Beliefs about Font Size and Visual Impairment’s Influence on Recall

Hilton, H., Winston, P., DeBardelaben, A., Cullars, E., Jones, H., Hall, K., White, K., & Dr. Jodi Price, Dept. of Psychology

Background
- Prior research has demonstrated:
  ○ Participants give higher judgments of learning (JOLs) to words presented in large (48pt) font than those in small (18pt) font but there is no difference in memory performance between font sizes
- In a prior study:
  ○ We pitted roles of fluency and memory beliefs against each other
  ○ We investigated whether JOLs and recall performance differed between individuals with and without vision impairment
- Results showed that fluency had a greater influence on JOLs:
  ○ Small font items were given higher JOLs than large font, and JOLs did not vary by glasses condition
  ○ Recall was better for large font than for small font words

Hypotheses
We created a follow-up survey that asked participants (N = 47) to predict how hypothetical participants would perform to see if participants’ predictions were consistent or inconsistent with our unexpected findings. It was hypothesized that participants would believe individuals would have better recall for large font items compared to small, and if they were wearing their glasses than without.

Survey
1. In a previous experiment we conducted, students were presented with words in both large and small fonts and were asked to study them. For those WITH visual impairment, do you think students were able to remember the words better with or without corrective eyewear?
   - For those WITH visual impairment, do you think students were able to remember words presented in small or large font better?
   - For those students WITH visual impairment, do you think students were able to remember words presented in small or large font better?
   - For those students WITHOUT visual impairment, do you think students were able to remember words presented in small or large font better?
   - We are interested in why you thought words would be better remembered in large or small font, or why there would be no difference. Please explain.
   - We are interested in why you thought words would be better remembered with or without eyeglasses for individuals with vision impairment, or why there would be no difference. Please explain.
   - Do you currently use corrective lenses?
   - To what extent do you think visual impairment could affect performance on a recall test?

Key Findings
- Glasses > Without Glasses
  ○ More likely to read more
  ○ Have less strain on their eyes
  ○ Be able to see better
  ○ Will not be as distracted
- Large font > Small font
  ○ More recognizable
  ○ Grab the reader’s attention
  ○ Easier to see and read
  ○ Perceived as more important
- Supported previous research on font size beliefs
  ○ However, does not support first lab study