through the tote. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE B | "Jackpot," he thought to himself. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE C | Kathy looked up at the rafters. | |
| SENTENCE WITH PROBE PHRASE | Pulling back her short black hair, she asked, "Need some help?" | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 1 | Taking a step stool, she pulled the tent down from the rafters and handed it to her husband to load into the car. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 2 | Putting the stool back, she walked over to the shelves in the corner. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 3 | She pulled out the other box of camping gear that she herself had packed and labeled. | |
| NO SHIFT | Inside the box, on top of everything else, was a packing list for camping trips that she had made. | EVENT MIDDLE |
| CHARACTER PROBE | SHORT BLACK HAIR (TARGET); OUTSTRETCHED ARMS (FOIL) | |
| FILLER SENTENCE A | The list was neatly arranged by category. | |

Table 1 (continued)

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|----------------|
| SENTENCE WITH PROBE PHRASE | Kathy was glad she was so much more organized than her husband. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 1 | She pulled out the list and passed the box to her husband to put in the car. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 2 | She quickly scanned the list and, satisfied, put it into her pocket. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 3 | “That’s everything from out here—I’ll go get the kids,” Kathy said. | |
| CHARACTER SHIFT | Jim leaned against his workbench to wait. | EVENT BOUNDARY |
| CHARACTER PROBE | ORGANIZED (TARGET); EFFICIENT (FOIL) | |
| FILLER SENTENCE A | Kathy thought the boys were probably downstairs playing. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE B | Jim heard her call to them as the screen door closed behind her. | |
| SENTENCE WITH PROBE PHRASE | Jim scratched his graying beard as he waited. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 1 | He was excited about taking the kids on this trip. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 2 | They were going to the same place he had gone camping as a kid. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 3 | It was halfway up the mountain that their town was named for. | |
| NO SHIFT | The drive would take them about two hours today because it was Memorial Day weekend and Jim knew traffic would be bad. | EVENT MIDDLE |
| CHARACTER PROBE | GRAYING BEARD (TARGET); SHORT MUSTACHE (FOIL) | |
| FILLER SENTENCE A | He wondered what time it was. | |
| SENTENCE WITH PROBE PHRASE | Jim drummed his fingers on the workbench as he began to become impatient. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 1 | They still had to stop for gas, groceries, and breakfast at McDonald’s before they could even leave town! | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 2 | He was glad when his family came out, and he began loading their camping supplies into the car. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 3 | “Let’s go!” he said | |
| SPATIAL SHIFT | They pulled out of the driveway and, five minutes later, pulled up to a gas pump. | EVENT BOUNDARY |
| SPATIAL PROBE | ON THE WORKBENCH (TARGET); ON THE BOOKSHELF (FOIL) | |
| FILLER SENTENCE A | Jim ran his credit card at the pump and took the nozzle to start filling the car. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE B | As the gas pumped, Jim watched the numbers whizzing higher. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE C | He was a little worried about sleeping on the ground tonight. | |
| SENTENCE WITH PROBE PHRASE | He had been standing for five minutes and already his achy back was bothering him. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 1 | He mentally added aspirin to the grocery list. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 2 | The list was getting longer, and he hoped it wouldn’t take too long at the store. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 3 | Fortunately, the gas had just finished pumping. | |
| SPATIAL SHIFT | Jim took his receipt and they drove to the grocery store. | EVENT BOUNDARY |
| CHARACTER PROBE | ACHY BACK (TARGET); STIFF ANKLES (FOIL) | |
| FILLER SENTENCE A | Jim grabbed a cart as he and Kathy walked into the store. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE B | He followed behind with it as they walked through the store. | |
| SENTENCE WITH PROBE PHRASE | He paused to clean his bifocals. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 1 | He was embarrassed that his eyesight was so bad already. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 2 | Looking at the groceries on the shelf, he sometimes had to squint to read the brand names. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 3 | “I hope the kids don’t inherit my terrible eyesight,” he thought as he grabbed the aspirin for his back. | |
| CHARACTER SHIFT | Kathy expertly led the way through the store, taking the things they needed from the shelves. | EVENT BOUNDARY |
| CHARACTER PROBE | BIFOCALS (TARGET); OLD GLASSES (FOIL) | |
| FILLER SENTENCE A | She had her list organized by type of food and section of the store. | |
| SENTENCE WITH PROBE PHRASE | It helped that it was summer and all the standard camping food was at the front of the store. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 1 | Kathy was very proud of what an efficient shopper she was. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 2 | In addition to the hot dogs and hamburgers, Kathy picked up a bunch of snacks. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 3 | She chose granola bars and trail mix, because she tried hard to keep her family healthy. | |
| CHARACTER SHIFT | Jim didn’t like that there wasn’t any candy going into the cart. | EVENT BOUNDARY |
| SPATIAL PROBE | AT THE FRONT (TARGET); ON THE GROUND (FOIL) | |
| FILLER SENTENCE A | Jim appreciated Kathy’s attempts to make them eat well, but he was on vacation now and really just wanted some sugar. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE B | He knew the kids would agree. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE C | He liked to spoil them. | |
| | They passed the candy aisle, and Jim took advantage of the opportunity. | |

Table 1 (continued)

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------|
| SENTENCE WITH PROBE PHRASE | | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 1 | He grabbed a giant bag of M&Ms, plus a few other treats. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 2 | He buried them in the cart beneath Kathy's bag of carrots. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 3 | "We're getting stuff for s'mores, right?" he asked. | |
| NO SHIFT | Jim knew you couldn't have a camping trip without s'mores. | EVENT MIDDLE |
| SPATIAL PROBE | CANDY AISLE (TARGET); CHECKOUT LINE (FOIL) | |
| FILLER SENTENCE A | "I guess we can," Kathy conceded. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE B | Jim grinned and threw the ingredients into the cart: marshmallows, chocolate bars, and graham crackers. | |
| SENTENCE WITH PROBE PHRASE | He considered himself a devoted father, and was determined to give his kids the full childhood camping experience. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 1 | He checked the cart; it seemed that they had everything they needed. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 2 | "Let's check out and get out of here," Jim said. | |
| FILLER SENTENCE 3 | He paid for the groceries in the self-checkout to save time. | |
| SPATIAL SHIFT | He grabbed the bags, took them out and loaded them in the car, and they drove away. | EVENT BOUNDARY |
| CHARACTER PROBE CONCLUDING SENTENCES | DEVOTED (TARGET); CHILDISH GRIN (FOIL) The drive up the mountainside towards the campgrounds was beautiful. The kids really seemed to enjoy the idea of camping on the mountain. They pulled up to their camp spot and began to unpack. Jim told the boys that if they helped him put the tent up that he would take them to check out the nearby stream. The tent went up easier than Jim and Kathy thought it would. "Just in time," they thought, because they were getting hungry again. Kathy set up the grill and started getting some burgers ready. She told Jim to take the kids to the stream and that the food would probably be ready in half an hour or so. As she watched them walk off, she happily thought to herself that this was going to be a rewarding trip. She began cooking and soaked in every second of being outside and on vacation. | |

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