

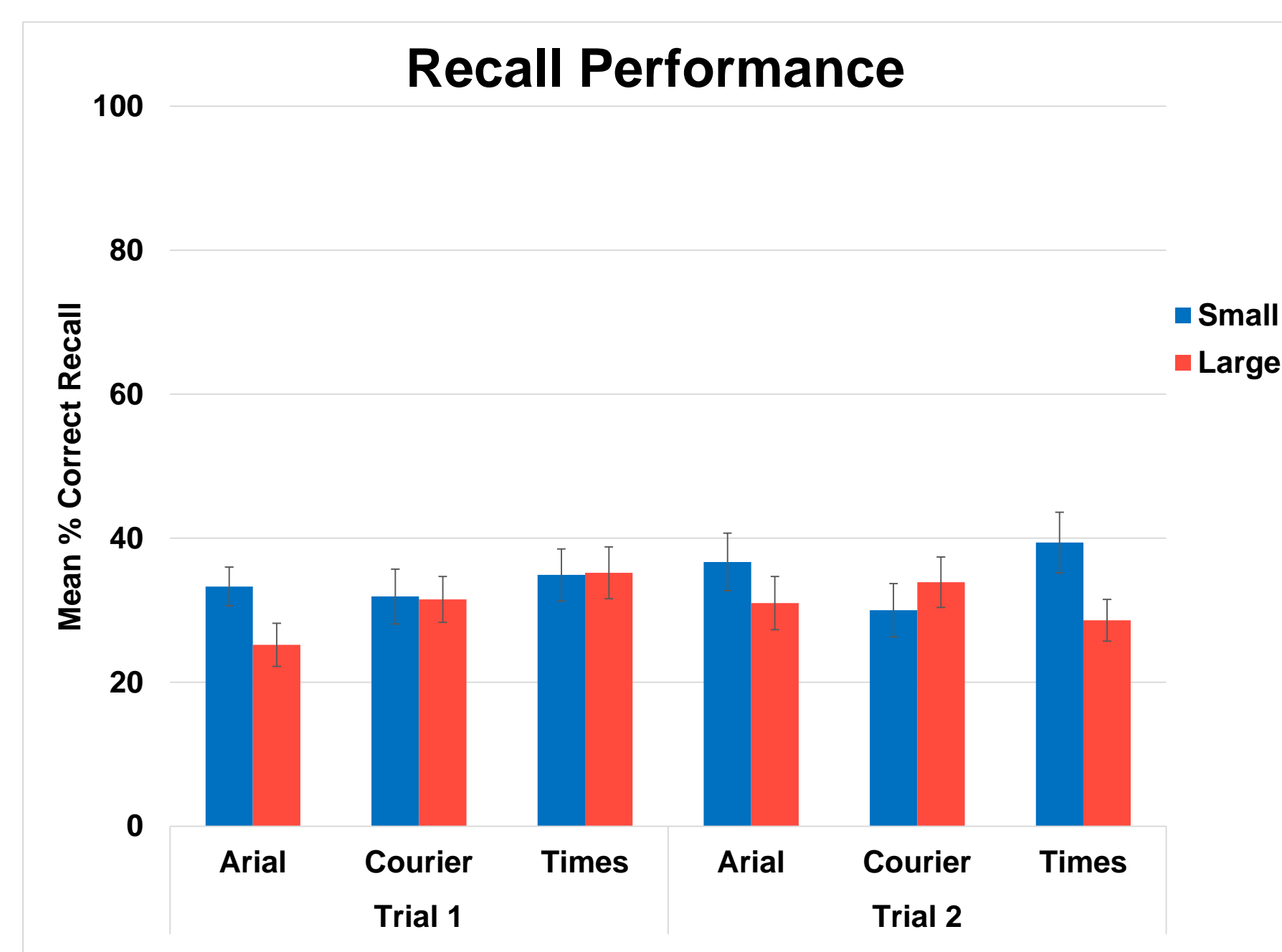
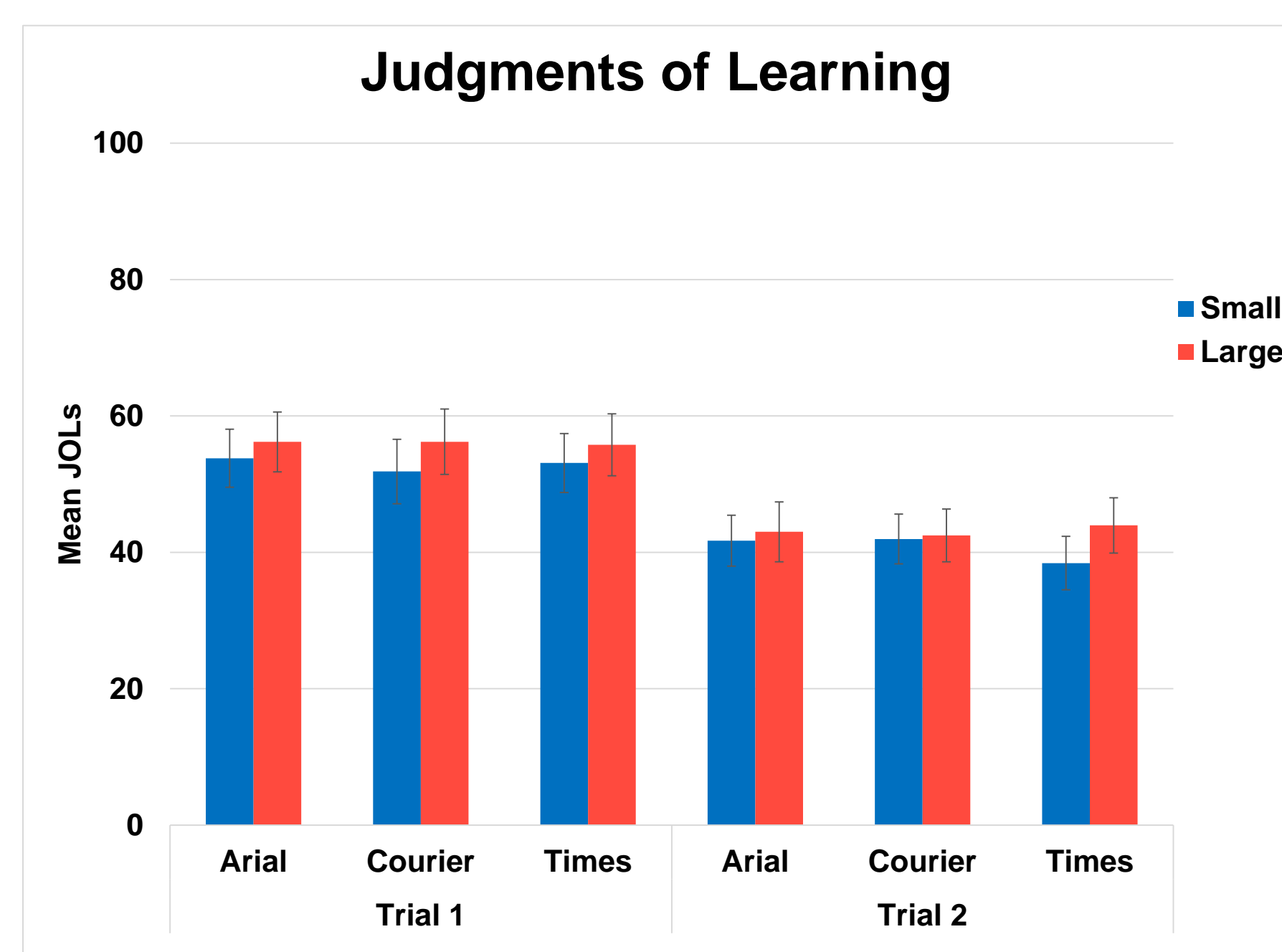
Examining the Role of Different Font Styles in the Font Size Effect

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Overview

Learners tend to give higher judgments of learning (JOLs; i.e., confidence ratings) to items presented in large font than to items presented in small font, despite the fact that recall typically does not differ as a function of font size. This dissociation between JOLs and recall performance has been called the font size effect (Rhodes & Castel, 2008). The present study examined whether using different font styles would interact with the font sizes in which items were presented to affect the likelihood of observing font size effects. We used a 2 (Trial) x 2 (Font size: 18pt vs. 48pt font) x 3 (Font style: Arial, Courier, TNR) design. We asked participants ($N = 35$) to complete two trials, each containing 36 different concrete words. After studying the words for 5 seconds each, they completed a free recall test. Of interest was whether JOLs and recall performance would differ as a function of the font size and font style combinations. We found that JOLs decreased across trials and were higher for words presented in large font than for those in small font. Recall performance only differed as a function of Font size, with recall being greater for words presented in small font.

Key Findings



Sample Stimuli

	Small	Large
Arial	bridge	bridge
Courier	bridge	bridge
TNR	bridge	bridge

Explanation

- JOLs decreased across trials and were higher for large font than for small font stimuli, but did not differ as a function of font style.
- Recall also did not differ significantly for the various font styles, but was significantly higher for small fonts than for large fonts.
- The fluency of large fonts increased JOLs, while the disfluency of small fonts enhanced recall.

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