

LANGUAGE SCIENCE WITH THE CogSciDIY TEAM

TALKING POINTS

KNOWLEDGE:

1. How many languages are spoken in the world?
2. What aspects of the scientific process did CogSciDIY participants learn about?

COMPREHENSION:

3. Why is it important to increase public trust in science?
4. How is the CogSciDIY project different to a standard citizen science project?

APPLICATION:

5. How could language scientists use their knowledge of language to help those who struggle to learn language?
6. How could language scientists use their knowledge of language to protect endangered languages from going extinct?

ANALYSIS:

7. What other experiments could the project have conducted to assess whether it helps or hurts the ability to learn a language if you hear it spoken by one person compared to many different people?
8. Why are topics from psychology important in the field of language science?

SYNTHESIS:

9. If you were a language scientist, what scientific question about language would you want to address? What experiments could you conduct to answer this?
10. Do you think the CogSciDIY project will have achieved its aim to ‘help people learn about how science works, build trust in science and show people how language can be studied scientifically’ for the initial participants? How has the project addressed each aspect?
11. The five members of the CogSciDIY team all have different motivations and pathways into the field of language science. What does this indicate about language science as a scientific field?

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME OR IN THE CLASSROOM

- Watch the video about ‘Mystery Words’. Then, make up your own nonsense words and design an experiment to teach people the meaning of your nonsense words. How good are your friends at learning your nonsense words?



MYSTERY WORDS GAME

- Watch the ‘McGurk Effect’ video and test how you and your friends combine audio and visual information when listening to speech. Can you come up with a new way to examine this effect?



THE MCGURK EFFECT

MORE RESOURCES

- Learn more about the research conducted in Laura’s Language Pod: u.osu.edu/thebln/language-pod
- Learn more about the research conducted in Sudha’s lab: wp.nyu.edu/learnlab
- Watch this video about the CogSciDIY project: www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPEgDIZMszo; www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKFsmk9EYAI