

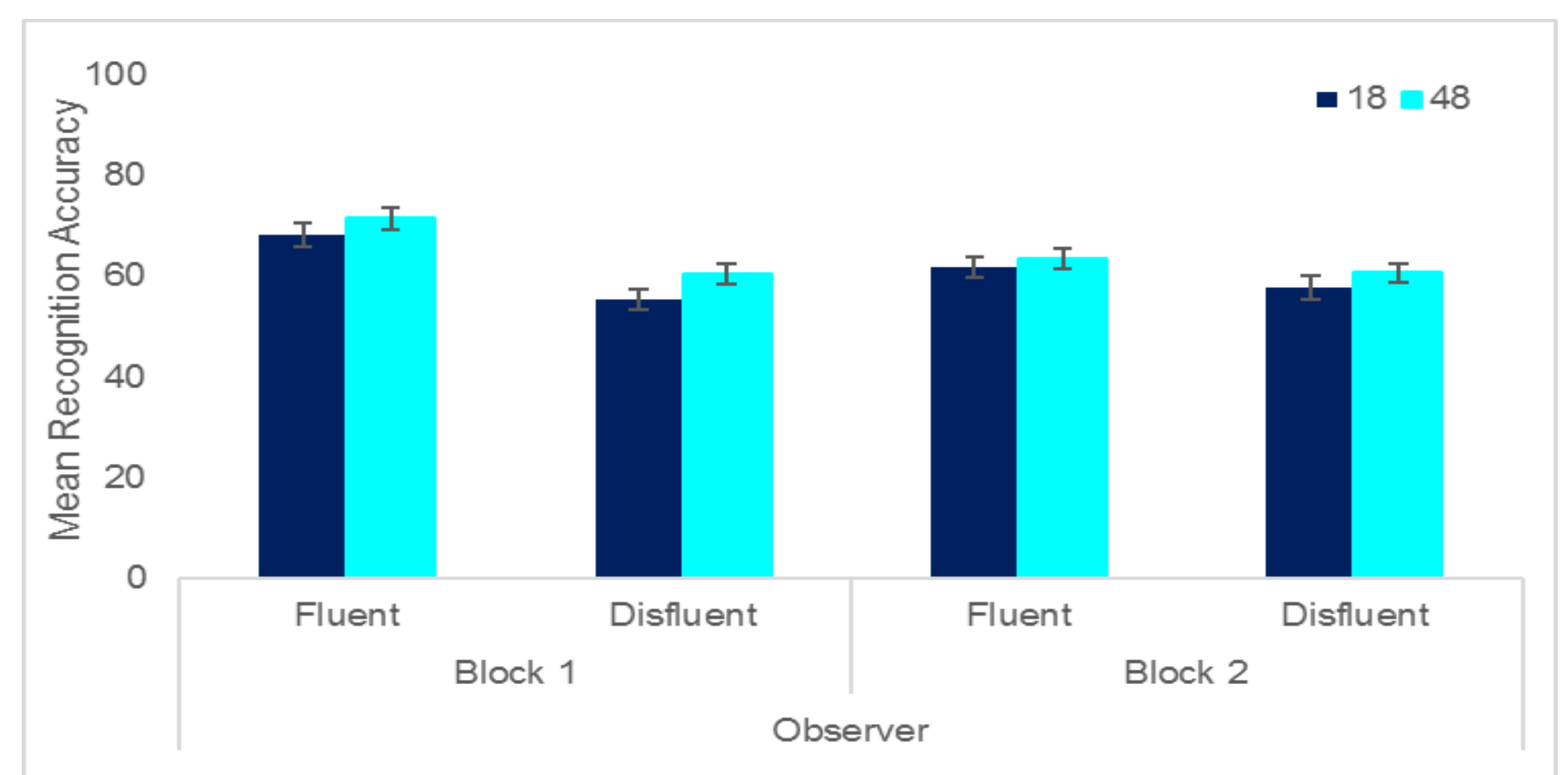
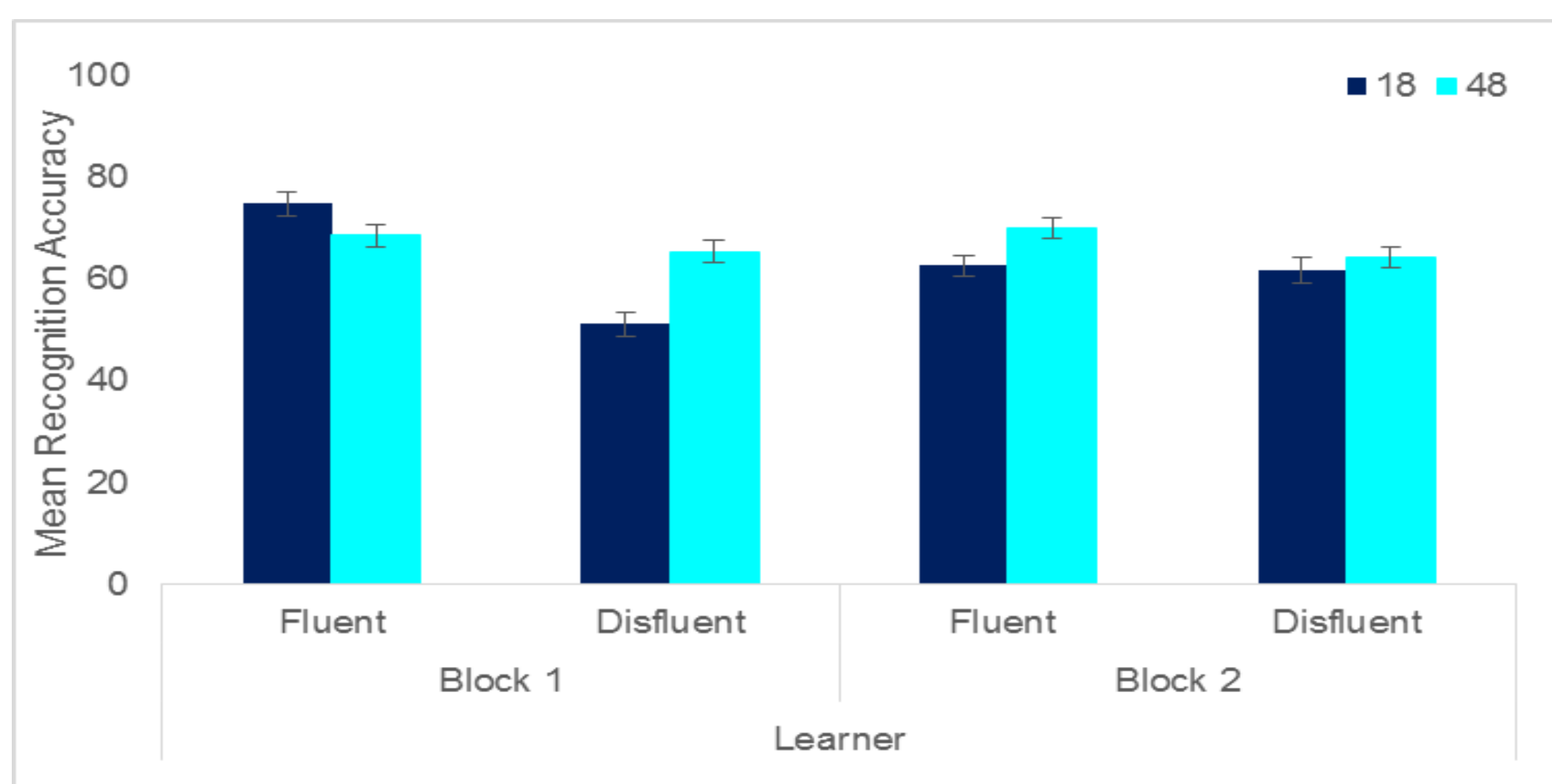
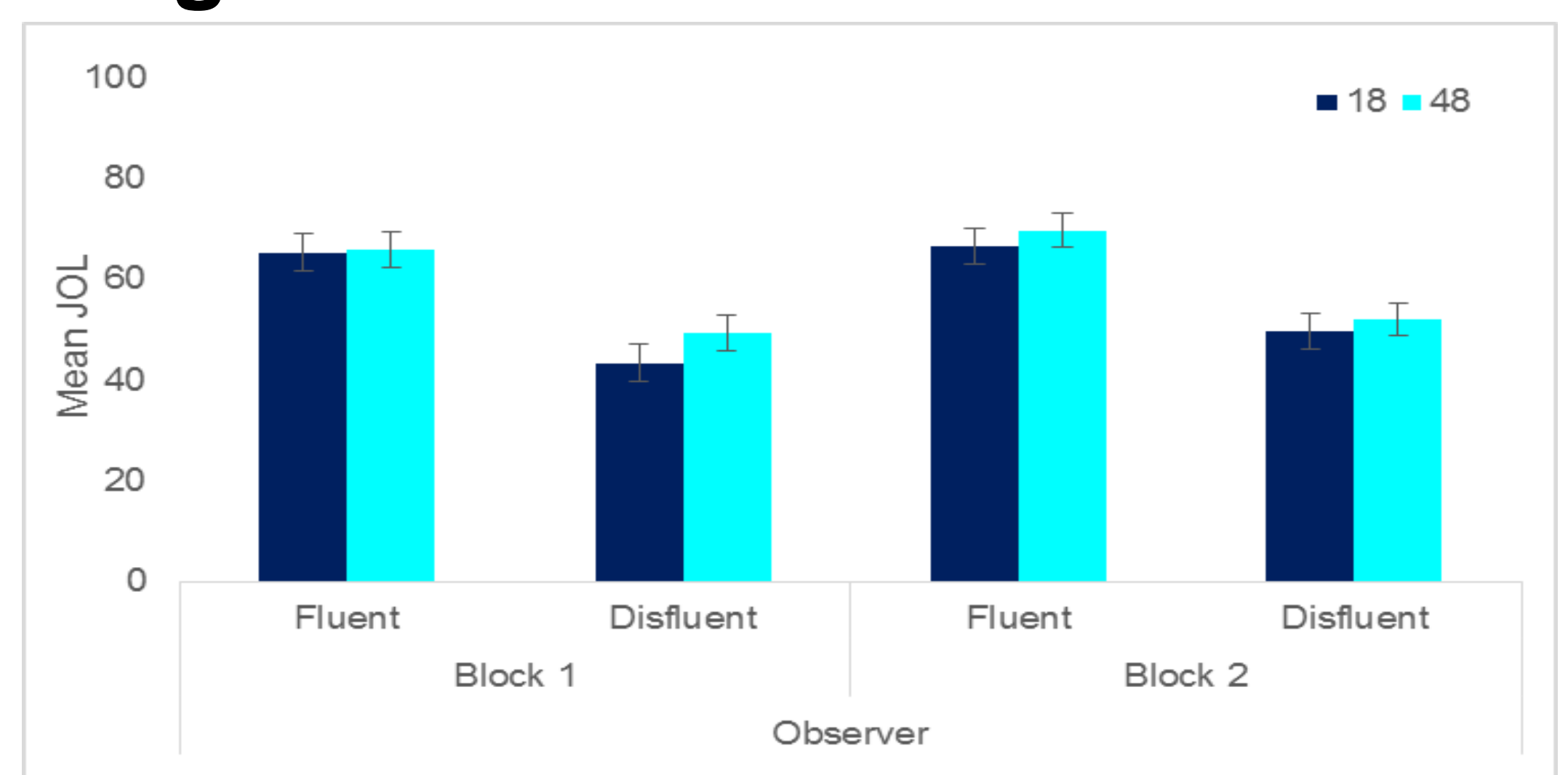
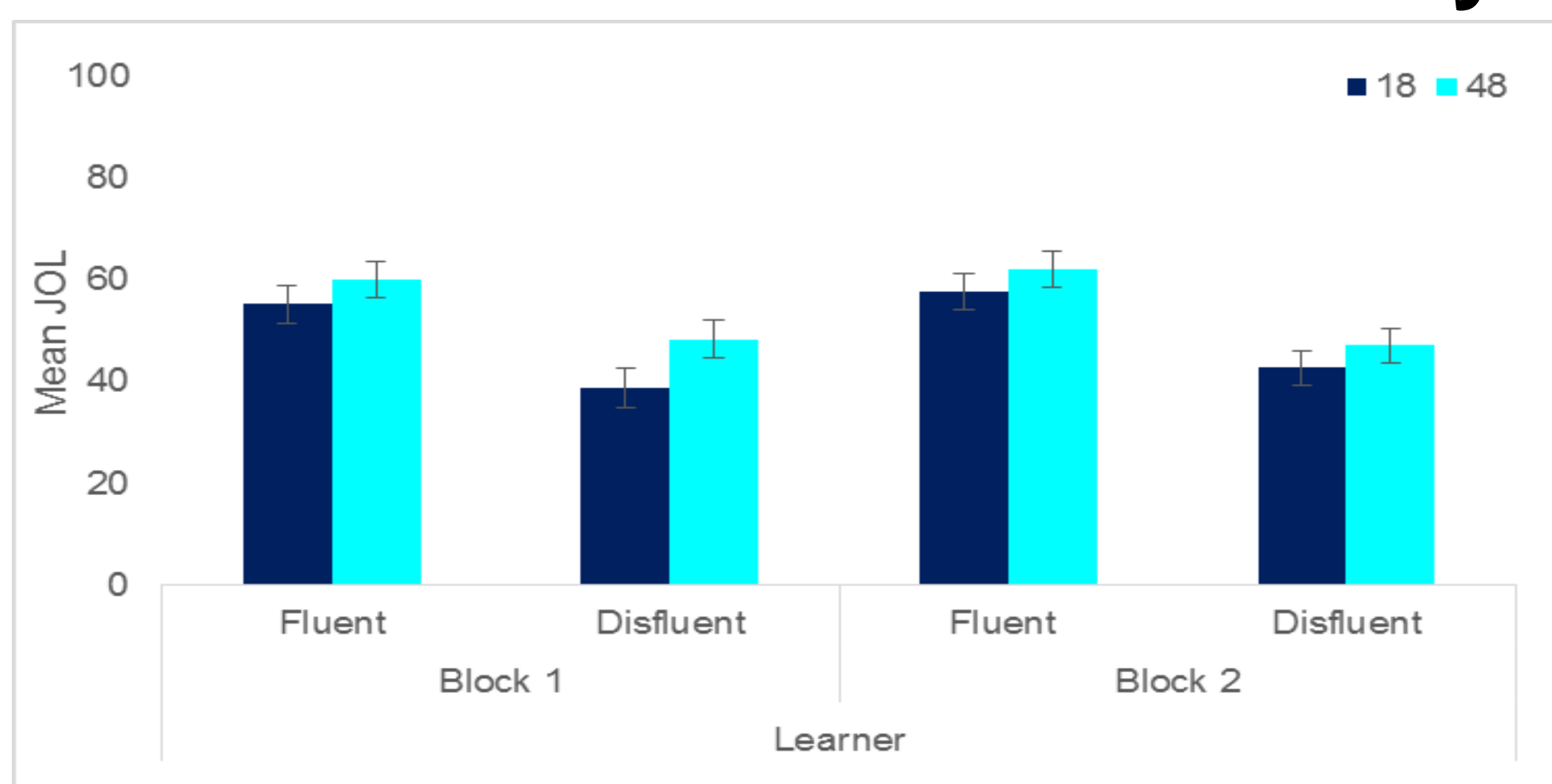
# Fluency and Font Size's Impact on Predicted and Actual Recognition Performance

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## Overview

Research suggests that individuals perceive words presented in large fonts as more memorable than words presented in small fonts, despite font size typically having no influence on memory performance. This discrepancy has been called the font size effect (Rhodes & Castel, 2008). We previously examined whether the font size effect would extend to numbers by presenting three-digit number strings that were either innately fluent or disfluent in large and small fonts. Results indicated that both fluency and font size impacted predicted and actual number recognition performance. In the present study, we used a method similar to the original study, but included learner and observer conditions (Hu et al., 2015). Participants in both conditions studied 32 different number strings. Those in the Learner condition saw half the numbers presented in small font and half in large font. Observer condition participants were initially shown boxes that represented how much room the number string would occupy if presented in large and small fonts, but all numbers were presented in a static medium font size. Although all numbers were presented in the same font size, observer participants were informed whether participants in the learner condition saw the numbers in small or large font. After studying each number, participants provided a judgment of learning (JOL). Participants then completed a recognition test containing 64 strings and were asked to judge whether each was old/new. Participants in both conditions predicted and obtained higher recognition for large font and fluent numbers than for small font and disfluent numbers.

## Key Findings



## Number Stimuli

|                   | Fluent   | Disfluent |
|-------------------|----------|-----------|
| Small Font (18pt) | 246, 777 | 138, 283  |
| Large Font (48pt) | 999, 123 | 713, 592  |

## Acknowledgements

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## Explanation

It was ultimately found that participants in both conditions gave higher JOLs and were more likely to recognize fluent and large font items than disfluent or small font items. However, the Learner condition showed greater differences between small and large font JOLs than the Observer condition. Additionally, the impact of font size and fluency varied across blocks for the two conditions. Participants in both conditions showed greater shifts in their recognition of small font and fluent strings than large font or disfluent strings, with larger shifts occurring for Learner than for Observer condition participants.