COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

Research Horizons Day
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Visual and Auditory Information's Impact on Judgments and Recall Performance

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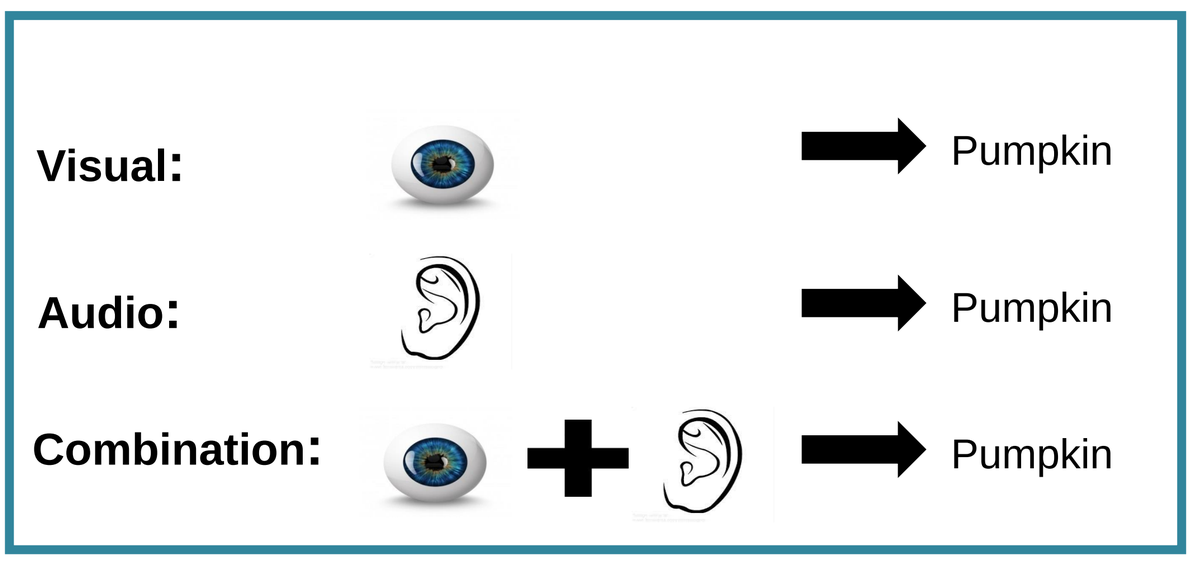
Overview

Perceptual information has been shown to influence learners' expected and actual memory performance. However, this can depend on whether the information is congruent or incongruent. Congruent audio-visual information tends to enhance memory relative to incongruent pairings. For example, congruency would exist if one saw a hammer and heard a thud as the hammer hit an object.

Hypotheses

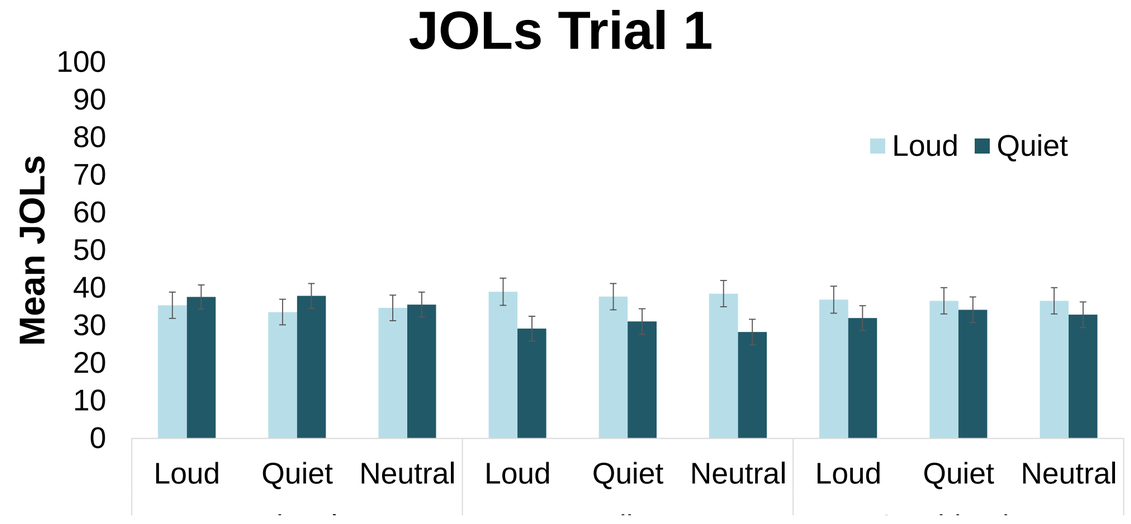
We hypothesized that cross-modal processing would yield higher judgments of learning (JOLs) and recall performance, in particular with congruent (loud items in loud volume) versus incongruent stimuli.

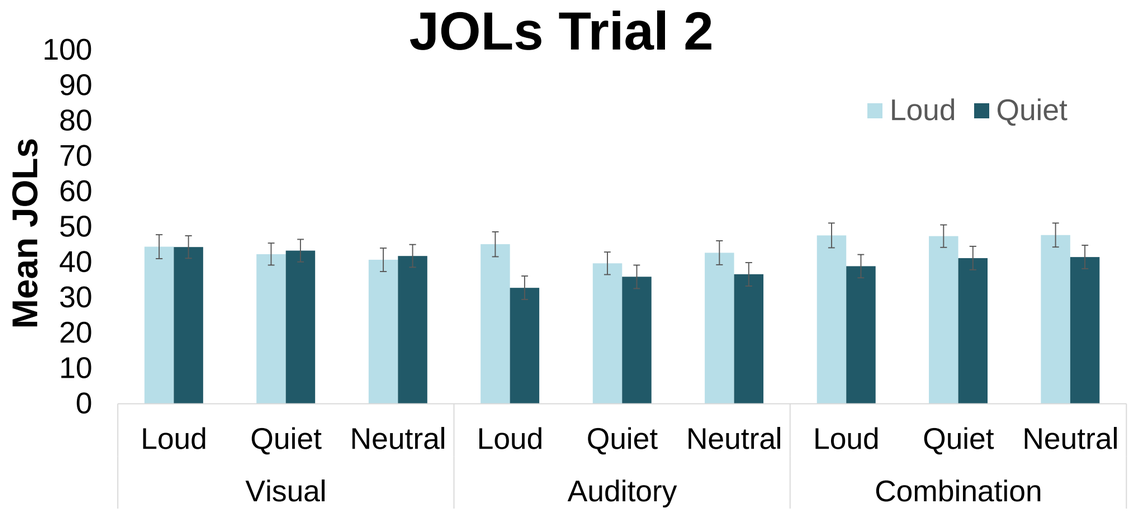


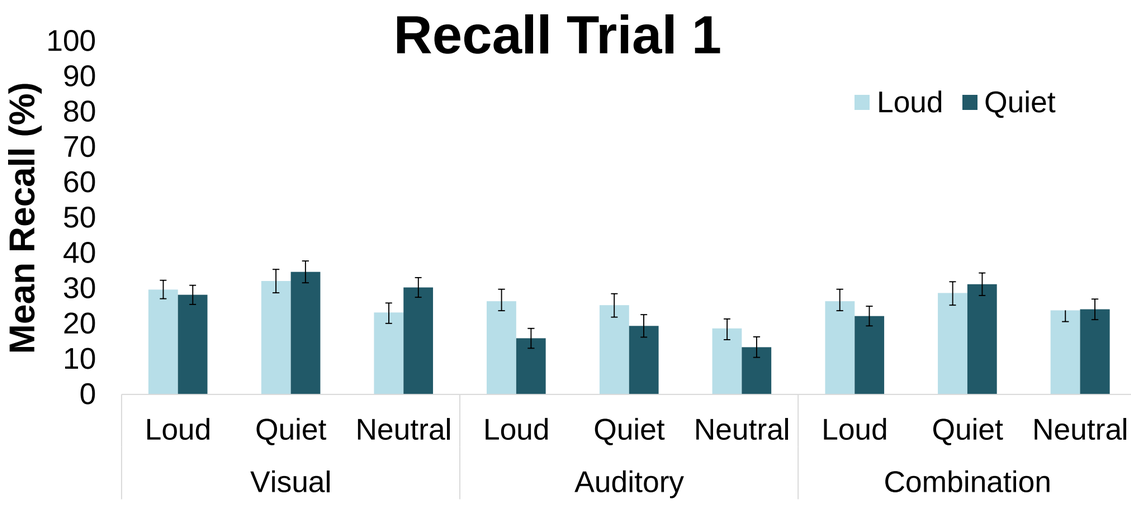
Key Findings

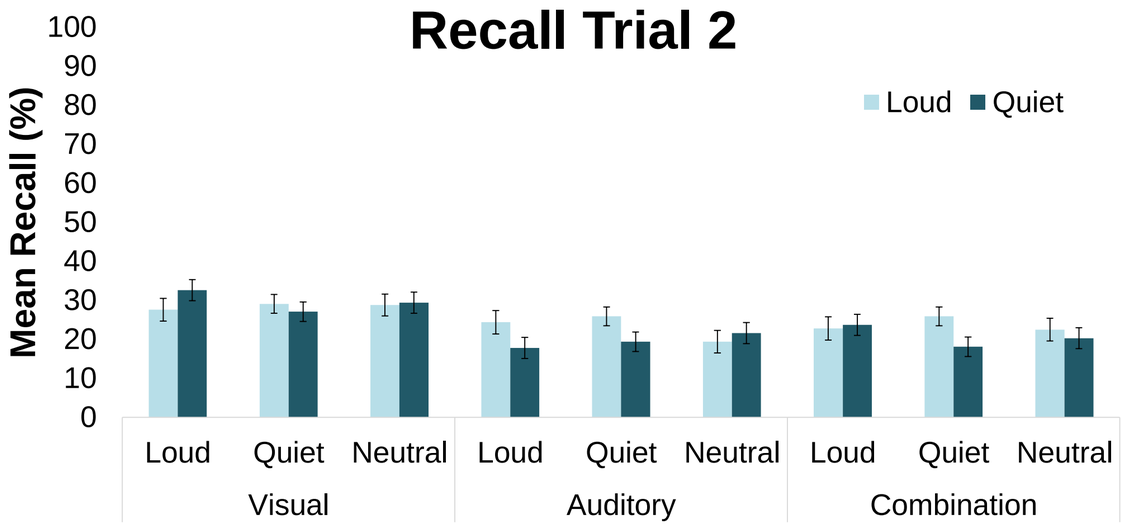
- Louder volumes yielded higher JOLs for all word types in the conditions with sound, but not in the Visual condition.
- Recall was higher for items presented loudly than for items presented quietly in conditions with sound. However, recall was higher in the Visual condition than in conditions with sound suggesting cross-modal processing did not help memory in this experiment.

Results









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Impact

The results add to the field of cognitive psychology and offer insight into how perceptual information and congruency affect a learner's expected and actual memory performance during a learning task.