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NyU-BU contextually controlled stories Corpus: NUBUC

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Abstract The success of a language experiment heavily relies on selecting appropriate stimulus materials. This selection process entails a critical trade-off between similarity to 'real' language (i.e. external validity) and experimental and analytic control (i.e. internal validity). In order to bridge these conflicting demands, we developed the NyU-BU contextually controlled stories Corpus (NUBUC) of spoken language. The corpus is both naturalistic and experimentally controlled, comprising 16 high-quality recordings of 8 unique stories, spoken both by a female and a male actor. Each story consists of 128 sentences (∼2000 words per story) organized around critical keywords, which have been matched along multiple linguistic dimensions. The context surrounding each keyword is also parametrically manipulated, varying prior context (weak/strong), local context (weak/strong) and sentence position (early/late). Here we describe the corpus in detail, including how it compares to and builds on existent corpora. These materials showcase the ability to overcome the apparent dichotomy between control and generalizability, by presenting subjects with carefully curated linguistic materials in a naturalistic listening scenario. The corpus is freely available.[*]

Keywords speech · psycholinguistics · neurolinguistics · spoken language · audio stories · natural stories

[*] The corpus is available from https://zenodo.org/record/4075183. This corpus is distributed under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 US license, allowing free modification and re-distribution of the corpus so long as derivative work is released under the same terms.
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1 Introduction

A major goal of language research is to understand how comprehension occurs during 'real life' listening. However, it is difficult to isolate a single linguistic process when using natural speech because features of language tend to co-vary across units and dimensions. For example, shorter words also tend to be more frequent; function words have a more restricted acoustic realization then content words; morphological structure is often correlated with syllabic structure, etc. This co-variation makes it difficult to experimentally isolate a single dimension of interest when using stimulus materials that closely emulate natural speech.

The most common solution to the challenge of studying the component processes that comprise language comprehension is instead to present 'unnatural' speech to subjects: isolated segments within a carefully controlled experimental paradigm. The speech segment may be a syllable (Sharma et al., 2000), word (Norris et al., 2003), minimal phrase (Bemis and Pylkkänen, 2011), or a sentence (e.g., Garofolo et al., 1993). A wide range of tasks have been used, including lexical decision (Balota and Chumbley, 1984), masked versus overt priming (Holcomb, 1993; Forster, 1998), and speech-to-picture matching tasks (Perani et al., 1999; Kinno et al., 2008) (to name just a few). Of course, having subjects make behavioral judgments on isolated speech segments is not representative of how humans use speech in every day life; but, it leaves the experimenter with control over the features being manipulated in the study and allows them to make precise inferences about any observed effects using simple analyses.

Recent years have seen an increase in the use of naturalistic paradigms to study language processing (Hamilton and Huth, 2020). By leveraging natural variation across linguistic features of interest, it is possible to de-confound correlated factors during data analysis. This has the obvious advantage that subjects can passively listen to continuous speech, as is the typical listening experience, rather than confronted with an artificial task. However, relying so heavily on analysis techniques to separate the contribution of different factors can make results more difficult to interpret.

Here, we introduce a corpus that aims to relieve the tension between these two competing demands: stories that are naturalistic but also offer control over major linguistic dimensions of interest. The corpus consists of 8 stories, each comprising 64 sentence pairs. The stories were crafted around critical keywords, with one keyword per sentence pair. We parametrically manipulated the predictability of that keyword within the 'global' context (weak/strong) and 'local' context (weak/strong). Because predictability often co-varies with the location of a word in a sentence, we also varied the sentence position (early/late) of the keyword. Thus, embedded within each story is a 2 (global context) $\times$ 2 (local context) $\times$ 2 (sentence position) factorial design. The keywords were matched along multiple dimensions that are known to modulate speech processing (e.g. word frequency, number of syllables, number of morphemes) and were selected from a set of distinct semantic categories (e.g. food, tool, flower, profession, mammal, relative, place, event).

The text totals 1024 sentences and 16,472 words. Sentences across the stories have the same number of words, and alternating sentences contain the linguistically equated keyword. Contextual variables are systematically manipulated while holding linguistic and semantic variables constant across sentences and stories. Each story is centered around a protagonist (a different character per story, mixed gender) and bear a similarity to a modern fairy tale: Stories take place in an imaginative space (exact time and place are unknown) and contain some fantastical elements.

In addition to the annotated story texts, the corpus includes two sets of high-quality audio files recorded from individual voice actors (one male, one female) reading each of the stories

in a neutral American English accent. Each recording is 11-12 minutes in duration, leading to a total of about 90 minutes of continuous speech. We also provide thorough annotations of the speech files for timing and linguistic content.

2 Related work

Here we describe commonly used corpora to study sententce processing and how they relate to the present corpus.

The **TIMIT** corpus (Garofolo et al., 1993) has been used extensively both in computer science and cognitive neuroscience. A key asset of TIMIT is the phonetically transcribed material, which simplifies data analysis. TIMIT's structure was developed to reduce the effect of semantic context – the sentences are somewhat anomalous (e.g., "She had your dark suit in greasy wash water all year"). While this corpus offers recordings of isolated sentences (there is no relationship between one sentence and the next), our corpus offers recordings of sentences within the full context of continuous prose.

The corpus of **Semantically Unpredictable Sentences** (Bunnell et al., 2005) was developed to reduce semantic cues even further, but it still conforms to limited grammatical structures (e.g., "the school poured the camp that came").

The **Dundee Corpus** (Kennedy et al., 2003) is a large corpus of newspaper editorials and corresponding eye-tracking data from 10 participants. This corpus bears resemblance to our NUBUC corpus in that it comprises sentences in context; however, the sentences are not controlled for any linguistic features. In terms of annotation, the corpus includes syntactic dependency parses (Barrett et al., 2015) but not word-level information. Finally, the corpus is only available in written form, with no spoken rendition available.

The **Digit String Database** (Ghitza, 2012, 2014) has been used extensively to study phoneme- and syllable-level processing. The database comprises of 100 digit strings spoken by a male speaker. Each fragment contains a seven-digit sequence. There is no relationship between the different sequences of digits.

The story corpus used in the **Human Connectome Project** (Binder et al., 2011) are 26 brief stories (each with around 5–9 sentences) based on the Aesop's fables. The stimuli were created with a text-to-speech synthesizer to control word rate, speaking style, and prosodic features. Our corpus has longer stories and the stories were recorded by professional speakers.

The **Alice in Wonderland dataset** (Brennan and Hale, 2019) contains a recording of the first chapter by a Librivox volunteer. The dataset comes with a syntactic annotation created using the Stanford Parser (Chen and Manning, 2014). However, the chapter was not edited to control for context, and the total recording time is only 10 minutes, which makes the corpus rather short compared to our corpus.

The **UCL corpus** (Frank et al., 2013) selected 361 sentences from three novels written by aspiring authors. To avoid that sentences were read as a story, proper names were replaced by unique names. In contrast to our corpus, it did not control for sentential context and does not contain recordings of the story. The UCL corpus was released with with hand-corrected Penn Treebank part-of-speech tags and data from a self-paced reading study (115 participants) and an eye-tracking study (48 participants).

The **Natural Stories corpus** (Futrell et al., 2020) contains ten edited stories. It was released with syntactic annotations and time-aligned recordings by professional speakers. In contrast to our corpus, existing stories were edited to create low-frequency syntactic constructions, the stories were much shorter ($\sim$ 1000 vs. 2000 words per story), and each story was read by only one of two speakers (in our corpus all speakers read all stories).

Futrell et al. (2020) constructed a corpus of low-frequency syntactic constructions to compare models of human language processing and did not focus on sentential context. The corpus has been used in a variety of studies (e.g., Shain et al., 2016; Yan et al., 2018).

As this short overview highlights, most existing corpora of continuous speech are limited in at least one of the following aspects: duration (in terms of sentences or lexical items); likeness to natural speech; availability of detailed linguistic annotations; availability of audio recordings. Our goal in developing the NUBUC corpus was therefore to address these shortcomings by developing an extensive, continuous, natural, and thoroughly annotated set of spoken language stimuli.

2.1 Design

We wrote a total of 8 stories, each centered around 64 pre-selected keyword nouns that were matched for multiple linguistic properties (discussed below). Thus, the stories were built from the 'ground up': designing the stories to *accommodate* the previously selected and controlled keywords. This ensured that the resultant stimuli were natural-sounding, highly controlled, and directly comparable across stories.

Across the eight stories, each sentence is created within a pair (see Figure 1A). The first sentence in the pair always contains a prior context word or phrase. The second sentence always contains the target word (also called *keyword*, see 1B). The local context word occurs immediately before the target word. Three factors were controlled (see Figure 1C-E): *prior context* (weak/strong), *local context* (weak/strong), and *syntactic position* (early/late). In other words, the corpus was constructed following a $2\times2\times2$ within-subjects design.

Within pairs, factors manipulation are as follows: the target's *prior context* is varied by including a semantically related or unrelated word at the end of the preceding sentence (i.e., prior context word), while *local context* of the target is varied by preceding it immediately with a word having high or low transition probability with the target (i.e. local context word). Finally, *syntactic position* of the target is varied by preceding it with a few or greater number of words. These factors are systematically varied ($2\times2\times2$) such that each condition occurs eight times in each story (yielding $8\times8 = 64$ pairs), and corresponding sentences across stories present a different condition. The factors are described in greater detail in the following sections.

Given our design, we had two key considerations in developing the stories. First, the number of conditions made length a concern. Second, if the stories are used in passive listening tasks, participants may grow restless, leading to unwanted movement and inattention (or worse, unconsciousness). To decrease both possibilities, we designed the corpus to not exceed the number of trials that could be reasonably acquired in a single experimental session, and we focused on developing content that, although highly controlled, was also interesting and quirky. To facilitate this, we built a set of target words that could represent a variety of story characters, themes, objects, and animals.

Second, while responses most likely focus around targets in corresponding sentences across stories, the critical manipulation is context. Thus, across stories, sentences should have the same number of words, have similar structure, and present linguistically equated targets of the same semantic category.

To address the latter, we created groups of target items that, while unique from one another, had similar linguistic properties and shared a superordinate semantic category (e.g., *dog* and *cat* are both typical mammals, see Table 1 for more examples). We could then assign targets from the same group to different stories.

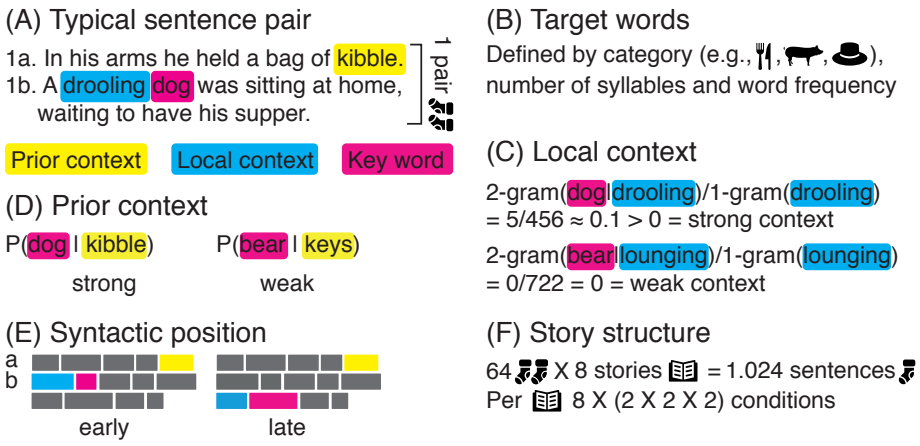

Fig. 1 Overview of corpus. (A) Each pair of sentences contains a target word (or keyword), a local context word, and a prior context word or a phrase. The keyword and the local context always appear in the second sentence and the prior context in the first sentence. The corpus controls four variables: syntactic position, prior context, local context, and the target word. (B) Target words are part of a semantic category, have a given number of syllables and are grouped into low and high frequency targets. (C) Local context describes the probability of the keyword following the local context word. The bigram of the local context and keyword is divided by the unigram of the local context word (ngrams from CoCa, Davies, 2009). All sentence pairs with an above average ratio have a strong context, all pairs below average have a weak context. (D) Prior context describes the probability of the prior context word occurring shortly before the target word. It is strong if it is plausible, it is weak if it is not plausible. (E) The syntactic position refers to the local context and keyword located in the second sentence, so early or late in the sentence. (F) Each story contains 64 sentence pairs. With 8 stories this yields 1.024 sentences. Each story contains all possible condition combinations 8 times.

2.1.1 The Target Words

The design required 512 unique target nouns (64 per story) that could be grouped into semantically and linguistically similar groups of eight, and among these, an equal number of 1, 2, 3, and 4 syllable items, an equal number of high and low frequency items and with the primary stress on the same syllable (see Figure 1B). First, we collated a list of words (1-4 syllables, 3-12 phonemes) and their linguistic properties from the English Lexicon Project (ELP; Balota et al., 2007). We winnowed the list to common nouns[1] based on the ELP's part-of-speech codes and capitalization. Nouns were then organized into eight groups based on the number of syllables and written frequency.[2]

Items were further grouped by semantic category (e.g., *mammals*, *plants*, *birds*, see Table 4 in the appendix for the full list). Some of these labels came from Battig and Montague's (1969) category norming data, which lists category exemplars given by participants in response to verbal prompts about 56 categories (e.g., frequent responses to "precious stone" includes *diamond*, *ruby*, *emerald*, *sapphire*, *pearl*, *opal* as exemplars). Items not listed in B&M were hand-labeled by the researcher.

After forming groups based on these criteria, we elected to only include consonant initial words, because very few complete categories included vowel-initial words (each group

[1] In rare cases, the ELP omits part-of-speech tags of polysemous words like *coral* and *concrete*. The ELP only codes these as adjectives even though they are also nouns.

[2] Low frequency items had values below 7 and high frequency items had values above 7 based on the frequency norms from the Hyperspace Analogue to Language (HAL; Lund and Burgess, 1996)

Table 1 Example groupings of items based on semantic category, frequency, and syllables. *Low frequency refers to log frequency < 7.0 log, high frequency indicates > 7.0 log frequency.

*Low Frequency				High Frequency			
1-syl	2-syl	3-syl	4-syl	1-syl	2-syl	3-syl	4-syl
Food	Tool	Flower	Profession	Mammal	Relative	Place	Event
quiche	grinder	poinsettia	grammarian	dog	mother	gallery	reservation
mousse	scraper	hibiscus	neurologist	horse	nephew	residence	dedication
gruel	beater	begonia	cartographer	pig	husband	hospital	graduation
flan	grater	hyacinth	stenographer	bear	sister	restaurant	celebration
brie	strainer	peony	percussionist	mouse	cousin	cinema	recreation
scone	peeler	persimmon	geneticist	cat	father	tournament	meditation
bisque	spreader	petunia	pathologist	bull	daughter	studio	demolition
curd	cleaver	gardenia	technologist	fox	brother	factory	consultation

Table 2 Counts, means, standard deviations (SD) of linguistic properties.

	Syllables	Group	Frequency		Phonemes		Morphemes	
		N	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD
Low Freq.	1	8	5.9	0.7	3.8	0.6	1.0	0
	2	8	5.8	0.5	5.5	1.0	1.4	0.5
	3	8	5.2	0.9	7.1	0.9	1.7	0.7
	4	8	5.1	1.0	8.8	1.1	1.8	0.8
High Freq.	1	8	9.2	0.8	3.5	0.6	1.0	0.2
	2	8	8.6	0.9	5	0.9	1.3	0.5
	3	8	8.6	1.3	6.8	1.0	1.4	0.6
	4	8	8.6	0.9	8.8	0.9	2.4	0.8

required eight items). As a final requirement for forming the groups, the items had to share placement of primary stress on the same syllable (e.g., *begonia* and *hibiscus* have stress on the second syllable). The majority of items had primary stress on the first syllable. For groups that did not have enough targets, we looked to other sources of inspiration for suitable words, including Wikipedia lists and the University of South Florida word association norms (Nelson et al., 2004). Table 1 shows example groupings (see the Appendix for the full list of target words).

The final set of targets were 512 consonant initial nouns, organized into 64 groups of eight semantically and linguistically similar items. Items in each group also had the same number of syllables, similar written frequency, placement of primary stress on the same syllable. There was an equal number of low and high frequency groups (32 each) and an equal number of 1, 2, 3, and 4 syllable groups (16 each). Overall, the set represented a variety of semantic categories (e.g., *mammals*, *plants*, *birds*, *colors*, *places*, *weather*, *minerals*, *utensils*, *professions*, *condiments*). Table 2 summarizes the linguistic properties.

2.1.2 The Sentence Pairs

We constructed 64 pairs of sentences for each story. Across stories, targets were linguistically and semantically equated (e.g., the second sentence in stories 1-8 respectively include *dog, horse, pig, bear, mouse, cat, bull, fox*). To facilitate writing of sentences with consistent story elements, length, and structure, the stories were written in parallel, sentence-by-sentence.

Across stories, sentence pairs followed a 2x2x2 design, with the factors (1) *local context* (high vs. low), (2) *prior context* (weak vs. strong), and (3) *syntactic position* (early vs. late). This pairwise iterative writing approach allowed us to develop stories that are impressively controlled and naturalistic, which would not be obtainable by rewriting existing stories, for example.

Local Context The second sentence of each pair manipulated the local context by immediately preceding the target with a predictive or neutral word. Half of the sentences included words that were predictive of the target (e.g., "*drooling* dog"), and half did not (e.g., "*lounging* bear"). Local context was quantified as the transition probability between the preceding word and the target, which was estimated based on the summed 2-gram frequency counts from the Corpus of Contemporary American English (CoCA; Davies, 2009). We computed this by dividing the 2-gram frequency count of the local context word + target by the 2-gram frequency count by the frequency of the local context word. For example, the summed frequency count of "drooling dog" is 5, while the total count of "drooling" before every other word was 456, making the transition probability of "drooling dog" $5/456 \approx 0.1$ (see Figure 1C for more examples). Half of the targets had high transition probability with the preceding word, half did not (i.e., splitting up all sentence pairs based on their transition probability).

Prior Context Within sentence pairs, the first sentence provided either a weak or strong cue-to-meaning for the target in the next sentence (see Figure 1D for an example). Half of the pairs included a word or phrase semantically related (e.g., *kibble*) to the target (e.g., *dog*, first example, Table 3). The criteria of what constituted a strong vs. weak prior context was determined based on the intuition of a native English speaker.

Syntactic Position The target of the second sentence of each pair appeared either early or late (see Figure 1E). For early targets, the sentence required additional words after the target to be considered complete (e.g., "A drooling *dog*. . . [was sitting at home]"). For late targets, the sentence did not require additional words to be complete (e.g., "Over in the corner was a squeaking *mouse*. . . "). Each story included an equal number of early and late targets. See Table 3 for example sentences.

2.2 The Stories

In all, corresponding (same-sentence) targets belong to one of eight conditions across stories, and within stories conditions are rotated such that each is presented a total of eight times. Lastly, corresponding sentences across stories have the same number of words across stories and there was an equal number of short (<16 words) and long (> 16 words) in each condition. Stories have the same number of words and similar structural complexity. This was facilitated by writing the stories in parallel, sentence by sentence (i.e., the second sentence of a given story was not written until after the first sentence of every other story was written).

2.3 The Recordings

The stories were recorded in a studio (GM Voices©, Alpharetta, GA 30005, USA) by a female and a male professional actor, both with neutral American English accents. The stories were uttered in a read mode. The recordings in the corpus are of high quality, with a sampling

Table 3 Example sentences from each of the eight conditions. Note: < > = prior context word/phrase; [] = local context (= high); = key word.

Synt. Pos.	Prior Cont.	Local Cont.	Story	Example Pairs of Sentences
Early	Strong	High	1	a. In his arms he held a bag of <kibble>. b. A ∼[drooling] {dog} was sitting at home, waiting to have his supper.
		Low	2	a. In his hand he held a bucket of <oats>. b. A [munching] {horse} was over in the pasture, enjoying the fresh clover.
	Weak	High	3	a. In her hand she held a can of <paint>. b. A ∼[squealing] {pig} was over in the distance, rooting around for truffles.
		Low	4	a. In her hand she held a box of <keys>. b. A [lounging] {bear} was over in the shadows, greedily munching some berries.
Late	Strong	High	5	a. In his hand he held a wedge of <cheese>. b. Over in the corner was a ∼[squeaking] {mouse}, frantically eating some crumbs.
		Low	6	a. In her hand she held a ball of <yarn>. b. Over on the stoop was a [yawning] {cat}, happily thinking about rats.
	Weak	High	7	a. In his arms he held a bag of <mulch>. b. Over in the field was a ∼[snorting] {bull}, calmly grazing on grass.
		Low	8	a. In her pocket she had a plastic squirt <gun>. b. Over by the pond was a [growling] {fox}, chasing after some bugs.

rate of 11025 samples/sec (16-bit). The mean duration of each recording is 12 minutes (SD: 0.51).

2.4 Time Alignment

All recordings were pre-aligned using the parser Webmaus (Kisler et al., 2017). Word boundaries were manually checked and corrected if necessary. For consistency reasons, all stories were annotated by one trained annotator. After an initial training phase, the annotator wrote guidelines for transcription that were consistently applied in case of doubt during the transcription (see p. i in the appendix).

2.5 Syntactic Parsing

The stories were parsed using the Stanford parser (Chen and Manning, 2014). We found that the Part of Speech labels are consistent (> 65% exact match) with the Bikel parser (same procedure as in Brennan et al., 2012) and spaCy parser (Honnibal and Johnson, 2015). Syntactic annotation is released along with the corpus.

Figure 2 shows the time alignment and syntactic tree along with experimental conditions for an example recording.

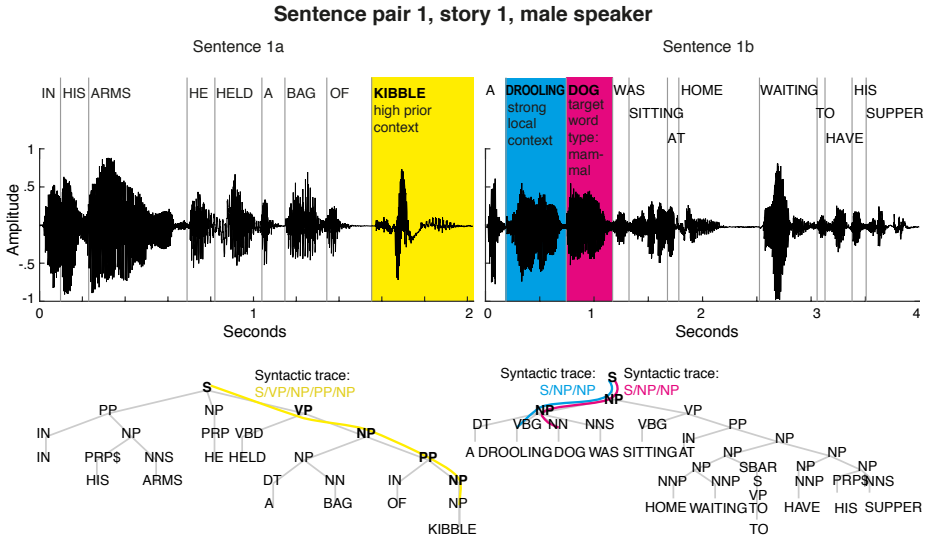

Fig. 2 A demo display of the waveforms and part of accompanied meta data of sentence pair 1, story 1, male speaker. The prior context (yellow), local context (cyan) and the target word (magenta) are highlighted. Below the waveform there is the automatically parsed syntactic tree. The syntactic trace is indicated with a line.

3 Summary of advantages

Overall, the new corpus NUBUC presented here has the following key attributes, for which we consider it to be a valuable resource for the research community.

1. Naturalistic
   - sentences presented as continuous speech
   - no task requirement
   - stories are engaging and varied
2. Control
   - keywords matched for frequency, number of syllables, and number of morphemes
   - keywords embedded in a 2x2x2 factorial design
   - shared number of words, sentences and keyword placement across the 8 stories
   - comparability across stories due to parallel text development
   - same story produced by two different speakers
   - written and spoken materials for the same stories
3. Annotation
   - fully annotated for timings at the phoneme and word levels
   - fully annotated for word-level properties
   - fully annotated for syntactic structures
4. Size
   - large number of sentences per story
   - multiple stories

4 Conclusion

Here we describe and release a set of stimulus materials that embed a carefully controlled factorial design within the context of reading or listening to continuous narratives. The naturalistic aspect of the stories, such as variation in content and topic, permits a breadth of study into semantic variables and beyond. In addition, experimentally varying the predictability of keywords, while matching stories for sentence and word-level properties, allows for thorough investigation of predictive processes de-confounded from external linguistic factors. Our corpus thus overcomes the classic tension between naturalistic and controlled experimental designs, by offering both in combination. We hope that language scientists take advantage of these materials in their own research, as well as that our efforts will foster the development of similar controlled-naturalistic stimulus materials, using approaches outlined here, for future shared use by the community.

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Conflicts of interest/Competing interests

The authors have no relevant financial or non-financial interests to disclose.

Availability of data and material

The corpus is available here: https://zenodo.org/record/4075183

Code availability

All code used to create the corpus can be obtained here: https://github.com/polvanrijn/NUBUC

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Appendix

Estimation of between-sentence pause lengths

To estimate a natural distribution of pauses between sentences in read speech, we followed two different approaches. In the first approach we take manually checked transcripts from a chapter of Goethe's 'Die Wahlverwandtschaften' read by 8 German professional speakers. While the annotation is of a good quality, the amount of data is rather small (less than 1.5 h). In the second approach we automatically transcribe recordings (using Webmaus, Kisler et al., 2017) of 12 amateur speakers reading chapters from the English translation of Flaubert's 'Madame Bovary' (> 13 h of read speech). In both approaches, we only include sentences that end with a dot (.) and exclude indirect speech (e.g., *He said "I'm coming".*). While both approaches differ in many regards: professional vs. amateur speakers, data quality and quantity and language (English and German), the densities are not very different. We found that a normal distribution with its mean at 1.25s and a standard deviation of 0.5s approximates this distribution fairly well.

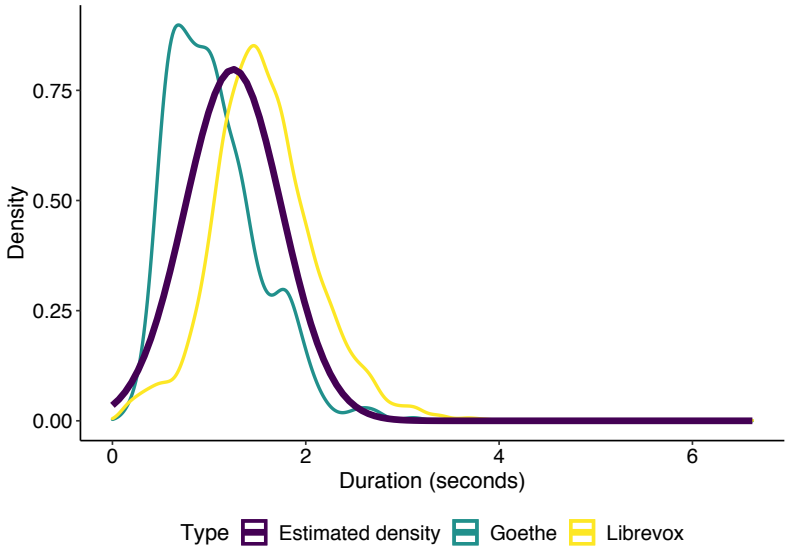

Fig. 3 Distribution of pauses between sentences in two corpora and the used distribution to generate pauses from in our corpus.

Transcription guidelines

Guideline for the separation of words

The cuts are set as precise as possible, but in case of doubt:

- decisions are always made in favour of the longer word if the boundary has to be set between a longer and a shorter word. This mainly occurs in short words like "the", "a", "of", "as".
- Glottal stops are transcribed along with the vowel initial word (e.g. "us" or "one").

To avoid carry-over effects following rules are applied:

- Words starting with /h/, /w/, or /l/ are segmented in a way that the initial consonant can be clearly heard
- Fricatives like /f/ or /s/ were separated in such way that the effect does not carry over into their neighbours
- The final /t/ in words ending with /nt/ or /mt/ were always segmented in such way that they can be heard in the word. Unclear boundaries could lead to an altered meaning, e.g. mean - meant, when - went, etc.

Guidelines for marking pauses

- Pauses must be at least 0.1s long.
- Other, smaller, silent gaps are marked as part of words

Corrections

Pauses

Stories were read sentence by sentence. To avoid unnatural pauses between sentences, we sample from a natural distribution of pauses between sentences in read stories (normal distribution, mean: 1.25s, sd: 0.5s). All details on how we identified this distribution can be found in the appendix (p. i).

Misread passages

In a few cases there were discrepancies between written story and the recording, the Table of corrections can be found on the data repository. Sentence 49a in story 4 replaced by sentence 55a from story 1, because it was missing for one speaker.

Description of columns

The corpus can be obtained in two forms: all sentences into separate recordings (folder `sentences`) or one story per recording (folder `stories`). For both forms there is one `meta.csv` file that contains all time stamped data and all relevant meta data. This table contains the following columns:

- Variables of the recording
  - `t1`: start of word
  - `t2`: end of word: The only difference between `sentences` and `stories` is that in `sentences` the variable `t1` starts at 0 for every sentence, whereas in `stories` `t1` starts at 0 for every story.
  - `duration`: `t2 - t1`
  - `word`: the word in uppercase without special characters
  - `sentence` Note: same value for all words in same sentence: number for each sentence including 5 sentences in the introduction (i.e. 128 + 5 = 133 sentences per story)
  - `sentence_id`*: string identifier of sentence, e.g. `1_a` refers to the first (a) sentence in the first pair (1)
  - `num_words_sent`*: number of words per sentence
  - `sent_len`*: length of sentences in two groups `short` and `long`
  - `story`*: the number of the story
  - `gender`*: `M` refers to the male speaker, `F` refers to the female speaker
- Syntactic annotation
  - `stn_pos`: POS (Part of Speech) of the current word extracted with the Stanford parser. The POS are the leafs of the tree.
  - `stn_trace`: The path from the leaf to the root of the tree
- Conditions
  - `roles`*: This indicates if the current word is either `prior_context`, `local_context` or `keyword`
  - `condition`*: Variable indicating all eight condition combinations, which has the following structure: `Sem|x_Early|Late_P|x`, where the first part indicates local context, the second part the syntactic position and the last part the prior context.
  - `prior_context`*: either `high` or `low`
  - `local_context`*: either `weak` or `strong`
  - `syntactic_position`*: either `early` or `late`
- keyword variables (all with the prefix `kw_`)
  - `kw_lfw`*: log frequency weight, word frequency of the keyword on log scale
  - `kw_freq_condition`*: either `high` or `low` (lfw < 7)
  - `kw_category`*: word category (e.g. food, tool, flower, profession, ...)
  - `kw_elp_pos`*: keyword POS by the English Lexicon Project
  - `kw_cv`*: consonant vowel structure of keyword
  - `kw_len`*: keyword character length
  - `kw_num_morph`*: number of morphemes in keyword
  - `kw_num_phon`*: number of phonemes in keyword
  - `kw_primary_syll_stress`*: stressed syllable (1 indicates the first syllable)
  - `kw_num_sylls`*: number of syllables in keyword
  - `kw_morph`*: morpheme of keyword

  - `kw_phon`*: phoneme of keyword (in sampa)
- n-grams
  - `local_coca_freq`*: Unigram (i.e. word frequency) of the local context word
  - `local_kw_coca_freq`*: Bigram (i.e. word combination frequency) of the local context word and the keyword

Stories

Story 1: Albert A. Ahfelbong

Intro1. The day of December 22 was dim and foggy, with the full chill of a late winter day.
Intro2. The ground was frozen solid, and the juniper trees were barren.
Intro3. Far out at the edge of town, there was a boy with fabulous hair, walking along a frozen sidewalk past the warehouses.
Intro4. His name was Albert A. Ahfelbong, but he went by Al.
Intro5. He was a bit short and jocular, and he moved briskly in the glow of the street lamps.
1a. In his arms he held a bag of <kibble>.
1b. A [drooling] dog was sitting at home, waiting to have his supper.
2a. When Al finally arrived at his door, he made his way to the patio and set the kibble by some potted <herbs>.
2b. The [supple] dill that he potted last week was now towering above all the other plants.
3a. He could tell just by touching them that they would taste good in a salad.
3b. His [aging] mother, Anne, was in the living room admiring her brand new watch.
4a. Anne was smiling because not only was she holding a new watch, there was a purple feather in her hat.
4b. The [stuffy] muslin that she had made her blouse out of was quite nearly as ugly as the feather.
5a. Al asked Anne whether she had enjoyed her visit at a fancy <art exhibit>.
5b. He wondered why she had spent all morning at the [uptown] gallery.
6a. His face lit up when he determined that it was probably because she had been out shopping for gifts because it was almost <Christmas>.
6b. It was true that he hoped she had bought a stick of [sassy] peppermint to put in his stocking.
7a. Her eyes shimmered as she began to describe the wonderful morning that she had.
7b. She had successfully made a [same-day] reservation at the hottest brunch spot in town.
8a. Al listened as his mother went on to tell him about an interesting item she had bought.
8b. One of the shops had sold her a [whimsical] kaleidoscope that was capable of reflecting an endless variety of patterns.
9a. Al was charmed to see how the variety of colors viewed through his mother's instrument seemed to <sparkle>.
9b. The [lustrous] gleam of all its many colors was quite amazing.
10a. After his mother left the room, Al skipped to the cupboard and pulled out a loaf of bread and chunky <peanut butter>.
10b. A jar of [ruddy] jelly was there in the fridge, and it was almost completely empty.
11a. He narrowed his eyelids into slits when he realized that his mother had yet again completely neglected to go to the grocery store.
11b. The [hollowed] garnet that she recently bought had been a bigger priority.
12a. Doubtful, Al returned to the cabinet to see whether they had anything else to eat.
12b. All that he could find on the shelf was a single [paltry] vitamin, which only made him angrier.
13a. His forehead wrinkled as he tried to determine if it was the type to build <healthy bones>.
13b. He had his suspicions that it might contain a little [ingested] manganese.
14a. Al put it back on the shelf by standing on a ladder while trying to keep his <balance>.
14b. He sensed it had [touchy] stability so he got down and went to the window to see whether his mother was outside.
15a. There on the front porch was his mother listening raptly to a short man with an oddly familiar face.
15b. The words on his cap told Al that he had likely been to [beloved] Monticello.
16a. As Al continued to listen, it was soon revealed that he was a dentist who had opened a practice in town.
16b. His new office was about the size of a [vulgar] dorm, which greatly surprised Al because he always thought dentists were rich.
17a. The dentist told them that he had a big jar on his desk that was completely full of <pennies>.
17b. The [hammered] copper that they were made of was bright because he had shined it.
18a. Al bristled when his mother mentioned that the dentist had complained that their yard had too many <acorns>.
18b. A [diligent] chipmunk had been seen carrying the acorns one by one up to his nest.

19a. When Al's mother suggested that the three of them go inside because the weather was making her shiver, the dentist decided to excuse himself.
19b. The scent of [softened] vanilla wafting from inside their home was strong.
20a. After the dentist left, Al reminded his mother that she had left a scented candle burning.
20b. Al's [pompous] toboggan had been left sitting next to the candle, which was a fire hazard.
21a. Anne had bought Al the toboggan as a reward for writing an essay on the <elderly>.
21b. Al had even written all about the [geriatric] population in his town.
22a. It suddenly struck Al that he had developed an intense craving for his mother's <Italian food>.
22b. His mother had promised to prepare him a big plate of [good] ravioli that he would most certainly devour in minutes.
23a. Al forgot about his hunger when he remembered that he needed a gift for his best friend's birthday.
23b. He had been trying to save his money to buy him a [baritone] horn.
24a. Al was about to count his money when he realized that he had a better gift idea.
24b. He could instead give him a [tacky] fleece that had been in his bureau for over a year.
25a. Al forgot about this plan when he realized that his mother was cooking <Indian food>.
25b. The [toasted] cumin that Anne was adding to the food made Al feel somewhat nauseous.
26a. Al knew that she only cooked Indian food when she was feeling <depressed>.
26b. Her [cunning] therapist was still on vacation so she had nobody to discuss her feelings with.
27a. Al decided to go for a walk so that he would not have to smell his mother's cooking.
27b. The [potted] poinsettia in the front yard cheered him up a bit.
28a. Al walked down the road where he encountered a woman wearing a pretty blue sundress.
28b. Her daily work as a [procedural] practitioner had helped her to become a very outgoing person.
29a. Although the practitioner was not very bright, she did seem informed on the topic of natural cures for <illnesses>.
29b. She insisted that menthol leaves could cure [ascending] meningitis.
30a. Al told her that he had been feeling ill ever since being hit by <ice>.
30b. His head was struck by some [powdery] hail, which came down as big balls of ice.
31a. The practitioner pleaded with Al to give her directions to the pawnshop.
31b. He told her she could get there by way of a [hydraulic] dredge.
32a. Al wished she would go because he was still depressed from a tragedy he experienced last year.
32b. Their house had not been built for the very [dreadful] climate, which had melted their roof.
33a. Al remembered quite well that the climate last summer had been abnormally hot and <severe>.
33b. The [maximal] magnitude of the heat had broken all previously held records by any other town.
34a. Al saw that the practitioner was holding a large glass bottle that contained a long hairy <bug>.
34b. One [plucky] millipede at the bottom of the bottle was squirming.
35a. Al wanted to ask for one but felt too shy to talk.
35b. The [scholastic] philosophy of fair trade was something Al had read about so he knew it would be unfair to receive without giving.
36a. He decided to ask the practitioner if she would like to go to town with him.
36b. Some [nutritious] rutabaga was on sale at the farmer's market in the town square.
37a. The practitioner calmly agreed and proceeded to flag down a <yellow car>.
37b. He was excited to take a [mega] cab just like all of the famous people do.
38a. There was a sense of anger when the driver of the cab sprayed them with some <ice>.
38b. Their clothing was now completely covered in [filthy] slush.
39a. The slush was a rather gross mixture of dirt and water.
39b. He thought quite seriously about calling a [folksy] lawyer because his outfit was now completely ruined.
40a. Al waved the cab off and started to tell the practitioner about a lawyer he once heard of who specialized in bizarre cases.
40b. One of his clients was someone who stole a [pathetic] blowfish.
41a. He had been intrigued by the case because the man ended up in the <asylum>.
41b. Such [pent-up] lunacy was not a particularly attractive personality trait but the lawyer refused to discriminate.
42a. Unfortunately, the lawyer had not defended him successfully and the client would go on to be <indicted>.
42b. His [primary] prosecution was to be solely based on circumstantial evidence.
43a. The practitioner nibbled on her bottom lip as they ambled past an old dilapidated church.
43b. The shade of [shaggy] forsythia that someone painted the church with reminded her of home.
44a. Lamenting that the two of them needed haircuts, the two walked to a hair salon.
44b. A [meager] bowl on the hairdresser's counter was full of candy.
45a. After Al stuffed a handful of candy in his pockets, the practitioner <grumbled>.

45b. This was when Al realized that the practitioner was a [lovable] grouch who did not value candy.
46a. After leaving the hair salon, the practitioner mentioned that she should be mindful of her <train>.
46b. They were not so very far from the [mighty] railroad.
47a. Al had always been told that trains rarely ever ran on time.
47b. As such, he suggested that the two pass the time by playing [non-stop] scrabble back at his house.
48a. The practitioner snorted before stating that she would prefer to spend her time waiting at the station.
48b. She could always just pass the time away by reading some sort of [timely] magazine.
49a. She had quite been looking forward to reading the president's <speech>.
49b. His [theatrical] presentation was rumored to have received a standing ovation because he spoke about the plight of the downtrodden.
50a. Al expressed that he hoped there had been a few words about <proper language>.
50b. Knowing a [formidable] grammarian had taught him to choose his words very carefully.
51a. The practitioner patted his head and faked a big smile.
51b. A bottle of [fizzy] wine that she had been saving would be perfect for toasting his dreams.
52a. In her mind, it was perfectly okay to give a young boy alcohol.
52b. Last year, the [crummy] quiche that he consumed together with the wine made him sick.
53a. He told her that this occurred on the day he served as an usher at his uncle's <wedding>.
53b. He had snuck away from the [northside] chapel with the bottle after the bride walked down the aisle.
54a. He remembered being amazed by the tiny size of the bride's <waist>.
54b. The practitioner mused that the bride had likely been wearing a [crested] girdle.
55a. He could not confirm if this was true.
55b. Al suspected that they called her [Meanest] Marilyn because she sounded just like one of his aunts.
56a. The best thing about his aunt was that she always encouraged him to draw.
56b. She had been very impressed when Al learned how to draw a [jubilant] hummingbird.
57a. This did not please the practitioner, as it went against her deep <convictions>.
57b. Such rigid [constraining] dogmatism had been responsible for ending nearly every one of her past relationships.
58a. As she started talking about the sky, Al realized that the cold was making him <shiver>.
58b. His [paisley] coat did not provide him with enough warmth.
59a. Because it was well ventilated, it was very nice for when he worked on his morning chores.
59b. Cleaning out the [wobbly] roost was difficult work because he had to catch the rooster first.
60a. When Al's conversation began to lull, the practitioner asked if he had any interests or hobbies.
60b. [Docile] cricket was the only hobby that Al truly cared about.
61a. His friend had taught him to play in exchange for a large bottle of <peppercorns>.
61b. Al had found out that the guy had bought a [motorized] grinder from a festival last week.
62a. Later, he would trade it back in exchange for a pop <CD>.
62b. The CD ended up being incompatible with his [substandard] stereo.
63a. When the practitioner announced that she was ready to leave, Al waved goodbye and headed to the store to buy stamps.
63b. On his way there he came across a [gnarled] mulberry that was ripe enough to burst.
64a. He stuffed it in his pockets without considering the stains they would leave.
64b. He had never seen them in [upper] Philadelphia, so did not know any better.

Story 2: Bertford B. Berringer

Intro1. The day of August 7 was hot and muggy, with the full strength of a mid summer day.
Intro2. The grass was slowly dying, and the azaleas were faded pink.
Intro3. Way far out in the middle of the country, there was a man with a patchy beard, walking along a beaten footpath through the tall cornhusks.
Intro4. His name was Bertford B. Berringer, but he went by Bert.
Intro5. He was sort of fat and boorish, and he moved slowly through the cornfield.
1a. In his hand he held a bucket of <oats>.
1b. A [munching] horse was over in the pasture, enjoying the fresh clover.
2a. When Bert emerged from the cornfield, he headed over to the pasture and set the bucket of oats by several hay bales.
2b. The [sprouting] clove that was growing by the hay bales was slowly languishing in the sun.
3a. He could tell just by its odor that it was keeping all the bugs away.
3b. His [stubborn] nephew, Bob, was in the field wearing a pair of rubber clogs.

4a. Bob was blushing because not only was he wearing rubber clogs, he had a big tear in his <potato sack>.
4b. He knew quite well that it was inappropriate to wear the [bulging] burlap that had once held their produce.
5a. Bert asked Bob whether he had gotten in yet another fight with his <landlord>.
5b. He advised him to apologize when he returned to his [stately] residence.
6a. He furrowed his brows when he wondered if his nephew had probably neglected to pay his rent just like he had the month before.
6b. It was sad to think he had spent his money on a [yummy] lollipop instead of paying his bills.
7a. His brows drew together as he began to lecture his nephew about responsible budgeting.
7b. He suggested that he work with [fine-grained] dedication to sticking to a humble budget.
8a. Bert listened as his nephew explained that he actually spent his last dime after developing a <fever>.
8b. His [erratic] thermometer made it easy to determine his temperature because it provided a numerical value of his thermal reading.
9a. Bert was alarmed when he suddenly came to realize that his nephew's red face was indeed very <sweaty>.
9b. The [clammy] sheen of his face suggested that he was ill.
10a. After his nephew excused himself to take a call, Bert slowly trudged back inside to find some napkins and a paper bag.
10b. A packet of [squirted] ketchup was in the drawer, and was days away from being expired.
11a. He furrowed his forehead when he determined that his nephew must have eaten his leftover hamburger when he came back from the pawnshop.
11b. The [festive] turquoise that he bought cost almost more than his rent.
12a. Regretful, Bert went to see whether he had also eaten all of the hamburger <buns>.
12b. All that remained in the bag were a few bits of [crispy] sesame, which made him more incensed.
13a. He sneered at the sesame and went to find the paintbrushes that were soaking in a <solvent>.
13b. He was always very careful to clean the brushes with [diluted] turpentine.
14a. Bert poured out the turpentine before going outside to see if his nephew was still in the neighborhood.
14b. He was happy about the [unplanned] diversity in his growing neighborhood, which was increasingly full of people from all walks of life.
15a. There in the front yard stood his nephew having a conversation with a man who lived down the road.
15b. His manner of speaking told Bert that he must have spent time in [dismal] Nagasaki.
16a. As Bert soon learned, the time he spent as a general had inspired him to buy property on a <tropical island>.
16b. The [scanty] hut was right on the ocean, which Bert disapproved of because he felt that man should not take unnecessary risks.
17a. The general then confirmed that he had asked the contractor to guarantee that the hut had a <solid foundation>.
17b. The [bolted] concrete that the foundation was made of would help it withstand harsh storms.
18a. Bert reddened when his nephew mentioned that the general had something even more amazing to tell him about.
18b. The [inuit] walrus that was living near the hut was going to be his new pet.
19a. When Bert's nephew took the liberty of suggesting they drink some lemonade because the day was very muggy, the general turned and walked away.
19b. The one [soggy] banana he left behind were not ripe just yet.
20a. After the general left, Bert pointed out that his nephew's loose trousers were still falling <down>.
20b. Bert suggested that he invest in some good [spunky] suspenders, like the ones he often wore.
21a. Bob knew that Bert liked to wear blue and white suspenders because he was a <patriot>.
21b. Bert even learned how to recite the full [monotonous] constitution by heart.
22a. It soon dawned on Bert that he had not yet confronted his nephew about the hamburger.
22b. His nephew soon abruptly excused himself because he needed to tend to a pot of [hearty] minestrone bubbling on the stove.
23a. Bert forgot about the hamburger when he realized that he had some fun plans later with his good friend.
23b. He was looking forward to beating his friend at a game of [perilous] chess.
24a. Bert was leaving for chess when his nephew told him that his shoe was missing a <lace>.
24b. Some thick [knotted] twine would make a good enough substitute for the laces until he could buy more.
25a. Bert tried to detangle the twine when he noticed his nephew just devouring a <hotdog>.
25b. The [fragrant] dijon that Bob had dribbling down his chin made Bert want to vomit.
26a. Bert knew that he only ate hotdogs when he was feeling rather rebellious.
26b. His [licensed] counselor had told him to watch his weight because it was out of control.
27a. Bert decided to go for a stroll so that he would not have to watch his nephew eating.
27b. The [downy] hibiscus growing in a nearby field smelled like sweet perfume.
28a. Bert walked to town where a woman soon stopped him to tell him a <joke>.

28b. She claimed that she was a [satirical] comedian who was known by almost everyone in town.
29a. Although the comedian was really funny, she said that she had not worked lately because her voice was <raspy>.
29b. She had been sick for weeks with [degraded] laryngitis.
30a. Bert told her that she would recover much faster if she drank lots of water.
30b. She last became ill after walking miles through the [compacted] snow, which gave her a cold.
31a. The comedian needled Bert about where to find a good lunch spot.
31b. He advised her that she did not need to take a [turbulent] sledge.
32a. Bert pointed her toward the location but advised her to hurry because they were facing inclimate <weather>.
32b. The strength of the [blinding] blizzard would bring lots of wind, which would make travel difficult.
33a. Bert suspected that the blizzard would cover the town with over <ten tons of snow>.
33b. The [disgraceful] quantity of storms that they experienced this month had surpassed any in prior years.
34a. Bert watched as the comedian slowly turned around and started to make her way to the pawnshop.
34b. One [squirming] silverfish could be seen walking on her hairy arms.
35a. Bert thought this was gross but did not bother to say anything.
35b. The [meaningless] biology of insects was a subject that traumatized Bert because he could not stand to look at pictures of their wings.
36a. He hesitantly asked the comedian if she would lend him some money to buy some <produce>.
36b. He had been planning to buy at least one [yellowing] cauliflower to take home.
37a. The comedian hesitantly agreed as long as he gave her a <ride>.
37b. He admitted that he did own a [boxy] van but that he could not help her.
38a. There was a sense of disappointment when he explained why she could not ride in his van.
38b. He told her that the reason was [hybrid] musk.
39a. The musk had developed after years of eating in the backseat.
39b. He used to be a chauffeur for a [candid] doctor who cured patients with bacterial infections.
40a. Bert shook his head and began telling the comedian all about how the doctor made him transport patients to and from the <bayou>.
40b. A [motionless] gator had once been mysteriously placed in his backseat.
41a. He could remember how at the time he considered it to be an utter <betrayal>.
41b. This [short-term] treachery had been an act of revenge for not paying the doctor's gambling debts.
42a. Eventually, the doctor had been able to pay off his debts and would offer a heartfelt apology.
42b. The [frivolous] litigation that he had to later endure was awful.
43a. The comedian plastered a smile on her face as they walked past a sprawling mansion.
43b. The shade of [blurry] mahogany that was peeling from the mansion was the color of chocolate.
44a. Agreeing that the two of them craved meat, the two walked to the <butcher shop>.
44b. The butcher was holding a [gleaming] knife that looked quite sharp.
45a. After Bert ordered some meat, the comedian began to talk about personal <secrets>.
45b. This was when Bert determined that the comedian was a [bothersome] snitch who did not like meat.
46a. After leaving the butcher shop, the comedian muttered that she hoped to get home before sunset.
46b. Her best bet would be to take a [speeding] taxi.
47a. Bert had recently noticed that taxis tended to pass every fifteen minutes.
47b. Given this, he announced that they had time to play a round of [full-sized] frisbee in the park.
48a. The comedian's grimaced before claiming that she recently read about the danger of sports in an <article>.
48b. The [lurid] newspaper that had published the article had always had a very good reputation.
49a. She assumed that the author had made a completely accurate <estimation>.
49b. Her [traditional] calculation of distance was actually inaccurate because she did not pay attention in any of her math classes.
50a. Bert lectured that math was one of the most important subjects one could study.
50b. Becoming a [pediatric] neurologist would require one to understand complex formulas and graphs.
51a. The comedian stared at him while rapidly tapping her foot.
51b. The canteen of [balmy] punch that she had been sipping from all day was quite nearly empty.
52a. In her boredom, she asked him whether he was a fan of <chocolate>.
52b. He was especially fond of the [mocha] mousse that his neighbor's wife made for him.
53a. He told her that it had been a token of her appreciation for helping to fix her <roof>.
53b. She had been concerned about her [craggy] ceiling ever since she noticed that it was starting to leak.
54a. He recalled being quite happy that he had been able to help.
54b. The comedian joked that she should have just bought herself a [crocheted] poncho.
55a. He did not fully understand the bad joke.

55b. Bert then began to miss his friend [Groovy] Dorothy because she never failed to get a joke.
56a. The only joke he ever got was a short one about a silly <bird>.
56b. The [talkative] cockatoo in Bert's joke would end up drinking far too much rum.
57a. This did not amuse the comedian, as she interpreted it as being <anti-feminist>.
57b. Such flagrant [compulsive] chauvinism was what eventually drove one of her friends to take up drinking.
58a. As she started complaining about the weather, Bert wished he had thought to check the forecast.
58b. His [jaunty] cap made the sunlight seem much more bearable.
59a. Because it had a wide brim, it was great for when he took walks in the afternoon
59b. Growing up by a [stony] gorge was educational because he learned the importance of sun protection.
60a. When Bert's chatter began to lag, the comedian asked if he liked to watch <sports>.
60b. Bert had actually been banned from watching [strapping] rugby ever again.
61a. His aunt had taken his TV after he refused to help her defrost her <windshield>.
61b. Bert knew that she had a new [barbaric] scraper that was all the way in the shed.
62a. Later, he would try to apologize by giving her a nice gift.
62b. The gift was nothing more than a used [prismatic] camera.
63a. When the comedian insisted that she had to be going, Bert said goodbye and headed back home to cook his dinner.
63b. On his way back he decided to buy a [weighty] cantaloupe to put in fruit salad.
64a. He used to buy them all the time when he lived in <California>.
64b. [Southern] Mississippi was not well known for producing cantaloupe that was cheap and succulent.

Story 3: Claira C. Cumberbunch

Intro1. The day of April 26 was clear and sunny, with the full calm of a mid spring day.
Intro2. The birds were singing profusely, and the dragonfruit were strongly fragrant.
Intro3. Way out in the middle of the forest, there was a woman with bug eyes, walking along a familiar trail through the pines.
Intro4. Her name was Claira C. Cumberbunch, but she went by Claire.
Intro5. She was kind of dumpy and obtuse, and she walked confidently in the shadow of the pines.
1a. In her hand she held a can of paint.
1b. A [squealing] pig was over in the distance, rooting around for truffles.
2a. When Claire arrived at her cabin, she walked to the edge of the yard and set the can on a wooden bench.
2b. The [wiry] sprout that she recently planted by the bench was now spreading toward the pond.
3a. She knew when she first planted it that she would feed it to her <spouse>.
3b. By the gate was her [faithful] husband, Craig, wearing a snazzy pair of socks.
4a. Craig was smirking because not only was he wearing snazzy socks, he had a big flashy logo on his <jeans>.
4b. He was not aware that it was very tacky to wear [pricey] denim that was covered with designer logos.
5a. Claire asked Craig whether he was ready for his weekly shopping trip in town.
5b. She was concerned he might make her visit the [dingy] hospital later.
6a. Her smile soon faded when she realized that every time she started to walk closer to him he would take a few steps back.
6b. It was lucky that she had saved a few pieces of [speckled] wintergreen that could freshen up her breath.
7a. She batted her lashes as she asked him about how things were at <college>.
7b. His [on-time] graduation that would occur next month was all he ever talked about.
8a. Claire listened as her husband complained about getting a ticket on his way to class for <speeding>.
8b. His [fraudulent] speedometer made it difficult to drive safely because it did not accurately measured the speed of his vehicle.
9a. Claire was shocked when her husband told her that he had nearly crashed the car into a ravine.
9b. The [brassy] tint of the windshield made it hard to see.
10a. After her husband grew tired of talking, Claire hobbled back inside to give him all the time he needed to be alone.
10b. A bowl of [flaky] curry was on the table, and making the entire house smell awful.
11a. She cracked her knuckles when she realized that her husband must have left it out after having surprised her with a new <brooch>.
11b. He had bought her one with some [smoky] topaz for their anniversary.
12a. Resentful, Claire methodically gathered the ingredients needed for a big blender full of <pina colada>.
12b. At the bottom of her fridge was a big ripe [husky] coconut, which would be more than adequate.
13a. She scrunched up her face as she slowly raised the hammer and aimed it at the coconut.

13b. She was proud that her hammer was made of pure [depositing] cadmium.
14a. Claire stroked the cadmium before going to ask her husband to help her break the coconut in half.
14b. She had made this a [fickle] priority that was above painting her wooden bench, which really needed a fresh coat of paint.
15a. There in the front yard was her husband talking to a pale complected man with a long black <cape>.
15b. Learning about his home in [gothic] Transylvania made Claire think he might be a vampire.
16a. As Claire listened with interest, the man began to explain that he was actually a ranger who worked at a <campground>.
16b. His [flimsy] tent was not quite waterproof, which alarmed Claire because she knew that the next few days would be quite stormy.
17a. The ranger mentioned that he had been looking for things to do in town while he was off work.
17b. A [finite] fossil had recently been put out on display in the local history museum.
18a. Claire clenched her jaw when her husband mentioned that the ranger had seen something in their yard earlier.
18b. A [sadistic] groundhog that was seen in her garden had stolen several of her prized turnips.
19a. When Claire's husband sheepishly told her that he had just invited the ranger to join them for <pasta>, the ranger felt ashamed and left.
19b. They were somewhat relieved even though they had plenty of [layered] spaghetti.
20a. After the ranger left, Claire mentioned to her husband that he had a very sweaty <forehead>.
20b. Claire suggested that he find his [trashy] bandanna, which was bright yellow and made of cotton.
21a. Craig knew that Claire would not rest until he wore the bandanna because she was stubborn.
21b. Claire had even insisted on supporting new [prohibitive] legislation about their mailboxes.
22a. It soon occurred to Claire that she had not chastised her husband for talking to strangers.
22b. Her husband was now asking her whether she could make them a batch of [messy] vermicelli because he was growing hungry.
23a. Claire was about to start scolding him when she realized she had forgotten to wrap her niece's <toy>.
23b. The [porcelain] doll was going to be a gift for her niece's tenth birthday.
24a. Claire decided to buy the doll after her husband promised to buy her a brand new <fur>.
24b. Her favorite [feathered] mink in the store was made from brown pelts because the color flattered her complexion.
25a. Claire stopped dreaming of the mink when she realized that her husband needed her help.
25b. The [homemade] tartar that Craig added to his pies usually gave Claire an upset stomach.
26a. Claire knew that he would likely use the tartar to make lemon meringue.
26b. A [sullen] messenger would be arriving soon so she went to wait on her front porch.
27a. Claire hoped her husband would understand that it was important that she wait for her delivery of <flowers>.
27b. She was sure that this week it would be a [fibrous] begonia.
28a. Claire watched as a pleasant looking man slowly approached her holding a bunch of <books>.
28b. The man said that he was a [compassionate] librarian who had been walking for several miles.
29a. Although the librarian was painfully boring, he said that he had lived a very interesting life full of drama.
29b. He mentioned that his wife once had [cervical] carcinoma.
30a. Claire then told him that she should get routine checkups because it could come back.
30b. She noticed that there was now some [velvety] fog, which made the sun hard to see.
31a. The librarian challenged Claire to help carry his books to the <station>.
31b. A [commuter] tram would pass by there later to pick up the books.
32a. Claire escorted him to the river just as the sun began to slowly dip below the <horizon>.
32b. The glow of the [dreamy] twilight was illuminating the lush grass, which revealed a small box.
33a. Claire knew that the twilight might not last long enough for her to open it.
33b. The [unlicensed] frequency of her racing heart was evident when her tiny hands began to shake.
34a. Claire was about to say goodbye to the librarian when she felt compelled to point something out.
34b. One [furtive] centipede could be seen crawling around in his hair.
35a. Claire was worried it would get on her because she hated <bacteria>.
35b. Claire had never bothered to learn much about the [forensic] pathology of centipedes and so her fears may very well have been unfounded.
36a. She shyly asked the librarian if he would be willing to help her pick some <weeds>.
36b. She was worried because she had seen a single [miniscule] dandelion in her yard.
37a. The librarian politely agreed and they began to walk to her home.
37b. She was suddenly distracted by a [turbo] jet that was taking off from the city airport.
38a. There was a sense of tension as the revving sound of the jet's engine grew even louder.
38b. The two then accidentally walked through some [fertile] sludge.

39a. The sludge was dumped by a well-known man who flew <planes>.
39b. The [streamlined] pilot who had dumped the sludge had been running late to meet his crew.
40a. Claire was nostalgic and began telling the librarian about the time she swam with a pilot in a pond full of <lily pads>.
40b. A [monstrous] bullfrog had then jumped on top of her head.
41a. She thought of the incident fondly because the rest of the date had been fun.
41b. The [two-bit] burglary that the pilot experienced some months after had led to their ultimate demise.
42a. Apparently, the police said they suspected her of the crime even though they had no real evidence.
42b. The [critical] nomination of the new police chief came soon after.
43a. The librarian contorted his face as they walked by a fence that was painted <white>.
43b. The fence was the same color as a [tuscan] magnolia that was growing in his yard.
44a. Acknowledging that they were both hungry, the two of them stopped in at a <diner>.
44b. The waitress offered them a [splendid] fork that had three prongs.
45a. After Claire commented on the fork, the librarian explained its purpose to her.
45b. This was how Claire realized that the librarian was a [conniving] dolt who knew nothing about forks.
46a. After leaving the retro diner, the librarian determined that he still had a lot of energy.
46b. The two soon passed by an old covered [barren] wagon.
47a. Claire had always preferred vehicles that she could propel with her <feet>.
47b. As such, her [four-wheel] scooter was her one of her main sources of transportation to and from town.
48a. The librarian simpered while saying that he had learned how to ride one after reading new <instructions>.
48b. The [ragged] manual that he was talking about had certainly been very useful and informative.
49a. He read it in such depth that he developed serious eyestrain.
49b. His [subliminal] computation of how long he actually spent reading the instructions varied widely from what the actual truth was.
50a. Claire wondered if his obsession with reading instructions was a sign of something bad.
50b. Knowing a [respectable] cartographer had taught her to be aware of such possibilities.
51a. The librarian whined and said that he was very <thirsty>.
51b. He usually carried a thermos of [pulpy] juice because his toothlessness made it quite difficult to chew.
52a. To his credit, he was not ashamed to ask her for <baby food>.
52b. She was very talented at making [steamy] gruel that was fully loaded with essential nutrients.
53a. She explained that this talent developed after she came across her parents' large collection of pink baby items.
53b. They had been accumulating boxes of them in the [grungy] basement that they kept secret from everyone else.
54a. She remembered being startled to find a box of outfits for girls.
54b. The librarian assumed that in the box had also been a [classy] nightgown.
55a. She said it was embroidered with a <name>.
55b. To Claire, the name [Postscript] Pamela was actually quite nice because it rolled easily off the tongue.
56a. She liked the name so much that she gave it to her favorite <songbird>.
56b. The [jittery] nightingale that Claire gave the name chirped songs to her every morning.
57a. This did not move the librarian, as he was a very practical man.
57b. His strong [doctrinal] modernism was in resistance to becoming like everyone else in his parochial town.
58a. As he began to lecture about fashion, Claire wished she had thought to check her appearance.
58b. The [breezy] dress she was wearing needed to be hemmed.
59a. Because its length protected her legs from bug bites, it would be great for installing her <birdhouse>.
59b. She was quite determined to build a [lofty] perch because her yard had lots of birds.
60a. When Claire's story finally ended, the librarian asked whether she had ever swung a <racquet>.
60b. Claire had won many games of [choppy] tennis over the years.
61a. Her coach had been impressed by how quickly she learned to hit the tennis ball.
61b. Claire said that she had gotten practice with a [rotary] beater that she used to blend eggs.
62a. Later, her skills would get her a job working as a butcher.
62b. The job eventually helped her save for a [movable] radio.
63a. When the librarian said that he could not stay any longer, Claire said goodbye and headed off to pick some <berries>.
63b. The [zesty] blueberry that she picked was going to need extra sugar because it was tart.
64a. She used to pick them in the wild when she lived in <Ohio>.
64b. [Lower] Cincinnati was not the best place for growing blueberries but nobody ever complained.

Story 4: Deborah D. Dubendwarf

Intro1. The day of May 5 was bright and humid, with the full sunshine of a mid summer day.
Intro2. The ants were marching earnestly, and the laurels were fervently blooming.
Intro3. Way far out in the middle of the woods, there was a woman with thin hair, making her way down some stairs.
Intro4. Her name was Deborah D. Dubendwarf, but she went by Deb.
Intro5. She was quite very hefty and feckless, and she waddled clumsily to the twinkle of the wind chimes.
1a. In her hand she held a box of keys.
1b. A [lounging] bear was over in the shadows, greedily munching some berries.
2a. When Deb got to the bottom of the stairs, she marched to the shed and set the box by some gardening <shears>.
2b. By the shears was a [thorny] hedge that had been flourishing ever since the last rainfall.
3a. She knew that before she started on trimming them she should first consult her <twin>.
3b. In the driveway was her [cautious] sister, Dee, wearing a new pair of earrings.
4a. Deb was grinning because not only was she wearing new earrings, she had a flashy gold zipper on her jacket.
4b. She did not care that it was considered trashy to wear [flowered] rayon when it was so warm outside.
5a. Dee asked Deb whether she had remembered the plans they had agreed upon earlier.
5b. She had forgotten their plans to go to a [flawless] restaurant later.
6a. Her eyes squeezed shut as she prepared to confess that she was now very full after having eaten nearly an entire box of <candy>.
6b. The block of [luscious] caramel that she had been hiding in the pantry had been too tasty to resist.
7a. The color drained from her face when she suddenly remembered their upcoming <birthday party>.
7b. The [top-tier] celebration would be held at a trendy swimming pool in the city.
8a. Deb listened as her sister began to chastise her for having put on so much weight lately.
8b. Her [displacement] micrometer made it impossible to obtain a precise measurement of her fat because its screw was not calibrated.
9a. Deb was so upset that her sister didn't understand that she banged her head against the shed door.
9b. The [pearly] glint on its windows made it hurt her eyes.
10a. After her sister rolled her eyes, Deb went back in the house to prepare a platter of eggs benedict and several <pancakes>.
10b. She grabbed a bottle of [flavored] syrup, and spilled some down the front of her dress.
11a. She pressed her lips together as she remembered how her sister had given her this gown because her very favorite color was <blue>.
11b. She even owned one that was [funky] cobalt with powder blue trim.
12a. Hopeful, Deb dabbed at the stain before popping some pieces of bread in the toaster.
12b. On the top shelf was a red container of [crunchy] cinnamon, which she sprinkled all over the toast.
13a. She smacked her gums as she began to notice that there were odd flecks in the cinnamon.
13b. She did not know that the flecks were bits of [legalized] halogen.
14a. Deb swallowed the halogen before going to find her sister to see if she wanted to make <peace>.
14b. Her [woodsy] tranquility should not depend solely on whether or not she put on her weight, which was out of her control.
15a. There on the patio with her sister was a woman who sounded like she once lived in <New York>.
15b. Hearing that she lived in [trendy] Saratoga made Deb think she must enjoy cold weather.
16a. As Deb stood close by, the woman explained that she was an actress and was visiting to audition for a play.
16b. Her [placid] lodge was now on the market, which excited Deb because she had heard that the area was full of redwoods.
17a. The actress explained that she lived near a science discovery center where young children could make arts and crafts.
17b. The [fractured] coral that they used to decorate their crafts was funded by the city.
18a. Deb brightened when her sister mentioned that the actress had invited them to visit her in the <forest>.
18b. She was excited to show both of them the [nomadic] reindeer that lived near her home.
19a. When Deb's sister began to drop hints that she and her hungry guest would die for a <sandwich>, the actress excused herself and left.
19b. They realized that they only had a few slices of [floppy] baloney.
20a. After the actress left, Deb asked her sister if she could put on some pop music.
20b. Deb decided to go find her [sequined] sombrero, which she always wore when she felt festive.
21a. Dee often pleaded with Deb to not wear the sombrero because it made her act forgetful.
21b. Deb had even forgotten about sending in her [perfunctory] registration to vote.

22a. It soon came to Deb that she had intended to ask her sister to make <pudding>.
22b. The [chewy] tapioca that her sister made was often lumpy but full of calcium that helped her maintain good bone density.
23a. Deb was about to ask when she remembered that she was late for her class on <pottery making>.
23b. The [colorless] clay that they used in the class was sourced from local mud.
24a. Deb had started using the clay after her sister explained slowly that it was more environmentally friendly.
24b. Some white [saline] gauze that she often blotted the clay with made her itch for some unknown reason.
25a. Deb stopped thinking about the gauze and went to see what her sister was doing
25b. The [grated] saffron that Dee was making potpourri from made Deb feel out of sorts.
26a. Deb tried to ignore the saffron as she sat to read <the paper>.
26b. She saw that there was a piece by a [callous] columnist she went to school with.
27a. Deb hoped that Dee would soon finish her project as she went outside to go water her <flowers>.
27b. She was upset to see that someone had picked her [bluish] hyacinth.
28a. Deb calmly surveyed the crime scene until she was startled by a man's deep voice.
28b. The man announced that he was a [revisionist] historian who had stopped to admire her garden.
29a. Although the historian seemed quite cowardly, he said that he had recently started working on a very dangerous project.
29b. He was oddly obsessed with people with [distressing] sinusitis.
30a. Deb first met him when he was interviewing one of her neighbor's in the <rain>.
30b. The [vaporous] cloud above them had been extremely dark, which soon made the weather turn ugly.
31a. The historian asked Deb whether she had recently heard a baby <crying>.
31b. A [fanciful] pram was on her front porch in full view of him.
32a. Deb informed him that the pram had been empty for at least two years if not more.
32b. The shadow of a [lashing] cyclone was in the sky, which was now growing very dark.
33a. Deb hoped that the twister would not arrive until after she closed all the windows.
33b. A [figural] measurement of its actual speed would not have eased her mind even a little.
34a. Deb was getting ready to bid goodbye to the historian when she felt a sudden <stinging sensation>.
34b. One of the open windows had let in one [antic] bumblebee.
35a. Deb inspected the sting's diameter while forgetting about her poor <spatial estimation>.
35b. Deb had managed to fail her exam on the [intricate] geometry of circles and could not guess just how wide the welt was.
36a. She peevishly asked the historian if he knew of any good remedies for relieving bee stings.
36b. She was skeptical when he told her to try [aromatic] coriander on the bite.
37a. The historian continued insisting and told her where she could get some.
37b. She was startled by a [creaky] truck that seemed to have come completely out of nowhere.
38a. There was a sense of disgust when they saw that the man in the truck was <filthy>.
38b. The [earthy] grime was disgusting to both of them.
39a. The grime was not nearly as bad as the man's <singing>.
39b. The [childish] singer was only an amateur who had only performed publicly at local karaoke bars.
40a. Deb was annoyed and began telling the historian all about a singer she once knew who always found joy in making her miserable.
40b. A [nocturnal] gecko he placed in her purse had terrified her.
41a. She had been so upset by the incident that she filed a complaint about him.
41b. The [well-known] perjury he was charged with after the incident landed him in jail for weeks.
42a. Fortunately, a person had taken footage of the event and later came forward with all the <evidence>.
42b. The clear footage provided more than enough of a [rancorous] confirmation.
43a. The historian ground his jaw when he noticed a cottage with shutters that were <purple>.
43b. The cottage was the same shade of [perky] wisteria that was growing in the golden fields.
44a. Deciding that both of them felt like shopping, the two walked into an antique store.
44b. The owner was inspecting one [engraved] plate that had several chips.
45a. After Deb inquired about the plate, the historian considered buying it for himself.
45b. This was how Deb realized that the historian was a [venomous] twerp who coveted other people's plates.
46a. After leaving the antique store, the historian said he would love to show her his <farm>.
46b. His [compact] tractor was the type that real farmers use.
47a. Deb could not resist any event that involved playing in the <dirt>.
47b. Given that, her [mid-sized] sandbox was where she had spent almost all of her time during her youth.
48a. The historian smiled before asking her if she might know where he could get one for himself.
48b. The [glossy] catalog that she read last week had advertised one that was on sale.

49a. He hoped she would be willing to lend it to him.
49b. A [security] regulation on sandboxes had been recently been lifted by the mayor who was up for re-election next month.
50a. Deb heard that he even promised tax breaks for people who transcribed <court proceedings>.
50b. She used to dream all the time about working as a [fictional] stenographer.
51a. The historian sighed and asked if she owned a <kettle>.
51b. He whined that he usually drank a glass of [silken] beer by this time in the day.
52a. In her optimism, she assured him that they would go get beer immediately.
52b. She told him about a place to get [leche] flan that she had visited recently.
53a. She explained that the place was decorated with all kinds of black and white photos of the owners.
53b. They had hung nearly all of them by the [seedy] closet where customers could check their personal items.
54a. She remembered being very upset when a lady stomped on her <foot>.
54b. Her [satin] slipper had likely made the lady jealous, was the historian's estimation.
55a. She could still remember the spiteful woman's <name>.
55b. To Deb, this woman [Dowdy] Natalie was the most evil person she had encountered in her life.
56a. The only person who even came close to being as evil was her neighbor.
56b. The [loquacious] parakeet that Deb owned had been a source of contention between them.
57a. This did not interest the historian, as he never fought with his neighbors.
57b. The soft [leisurely] populism that all the neighbors shared helped them get along with one another.
58a. When he began wiping away sweat, Deb wondered why he had not dressed for the <heat>.
58b. She was glad that she was wearing her [pleated] shorts.
59a. Because the fit allowed her so much movement, they were great for working on her <rabbit cage>
59b. She was quite glad to build the [leaky] hutch because she had always wanted some rabbits.
60a. When Deb's babble eventually stopped, the historian asked whether she had ever been a cheerleader.
60b. Deb had been discouraged from watching [rabid] football as a girl.
61a. A classmate once told her that she was much better suited for performing domestic duties.
61b. Deb said that the comment came after she had used a [contorted] grater in her cooking class.
62a. Later, she would become obsessed with watching shows about cooking on <cable>.
62b. The [sentient] satellite she bought gave her over ninety channels.
63a. When the historian announced that he had to be leaving, Deb said goodbye before inviting him for to visit next <Thanksgiving>.
63b. The [homely] cranberry that she planned to serve as a sauce would be the frozen kind.
64a. She preferred fresh ones but they were far too expensive for the area.
64b. [Northern] Minnesota was known for producing fresh cranberries that were fresh and very cheap.

Story 5: Edward E. Ebbingwort

Intro1. The day of June 4 was calm and sunny, with the light warmth of a mid summer day.
Intro2. The brook was sparkling fervently, and the apricots were richly orange.
Intro3. Not far from the center of town, there was a man with brown hair, making his way down the hallway past the fulllength mirrors.
Intro4. His name was Edward E. Ebbingwort, but he went by Ed.
Intro5. He was quite gangly and pompous, and he hummed noisily in the reflection of the mirrors.
1a. In his hand he held a wedge of <cheese>.
1b. Over in the corner was a [squeaking] mouse, frantically eating some crumbs.
2a. When Ed got to the very end of the hall, he set the wedge of cheese by a big bag of <greens>.
2b. In the bag was some [gritty] kale that had been wilting ever since late last week.
3a. He assumed when he bought them that they would keep for longer than a week.
3b. At the front door was his [eldest] cousin, Elle, holding a white pleather handbag.
4a. Elle was crying because not only was she holding a pleather handbag, she had a hole in her left sock.
4b. She had no idea that it was a bad idea to wear [sultry] tartan when it was hot outside.
5a. Elle told Ed that just last night she had gone to see a <movie>.
5b. Going to the [regal] cinema was one of his very favorite things.
6a. His eyes twinkled with excitement as he announced to her that he was going to spend the entire afternoon baking batches of holiday <cookies>.
6b. The basket of [lumpy] gingerbread that he was planning to bake later would be decorated with elaborate white designs.
7a. She forced a smile when he explained that baking was very important to him.

7b. The [third-class] recreation had consumed much of his time and money for many years.
8a. Ed listened as his cousin explained that there were far more interesting hobbies for him to pursue.
8b. A [durable] barometer could help him learn a lot about meteorology because it was capable of measuring the atmospheric pressure.
9a. Ed was sure that his cousin would come to respect his cooking after tasting one of his <donuts>.
9b. His last batch had lots of [gooey] glaze and pink sprinkles.
10a. After his cousin walked off, Ed searched for the necessary ingredients but soon discovered that he only had a can of <beans>.
10b. He decided to prepare a batch of [spongy] chili, but could not find the can opener.
11a. His eyes lit up when he saw that his cousin had hidden it in the junk drawer under random bits of items.
11b. She had placed some that were [rainy] carmine on top of it.
12a. Cheerful, Ed chopped an onion before putting the ground beef on the stove to simmer.
12b. Next to the cutting board was a small tin of [sketchy] caviar, which would taste awful with beans.
13a. He twisted as he remembered the mass recall of caviar that had been exposed to some <chemicals>.
13b. Some [decaying] radium in the caviar was the reason for the recall.
14a. Ed was concerned about the radium before going to ask his cousin whether the caviar recall was <legitimate>.
14b. The [storied] validity of the recall was under question because he did not trust the media, which always tried to boost ratings.
15a. Sitting on the couch next to his cousin was a woman who explained that she was new in town.
15b. Learning that she moved from [acclaimed] Sarasota made Ed think she must miss the beach.
16a. As Ed walked to the couch, the woman claimed that she was an artist who had a studio in town.
16b. The [faulty] shack she had rented would soon be condemned, which Ed knew because he had filed a complaint with the city.
17a. The artist then mentioned that she recently received a warning that their home was putting out too much <smog>.
17b. The shack was equipped to run on [bonded] carbon but not electricity like other homes.
18a. Ed darkened when he noticed that his cousin had given the artist her yellow fur muff with <spots>.
18b. He assumed she did not know that it was made of a [tenacious] leopard from Africa.
19a. As Ed's cousin began to listlessly twiddle her two thumbs out of intense boredom, the artist slowly rose to her feet and waved farewell.
19b. They both suspected that she had indulged in too much [mellow] sangria.
20a. After the artist left, Ed told his cousin that he had a special gift for her.
20b. Ed then presented her with a [skimpy] kimono, which was embroidered with dragons on the front.
21a. Elle figured that Ed bought the kimono to thank her for recommending him to her <company>.
21b. Ed's [paternalistic] corporation had recently laid him off due to major losses.
22a. It then occurred to Ed to invite his cousin to join him in eating some <cheese>.
22b. The [kosher] gorgonzola that his cousin adored was very expensive and was only sold at a dairy farm ten miles away.
23a. Ed was about to ask her when he remembered that he had completely forgotten about his afternoon plans.
23b. The [autographed] bat that he recently bought would help him win the baseball game.
24a. Ed had decided to buy the bat after his cousin told him the benefits of wooden bats.
24b. The brown [withered] twill in their caps made the other teams feel quite jealous because theirs were striped.
25a. Ed stopped thinking about the twill when his cousin appeared with a bottle of <liquor>.
25b. Elle wanted to impress Ed by presenting him with a tall glass of [stodgy] bourbon.
26a. Ed took a sip of the bourbon and sat to read a <magazine>.
26b. He had always wanted to be a [nutty] journalist who traveled and reported on interesting stories.
27a. Ed was excited to tell Elle that he had been an adventurous person before he broke his shins.
27b. Just then someone knocked the door to deliver a potted [rambling] peony.
28a. Ed was taken aback but opened the door to be greeted by a young woman.
28b. The woman claimed that she was a [transitional] psychiatrist who was looking for a new babysitter.
29a. Although the psychiatrist rarely missed work, she said that she had been busy caring for her kid's <sore throat>.
29b. The [virulent] streptococcus was supposed to be very contagious.
30a. Ed remembered meeting her at a fancy resort that they both vacationed at in <winter>.
30b. The [merciless] frost there was always abnormally thick, which made it hard to keep his balance.
31a. The psychiatrist implored Ed to recommend a nanny to watch her kids.
31b. Her [jingling] sleigh could be used to pay a sitter for their help.
32a. Ed watched her pull a small leather wallet from his pocket that was full of small photos.

32b. The silhouette of a [ruthless] twister was pictured in the photos, which were black and white.
33a. Ed suspected that the cyclone had forever ruined the lives of more than a <thousand>.
33b. The storm had affected a [sectional] multitude of the older homes that were in the area.
34a. Ed looked on with boredom until the psychiatrist got to one that was of a small <hive>.
34b. On the top of the hive was just one [vagrant] honeybee.
35a. Ed grew pale because the size of the bee was so disturbing.
35b. Ed had recently started reading a book about the [perceptual] psychology of fear and could tell that he was experiencing a panic attack.
36a. He quizzically asked the psychiatrist if she had ever worked with patients with overwhelming anxiety.
36b. She said that she often advised them to eat [feathery] honeysuckle every three hours.
37a. The psychiatrist loudly announced that they were sold next to the <ocean>.
37b. The [chartered] ship that imported them had also been used to transport barrels of sleeping gas.
38a. There was a sense of outrage when he learned that the ship was causing lots of <pollution>.
38b. The [vivid] smog was visible from a mile away.
39a. The smog had contributed to the extinction of the town's shellfish.
39b. A [freelance] writer had recently published an explosive expose on the pollution epidemic in the town.
40a. Ed was somber and began telling the psychiatrist about a few of the interesting things that the writer had described in her expose.
40b. The [plentiful] flounder in the area had died from chemical exposure.
41a. The factory owner responsible for the pollution would later attempt to threaten her with <blackmail>.
41b. She firmly refused to engage in [small-time] bribery, even if it would mean losing her job.
42a. Victoriously, she published her sensational piece even though she would eventually go on to be <fired>.
42b. She would never be the same again after her [difficult] termination.
43a. The psychiatrist screwed up her face as they walked slowly past an old furniture store.
43b. The store was a shade of [wilted] chrysanthemum that she had only seen in picture books.
44a. Determining that both of them wanted some frozen yogurt, the two walked into a creamery.
44b. The worker inside was stirring a [sterile] pot of ice cream.
45a. As Ed delicately ate his yogurt, the psychiatrist slurped hers down very <sloppily>.
45b. While judging that the psychiatrist was a [bumbling] slob, Ed also decided she must love frozen yogurt.
46a. After leaving the yogurt shop, the psychiatrist said that she needed to get to the <river>.
46b. Her [rusty] ferry would be departing in half an hour.
47a. Ed had always taken the time to find joy in simple things.
47b. As such, his [hand-carved] marble had long been one of his most prized possessions in his display case.
48a. The psychiatrist quivered while mentioning that she had a set that she kept locked in a safe.
48b. A [covert] document in her room listed the correct combination of numbers to her safe.
49a. She had written the numbers down after going to a <protest>.
49b. She and twenty others had attended a [perceptible] demonstration to protest the low wages of nomadic goat herders in Algeria.
50a. Ed said that he had not attended because he had been at <orchestra practice>.
50b. He still dreamed from time to time of eventually becoming a [solitary] percussionist.
51a. The psychiatrist set her mouth in a firm hard line.
51b. She mentioned that she needed to buy a carton of [foamy] milk before the grocery store closed.
52a. At last minute, he reminded her that the stores closed early on Sundays.
52b. He often stocked up on [fleshy] brie whenever the stores offered it at a discount.
53a. He explained that this habit started after the time he realized he had absolutely nothing in the <pantry>.
53b. His [sunlit] kitchen was now stocked full of food that was fattening but had a long shelf life.
54a. As a result, he had gone on to develop a large <gut>.
54b. A [ghastly] corset could tuck in his belly, was the psychiatrist's expert opinion.
55a. He said he had only seen one before.
55b. To Ed, his mom [Flirty] Catherine should not have worn one because she had a slim build.
56a. The only bad thing about his mom had been her obsession with their garden
56b. A [submissive] mockingbird that frequented Ed's garden ended up getting mysteriously poisoned by someone.
57a. This did not impress the psychiatrist, as her family had always been <loyal>.
57b. The all shared a sense of perverse [premodern] tribalism that made the idea of betrayal unfathomable.
58a. As she began complaining about her blisters, Ed wondered why she had not dressed for <hiking>.
58b. He was glad that he had worn his [roomy] boots.
59a. Because the soles had lots of tread, they were great for when he worked in slippery conditions.
59b. He felt quite lucky to live near a [dank] wharf because he loved to eat fish.

60a. When Ed's chatter came to a close, the psychiatrist asked what he did for fun.
60b. Ed once played a game of [scruffy] hockey in the park.
61a. His mom had told him that before playing he should eat a bowl of <pasta>.
61b. The [stainless-steel] strainer that Ed used to drain water from the pasta had been a birthday present.
62a. Later, she would try to reciprocate by buying the friend a <movie>.
62b. The [archaic] video was still sitting in the friend's VCR.
63a. When the psychiatrist said that she was about to head home, Ed said goodbye and began to walk to the market.
63b. A [ripened] pineapple that he found on sale did not seem too expensive for the season.
64a. He bought it because he knew that it would keep for some time.
64b. [Middle] Massachusetts had taught him to be patient when it came to keeping fruit.

Story 6: Francis F. Fullendorp

Intro1. The day of March 1 was cold and soggy, with the moderate chill of a late winter day.
Intro2. The wind was murmuring idly, and the hollies were thoroughly soaked.
Intro3. Down in the valley there was a woman with a wart on her nose, rocking in a chair overlooking the pond.
Intro4. Her name was Francis F. Fullendorp, but she went by Fran.
Intro5. She was a bit pinched and histrionic, and she tapped her foot restlessly in the chill of the air.
1a. In her hand she held a ball of <yarn>.
1b. Over on the stoop was a [yawning] cat, happily thinking about rats.
2a. When Fran grew exhausted of rocking, she went back inside and placed the ball of yarn next to a small metal can.
2b. In the can was a [climbing] fern that had been absolutely thriving in the past week.
3a. She had hoped when she planted it that it would make her house more attractive.
3b. In the garage was her [peaceful] father, Fred, pacing in his new squeaky sneakers.
4a. Fred was ranting because not only was he wearing squeaky sneakers, he had lost two buttons from his new <shirt>.
4b. The [baggy] flannel that his shirt was made from was perfect for farm work because it was very durable.
5a. Fred told Fran that he had been looking high and low for his <racquet>.
5b. Playing in the [flashy] tournament had been one of his loftier goals.
6a. Her eyes filled with tears as she realized that he would not be able to compete because he had missed too many practice sessions.
6b. The box of [presto] butterscotch that she planned to give in reward for winning the game would go uneaten.
7a. Her eyebrows rose when he told her about the new hobby he was considering.
7b. The [no-good] meditation he wanted to pursue did not seem suited to his personality.
8a. Fran listened as her father mentioned that he was even thinking about buying a brand new <timepiece>.
8b. Someone had advised him to buy a [seagoing] chronometer because it was able to provide highly precise estimates of time.
9a. Fran agreed to support her father's financial decisions as long as he agreed to buy her some <lipstick>.
9b. She looked much better with some [tawny] gloss on her lips.
10a. After her father stormed off, Fran started looking around her home for something slightly useful to do while she passed the time.
10b. She randomly picked up a bottle of [tangy] mustard, which had too many ingredients to list.
11a. She set her mouth in a hard line as she remembered that her father had strictly forbidden her from eating any yellow foods.
11b. He had commanded her to stick to [weathered] mica as a rule.
12a. Doleful, Fran opened the fridge and pulled out a half empty carton of <skim milk>.
12b. Discovering that the brand new box of [sweetened] cereal had already gone bad made her feel quite disappointed.
13a. She fought back tears as she choked down the stale cereal because it tasted like gooey <medicine>.
13b. The [softening] glycerin that she took for stomachaches had a similar flavor.
14a. Fran absolutely hated glycerin and went to find her father because she felt like complaining all about it.
14b. Her [hastened] maturity was so great that it often ended her friendships, which she had never maintained for more than a day.
15a. Laughing in the driveway with her father was a handsome man who had just moved to the neighborhood.
15b. Hearing that he came from [bustling] Mauritania made Fran wonder if ever saw a zebra.
16a. As Fran approached, she heard him say that he was a barber who moved because his country was full of <bats>.

16b. His salon had been built close to a [slanted] cave, which gave Fran the chills because she was scared of the dark.
17a. The barber shamelessly bragged that his new shop had counter tops that were made out of an expensive <stone>.
17b. The faucets were made of [brightened] nickel that was attractive but very expensive to clean.
18a. Fran perked up when she heard her father ask the barber to tell them about his crazy day.
18b. He excitedly explained that on his morning jog he saw a [raggedy] bobcat in the park.
19a. When Fran's father mentioned in a skeptical voice that they were not native to the area, the barber became offended and walked swiftly away.
19b. They both fought the urge to pellet him with a [decent] tomato.
20a. After the barber left, Fran asked her father whether she would be allowed to attend <prom>.
20b. Fran's [jeweled] tiara was perfect for the dance, which would be held in the school gym.
21a. Fred knew that Fran had bought the tiara because it was popular among girls her <age>.
21b. Fran's [despicable] generation had been raised to value material items over learning.
22a. It soon came to Fran that she planned to help her father clean some baking pans.
22b. Some [airy] semolina that she cooked last night had stuck to the pans because she had not used enough cooking oil.
23a. Fran was about to go clean them when she remembered that she had forgotten something in the yard.
23b. The [metallic] dice were special to her because she won them at the carnival.
24a. Fran often liked to amuse herself with the dice when her father worked at the <textile factory>.
24b. He would often bring home scraps of [crinkled] crepe that she would use around the house for dusting.
25a. Fran stopped thinking about the crepe the moment she realized her father was making <gumbo>.
25b. Fred hoped that Fran would not mind if he added a little extra [potent] cayenne.
26a. Fran did not like to eat cayenne and she had very good reasons.
26b. She had high aspirations to be a [raspy] vocalist instead of just a full time housewife.
27a. Fran was planning on telling Fred that she dreamed of being so much more than just a daughter.
27b. Just then someone arrived at the door holding a single [chalky] persimmon.
28a. Fran was quite excited to learn that he had journeyed all the way from <Hollywood>.
28b. His dying career as a [provocative] celebrity had given him lots of time to write her.
29a. Although the celebrity was a fantastic actor, he said that he was now broke because of his <skin condition>.
29b. His [disgusting] dermatitis was easy to see on camera.
30a. Fran wanted to ask him whether he was doing anything special to cure his condition.
30b. The [northerly] wind in her neighborhood would probably not improve his skin, which was very dry.
31a. The celebrity informed Fran that his condition was even worse than ever.
31b. A [shadowy] brig full of paparazzi had been sent recently to photograph him.
32a. Fran wondered if he would perhaps consider joining her outside so they could work on their <tans>.
32b. The sky had recently been full of [dappled] sunshine, which made the landscape appear almost white.
33a. Fran learned that the sunshine was so strong because she lived close to the <equator>.
33b. Her home was located at a [proximate] latitude that was quite close to a negative number.
34a. Fran was pleased that the celebrity thought it was a good idea for them to go outside.
34b. Her sunscreen was still in the garden by one [grouchy] ladybug.
35a. Fran watched the bug fall down as she tightly squeezed the tube.
35b. Fran was growing more in touch with the [delightful] humanity of insects and felt guilty for letting the bugs fall on the ground.
36a. She coyly mentioned to the celebrity that she liked almost every single kind of exotic <fruit>.
36b. One [unsweetened] pomegranate would be a nice gift for him to bring next time.
37a. The celebrity boastfully announced his plans to audition to play a <marine>.
37b. A [nifty] tank that would appear in the film was currently housed at the military museum.
38a. There was a sense of wonder when she learned that the tank had been driven in wars.
38b. The [greasy] soot that covered the interior was black.
39a. The soot had accumulated over many years of residue from gunpowder.
39b. A [feeble] captain in the NAVY had petitioned strongly for the museum to acquire the tank.
40a. Fran was excited and began telling the celebrity about how the captain once saved a man from being stabbed by a fish's <spear>.
40b. He would narrowly avoid being severely wounded by the [juvenile] swordfish.
41a. The mayor had planned a parade in his honor until he was accused of <stealing>.
41b. He was suspected of engaging in [full-time] thievery, even though they did not have any evidence.
42a. Tragically, the accusation was false and he died on the day the parade would have been held.

42b. She tried to tell herself that this was his [redemptive] liberation.
43a. The celebrity fought to hold back tears as they got up from their lawn chairs.
43b. The chairs were a deep shade of [moistened] geranium that almost perfectly matched his red socks.
44a. Given that both of them felt like browsing, the two went shopping for <cooking supplies>.
44b. A [fluted] pan that the cashier sold them was on sale.
45a. As Fran read her receipt, the celebrity announced that they had been <duped>.
45b. While suspecting that the celebrity was a [devilish] chump, Fran also determined that he loved bad news.
46a. After leaving the general store, the celebrity said that he had some personal information to share.
46b. His [rundown] trailer was the smallest one in the lot.
47a. Fran said that she despised anybody who was ashamed of their home.
47b. As such, her [four-foot] blackboard listed all the people in her life that she suspected of this crime.
48a. The celebrity snickered before asking her if she was also careful to keep track of the <dates>.
48b. He then bragged that he had never once before needed to use a [yearly] calendar.
49a. He had decided that dates were unpredictable from a scientific <model>.
49b. He and many others were easily convinced by a [reasonable] simulation that was full of impressive and complicated looking graphics.
50a. Fran said that she doubted the simulation because she simply did not trust computers.
50b. She would put much more faith in the work of a [molecular] geneticist.
51a. The celebrity slowly drew his lower lip between his teeth.
51b. He remembered that he had brought a jar of [rancid] sauce that he made from old rhubarbs.
52a. In her jealousy, she said that it was probably inferior to her <jam>.
52b. That morning, the [buttered] scone that she spread it all over had tasted just divine.
53a. She bragged that the lovely breakfast had been enjoyed over a book that she read in her <room>.
53b. Her [garish] chamber was a pleasant place to eat even though it was mostly full of useless junk.
54a. For example, she had one bin full of items just collecting dust.
54b. Her [puffy] parka probably did not fit her anymore, was the celebrity's guess.
55a. She said she would try it on later.
55b. To Fran, her friend [toothy] Stephanie would have said it was sinful to discard perfectly good clothing.
56a. The odd thing about her friend was that she was intolerant of aquatic <birds>.
56b. She had confessed to Fran that she was once chased by a [migrating] waterfowl.
57a. This did not delight the celebrity, as he had always deeply valued <peace>.
57b. He held a deep belief in total [temperate] pacifism that had served him well in life.
58a. When he began to talk about modeling, Fran decided that she felt rather proud of herself.
58b. She had not forgotten to put on her [studded] belt.
59a. Because the buckle was so easy to adjust, it was great for when she ate too much.
59b. She was fortunate to live near a [jagged] butte because she loved to eat wild deer.
60a. When Fran's communication died down, the celebrity asked if she had ever trained to <fight>.
60b. [Women's] boxing was Fran's only real way of relieving her stress.
61a. Her friend once told her that she was good because she always ate apple <rinds>.
61b. The [congested] peeler that Fran had once used to remove the peel was now in the dumpster.
62a. Later, she would go retrieve it after developing an awful stomach ulcer.
62b. The [corroded] battery that lay next to it was dead.
63a. When the celebrity proclaimed his intention to head off, Fran said goodbye and began heading back home to do her homework.
63b. A [shrunken] blackberry that she encountered on the way there stood out against the green plants.
64a. She did not pick it because she had once lived in <Harrisburg>.
64b. She used to pick them in [western] Pennsylvania, so she did not mind waiting.

Story 7: Granton G. Guffenbort

Intro1. The day of October 19 was grey and frigid, with the strong chill of a late autumn day.
Intro2. The leaves were falling aimlessly, and the saplings were sadly pale.
Intro3. Far out in the boonies there was a man with a silver mullet, marching along a mushy path through the falling leaves.
Intro4. His name was Granton G. Guffenbort, but he went by Grant.
Intro5. He was kind of husky and cocky, and he walked forcefully in the dimness of the autumn sun.
1a. In his arms he held a bag of mulch.
1b. Over in the field was a [snorting] bull, calmly grazing on grass.

2a. When Grant arrived at the front porch of his home, he set the bag of dirt right next to a chipped urn.
2b. In the urn was some [silky] thyme that was emitting a fragrant smell throughout the house.
3a. He still remembered that he had planted them with the help of his little <girl>.
3b. His [darling] daughter, Grace, was standing in the glen wearing a tattered blue gown.
4a. Grace was crying because not only was she wearing a tattered gown, she had a rip in her black <stockings>.
4b. The [gaudy] netting that her stockings were made out of were inappropriate for the weather because they were flimsy.
5a. Grace asked Grant whether he would possibly be willing to consider raising her allowance.
5b. Working in the [cluttered] studio was his only real source of relief.
6a. His face went blank as he listened to her insist that she had spent all night and all morning cleaning her room as asked.
6b. The big [slimy] jawbreaker that she left on her dresser had been collecting dust for well over three weeks.
7a. Her jaw dropped open when he told her that her playhouse would be <destroyed>.
7b. The city had ordered the [hi-tech] demolition after his neighbor issued a formal complaint.
8a. Grant listened as his daughter explained that she knew all about this because she had been <spying>.
8b. She had done so with some [cumbersome] binoculars that had allowed her to view very distant objects with both eyes.
9a. Grant was planning to punish his daughter for spying on people until she gave him a somber apology.
9b. He had begun to develop a [pasty] tinge in his cheeks.
10a. After his daughter went to her room, Grant realized that he had not bothered to clean the home in over a week.
10b. He threw out a bottle of [greenish] dressing, which had been left out for several days.
11a. He scrunched up his face as he began to polish all of the utensils in his home that were made out of <metal>.
11b. The [tarnished] pewter was a cheap alloy that he got on sale.
12a. Thoughtful, Grant tried to remember if they had any food to eat that was <healthy>.
12b. Discovering a plastic bag holding a [frosty] vegetable in the back of the freezer made him feel relieved.
13a. He clapped his hands when he discovered that under the vegetable was a box of fish sticks.
13b. Some [modified] barium may have seeped into some of the fish sticks.
14a. Grant had never even heard of barium but he would not have approved of his daughter consuming it.
14b. Their [pesky] mortality was something that he had always taken very seriously, which was something that he would never come to regret.
15a. There on the front steps sat his daughter and a boy who was claiming to have just moved <California>.
15b. The cougar on his sweater told Grant that he used to live in [tranquil] Coronado.
16a. As Grant sat down, the boy explained that he had recently moved in with his dad to work as a <farmhand>.
16b. He spent most of his days working in a [gloomy] barn, which made Grant wonder whether this left any time for school.
17a. The farmhand apologetically explained that he had homework to do and that it would probably take hours to finish.
17b. He had been assigned to make some [bubbling] lava to put in a model volcano.
18a. Grant frowned when his daughter told the farmhand that she had not yet started on her own assignment.
18b. She told him that she was supposed to write about a [belated] cheetah in the wild.
19a. When Grant's daughter said that she was planning to write the essay later, the farmhand said he had something waiting for him to <eat>.
19b. A single [boiled] potato had been cooling down for over several hours.
20a. After the farmhand left, Grant told his daughter that he bought a hat from a <mobster>.
20b. Grant's [snappy] fedora was grey with a wide brim, which kept the sun off her face.
21a. Grace knew that Grant had bought the fedora because he was trying to look moderately tougher.
21b. Grant's [equestrian] federation would not have approved of his fascination with crime.
22a. It then dawned on Grant that he had not told his daughter about his earlier blunder.
22b. The [creamy] cannelloni that he had bought in town was the brand that had way too much salt for their diet.
23a. Grant was about to confess when he remembered that he had plans later to attend a <costume party>.
23b. He was looking forward to showing all his friends his brand new [harlequin] mask
24a. Grant had bought the mask after she told him that he looked very nice in soft <leather>.
24b. He was somewhat worried about ruining the [textured] suede because there was a slight chance of showers later.
25a. Grant stopped worrying about the suede when his daughter announced that she had a surprise.
25b. Grace was pleased to show Grant that their herb garden had finally produced [wispy] fennel.
26a. Grant was pleased to see the fennel and washed it in the sink.
26b. He could never be a [dreary] physicist based on his fear of the chemicals in pesticides.

27a. Grant was reluctant to tell Grace that he had some news that one of her plants was <wilting>.
27b. A [vining] petunia in their garden had been sprayed with a pesticide.
28a. Grant went to the garden where he saw a pleasant woman holding a large <camera>.
28b. Her carefree job as a [sensational] photographer usually involved taking pictures of mailboxes and street signs.
29a. Although the photographer had enjoyed her work shooting mailboxes, she said that she wanted to focus on meaningful subjects.
29b. Her [appalling] halitosis made her take life more seriously.
30a. Grant was excited to tell her that he knew of just the topic for her.
30b. A [granular] storm was coming to town soon, which would be an edgy event to cover.
31a. The photographer told Grant that she might try photographing it from above.
31b. She had thought about doing so ever since she noticed a [deafening] drone.
32a. Grant advised her to be careful because there was always the risk of being struck by <lightening>.
32b. Their ears were suddenly filled with the sound of [latent] thunder, which made the earth shake.
33a. Grant assured her that thunder was not dangerous because it was only a loud sound.
33b. The clouds had a high [textural] density that made it sound louder than it really was.
34a. Grant told the photographer that she should be sure to bring an umbrella and galoshes with her.
34b. He was sharply startled when he suddenly noticed one [frizzy] mealybug.
35a. Grant then proceeded to trip and fall over a pile of <rocks>.
35b. The [subsurface] geology of stones always bored Grant because he did not think much could be learned from studying a bunch of rocks.
36a. He was so embarrassed that he invited the photographer to go with him on a <picnic>.
36b. The [misshapen] watermelon in his fridge was not sliced up and ready to eat.
37a. The photographer confusedly declined because they had agreed it would storm soon.
37b. A [crowded] bus honked loudly at them because they were standing so close to the street.
38a. There was a sense of annoyance when she realized that the bus had not even slowed down.
38b. A [scenic] haze covering the field made them blink.
39a. The haze was an illusion that he learned about in <school>.
39b. He had once had a [skillful] teacher who was quite smart but dismissive of his students.
40a. Grant was tearful and began telling the photographer about how the teacher had criticized his science report on the life cycle of <frogs>.
40b. He had written the paper after seeing his first [sizeable] tadpole.
41a. The paper had made the incorrect claim that they had once served as service animals.
41b. He wrote that they could predict [full-scale] mutiny, and so captains often kept them on ships.
42a. Carelessly, he had gotten the citation from one of the maritime fiction books at the local library.
42b. He wished that he could have faced more lenient [religious] delegation
43a. The photographer drew her brows together when she spotted a car that was bright <green>.
43b. The shade of [minted] pistachio that the car was painted made it quite easy to spot.
44a. Finding that they were by a construction site, they stopped to talk to a <melder>.
44b. The [floral] tin that the worker was hammering was almost flat.
45a. When Grant chatted with the melder, the photographer started to grow visibly upset.
45b. While deciding that the photographer was a [insufferable] prude, Grant also suspected that she disliked metal workers.
46a. After leaving the construction site, the photographer said that she was feeling very out of sorts.
46b. Her [cozy] buggy still needed a new set of wheels.
47a. Grant often tried cheering people up by taking them to the <pond>.
47b. As such, he escorted her to the pond where he pulled out a [foot-long] sailboat out of paper.
48a. The photographer blinked as she asked whether he had gotten a chance to read the latest <circular>.
48b. Her pastor did his best to list all the latest news in the [nightly] bulletin.
49a. She often read it to catch up on the latest gossip.
49b. She and few others ever bothered to read the updates about the [harmonizing] conservation that the church members worked on.
50a. Grant argued that it was important for everyone to keep up with their efforts.
50b. He had been hoping all his life to eventually meet a [glamorous] pathologist.
51a. The photographer rubbed her temples while mumbling something about <coffee>.
51b. The pitcher of [frothy] cream in her refrigerator was so spoiled that she had gone without it.
52a. In his apathy, he said that spoiled cream could be used in <soup>.
52b. Last week, the [smelly] bisque that he prepared had paired excellently with fresh baked bread.

53a. He elaborated that he had acquired a taste for lobster after a stay on the coast of Maine.
53b. His [marbled] lobby had been decorated with pictures of birds that migrated from the wetlands during the summer.
54a. Soon enough, he developed a strong obsession with anything that was tropical.
54b. His [shabby] tunic was printed with tiny flamingos, as the photographer brilliantly observed.
55a. He bought the tunic from a <sales lady>.
55b. Grant said that when he did she said she was [rueful] Caroline who personally disliked palm trees.
56a. The quaint thing about her was that she wore outfits embroidered with white <birds>.
56b. She later mentioned to Grant that she at one time owned a [boisterous] turtledove.
57a. This did not surprise the photographer, as she heard they made bad pets.
57b. She thought that owning one meant one valued malleable [discursive] pluralism that she would never endorse.
58a. When she began moaning about materialism, Grant pronounced that he did not care much about products.
58b. He was pleased that he was wearing his [stocky] jeans.
59a. Because the fabric was easy to clean, they were great for when he tended to his <henhouse>.
59b. Cleaning out the [backyard] coop was hard work because he had to deal with aggressive chickens.
60a. When Grant's complaints ended, the photographer asked if he knew where to buy a <mitt>.
60b. [Hellish] baseball was Grant's favorite sport in the whole entire world.
61a. His teammate once told him that he should quit the team after a petty argument.
61b. The [pivoting] spreader that Grant had borrowed from him to frost a cake had never been returned.
62a. Later, he would finally find it after moving the stove to clean.
62b. The [decrepit] telephone that rang caused him to drop it.
63a. When the photographer expressed her readiness to go home, Grant said goodbye and headed over to a grove to pick <oranges>.
63b. When he got there he discovered that it had a [drooping] mandarin that was not ripe.
64a. He picked ten of them because he had been raised over in <California>.
64b. He was used to the fruit in [central] Sacramento, which was actually very nice.

Story 8: Hoeplynn H. Hennington

Intro1. The day of July 3 was fair and sunny, with the light warmth of a mid summer day.
Intro2. The tulips were growing abundantly, and the poplars were lavishly green.
Intro3. Just a few miles from the city there was a girl with big feet, hopping along the lush grass through the daffodils.
Intro4. Her name was Hoeplynn H. Hennington, but she went by Hope.
Intro5. She was a bit puny and bookish, and she moved awkwardly in the warmth of the summer day.
1a. In her pocket she had a plastic squirt gun.
1b. Over by the pond was a [growling] fox, chasing after some bugs.
2a. When Hope finally hopped her way to the side of her home, she placed the squirt gun by a long <garden hose>.
2b. The [prickly] shrub by the hose was growing thick bushy leaves that blocked out the sunlight.
3a. She would make use of it when she needed to hide from her older <sibling>.
3b. Her [witty] brother, Hank, was standing in the yard wearing a big yellow hat.
4a. Hank was whooping because not only was he wearing a big hat, he was also wearing a long purple cape.
4b. The [comfy] cashmere that his cape was made out of was slowing him down because it was very heavy.
5a. Hope asked Hank if he would help do something to cheer up their mom.
5b. Working at a [primal] factory was a major damper on her mood.
6a. Her face beamed as she told him that she wanted to surprise their mom when she got home with a big cup of <cocoa>.
6b. It was great that he had thought to save one last [toasty] marshmallow that they could both enjoy.
7a. His eyebrows waggled when mentioned hat their mom was going to see a <surgeon>.
7b. She had scheduled the [day-long] consultation because she was hoping to get botox injections.
8a. Hope listened as her brother insisted that there were more interesting things to spend the money on.
8b. He had been dreaming of buying a [infrared] spectrometer because it would allow him to measure specific properties of light.
9a. Hope had suspicions that her brother did not even know how much money one of them would cost.
9b. He probably wanted one without a [dusky] glare on the scope.
10a. After her brother went off to play, Hope decided that it would most likely be healthy for her to drink some <tea>.

10b. A slice of [slivered] ginger was waiting on the counter, which had a very strong odor.
11a. Her mouth curved slightly when she realized that the kettle could heat quickly because it was made of a special kind of <metal>.
11b. The [bulky] tungsten was made of steel with a high melting point.
12a. Eagerly, Hope scanned the shelves before selecting a chipped teacup with a delicate floral design.
12b. Knocking over the tall bottle of [pungent] vinegar all over the counter caused her mouth to snap shut.
13a. She quickly wiped up the vinegar with a rag before pouring the boiling water over the teabag.
13b. The [fermented] phosphorus in the air was making the house smell awful.
14a. Hope smelled the phosphorus and went to ask her brother if the smell was one of his <gaffs>.
14b. He was prone to acts of [garbled] stupidity, such as mincing large quantities of garlic and then leaving them out to smell.
15a. Next to the tree house stood her brother who was listening to a boy describe his time in <Africa>.
15b. The details of his travels told Hope that he had been vacationing in [somber] Tanzania.
16a. As Hope got closer, he explained that he was a gymnast who was taking the summer off to heal an injury.
16b. He was planning to build a fort that looked like a [spacious] ranch, which made Hope think he was being too ambitious.
17a. The gymnast went on to say that he knew of a good place where they could get various supplies.
17b. He knew where they could get [crumbled] gravel to scatter around the sides of fort.
18a. Hope's eyes widened when her brother told the gymnast that they would have to be careful of <rodents>.
18b. The [inactive] muskrat that was spotted in the yard had been reported to act aggressively.
19a. When Hope's brother said that he had thought about killing the vermin with poison, the gymnast angrily left because he preferred using <spicy seasoning>.
19b. A few sprinkles of [crusty] paprika would not have worked very well.
20a. After the gymnast left, Hope reminded her brother that they still needed to clean their rooms.
20b. Hope's [rumpled] pajamas were still lying on the floor, which was littered with lots of toys.
21a. Hank knew that Hope had won the pajamas as a prize for a competitive school project.
21b. Hope's [discernible] publication had been a feature article in the school paper.
22a. It then occurred to Hope to ask her brother to help heat up a frozen <pizza>.
22b. She was certain that their freezer had at least two boxes of [spicy] pepperoni that he could pop in the microwave.
23a. Hope was about to ask when she remembered her plans to go meet a friend at the <playground>.
23b. She was really excited because she heard that there was a new [decadent] swing.
24a. Hope had been planning on trying out the swing ever since hearing about it from her brother.
24b. She planned to wear [hairy] tweed to the park because it would help her stay on the swing.
25a. Hope stopped thinking about the tweed when her brother asked her to come see something.
25b. Hank wanted to show Hope that all they had to eat was some [murky] nutmeg.
26a. Hope slowly sniffed the nutmeg while thinking that it smelled much like <wood>.
26b. Their [burly] carpenter of nearly ten years would almost certainly have told her the same thing.
27a. Hope was pleased when she saw that Hank had finally remembered to set the table with fresh <flowers>.
27b. The [listless] gardenia smelled so lovely that she just had to smile.
28a. Hope was pleasantly surprised when she saw her good friend show up at the door.
28b. His grueling experience as a [reproductive] biologist had helped her grow several healthy plants from seedlings.
29a. Although the biologist preferred to work with adults, he said that he could only find work teaching little kids.
29b. His [puzzling] pharyngitis had drained him of all energy.
30a. Hope last spoke with him when she noticed that her plants had little <water droplets>.
30b. She did not know that they were caused by [spattering] rain, which came and went quickly.
31a. The biologist convinced Hope to go outside and look at the <sky>.
31b. She did as instructed and was quite amazed to see a [translucent] blimp.
32a. Hope considered this an amazing sight because it was the first blimp to fly over her town.
32b. The clouds were bounded by a brilliant [tacit] rainbow, which was stretching straight across the sky.
33a. Hope pointed out that the rainbow extended far past the tree house in the yard.
33b. The tree had produced a [harmonic] ratio of branches to leaves that was providing ample shade.
34a. Hope invited the biologist to climb up the tree when she noticed something <hop on her arm>.
34b. One [flightless] grasshopper had just jumped from one of the branches.
35a. Hope had heard that they were often found in damper <regions>.
35b. The [centralized] geography of new areas was quite interesting to Hope because she liked to learn about places where she had never been.

36a. She quickly forgot about climbing the tree when the biologist suddenly pointed something out to her.
36b. The [leathery] huckleberry that he picked from a bush had stained his hands purple.
37a. The biologist daintily dabbed at his fingers with a small lace napkin.
37b. The [shoddy] boat that he was planning to take on the lake later was easily stained.
38a. There was a sense of confusion when they both detected that something was emitting a terrible <smell>.
38b. They could not tell what caused the [caustic] fumes.
39a. The fumes were most likely coming from a nearby <army base>
39b. She suspected that it was caused by a [wretched] soldier who often detonated dummy land mines.
40a. Hope shook her head and began telling the biologist all about how the soldier allegedly got a thrill out of terrifying his squad.
40b. He was almost discharged after pretending to eat a [silvery] minnow.
41a. They allowed him to keep his position after they learned that it was not alive.
41b. The prank stirred up a lot of [so-called] rivalry, and so the following weeks were chaotic.
42a. Luckily, the mayhem would lead the commanders to think of new ways to keep things under <control>.
42b. Such [unerring] moderation ended up being very good for all involved.
43a. The biologist raised a brow as he observed that the treehouse was painted bright <red>.
43b. The shade of [cheery] vermillion that the treehouse was painted looked almost good enough to eat.
44a. Concluding that both of them wanted fresh bread, the two decided to visit the bakery.
44b. A [dainty] dish in the baker's window displayed many hot buns.
45a. As Hope selected a sticky roll, the biologist decided to change his mind.
45b. While wondering if the biologist was a [finicky] dunce, Hope also determined that he disliked sticky buns.
46a. After they left the bakery, the biologist asked her if she had ever shot a <cannon>.
46b. He had always wanted to shoot off a [mobile] missile.
47a. Hope had gathered a collection of old shell casings in her <hideout>.
47b. However, he could not see them because they were nowhere close to her [well-kept] playhouse in the woods.
48a. The biologist brightened as he asked whether she had any plans for the rest of the day.
48b. He would really like for her to give him an opinion on his [healthful] recipe.
49a. He had been trying to perfect it for ten long years.
49b. He like many others took great pleasure in seeing personal projects undergo

comprehensive

transformation over the course of many years.
50a. Hope admitted that she preferred to spend all her free time working with <electronics>.
50b. To work as a [radiologic] technologist was one of her goals in life.
51a. The biologist rubbed his belly while craving some hearty <stew>.
51b. A vat of [tepid] soup that he had planned to put on that morning had gone uncooked.
52a. In her empathy, she said that she too had been forgetful that morning.
52b. Most likely, the [soybean] curd that she left near the window had been blown over.
53a. She dreaded the prospect of the spill because she knew how hard it would be to clean up.
53b. The [homey] temple that her parents used to make her attend had always demanded total and complete cleanliness.
54a. In reward, they asked her to sing at a fancy <wedding>.
54b. She had not tried to catch the [frilly] garter, was the biologist's guess.
55a. She had been too intimidated by another <girl>.
55b. Hope said that her foe was a girl named [Dopey] Monica who took pleasure in bullying her.
56a. The sad thing was that they discovered their common interest several years too late.
56b. She would have liked to know that Hope's favorite animal was the [imperial] woodpecker.
57a. This did not touch the biologist, as he had been a friendless child.
57b. He never realized that his family engaged in a toxic [worrisome] nepotism that offended other kids.
58a. When he began describing his fancy lifestyle, Hope decided she wanted to shop for some <clothing>.
58b. Her [khaki] skirt had been out of fashion for years.
59a. Because the material was resistant to tears, it was great for when she checked on her <swine>.
59b. Tending to her [musty] sty was often dangerous because she had to contend with rambunctious hogs.
60a. When Hope's remarks ran out, the biologist asked where she met most of her friends.
60b. [Coed] soccer was Fran's only way of meeting girls like her.
61a. Her pal once told her that she was the inspiration behind their new team name.
61b. The [grandiose] cleaver that Fran used to chop meat was what had given the team the idea.
62a. Later, she would start a blog about it on her new <computer>.

62b. The computer was hooked up to a large [monochrome] monitor.
63a. When the biologist said he had to be going, Hope said goodbye and then headed to the store to buy <berries>.
63b. When she got there she found only one [sodden] raspberry that was not quite ripe yet.
64a. She decided to buy it because she did not have experience with berries.
64b. She wished that she lived in [Eastern] Colorado where the berries were always plentiful.

Category	Story 1	Story 2	Story 3	Story 4	Story 5	Story 6	Story 7	Story 8	Category	Syll.
ABSTRACT	population	constitution	legislation	registration	corporation	generation	federation	publication	ABSTRACT	4
AMOUNT	magnitude	quantity	frequency	measurement	multitude	latitude	density	ratio	AMOUNT	3
APPAREL1	girdle	poncho	nightgown	slipper	corset	parka	tunic	garter	APPAREL	2
APPAREL2	coat	cap	dress	shorts	boots	belt	jeans	skirt	APPAREL	1
APPEARANCE	gleam	sheen	tint	glint	glaze	gloss	tinge	glare	APPEARANCE	1
BIRD2	hummingbird	cockatoo	nightingale	parakeet	mockingbird	waterfowl	turtledove	woodpecker	BIRD	3
BLDG.PART	chapel	ceiling	basement	closet	kitchen	chamber	lobby	temple	BLDG.PART	2
CANDY	peppermint	lollipop	wintergreen	caramel	gingerbread	butterscotch	jawbreaker	marshmallow	CANDY	3
CHEMICAL	manganese	turpentine	cadmium	halogen	radium	glycerin	barium	phosphorus	CHEMICAL	3
COLOR	forsythia	mahogany	magnolia	wisteria	chrysanthemum	geranium	pistachio	vermillion	COLOR	4
CONDIMENT	jelly	ketchup	curry	syrup	chili	mustard	dressing	ginger	CONDIMENT	2
CRIME	lunacy	treachery	burglary	perjury	bribery	thievery	mutiny	rivalry	CRIME	3
DESCRIPTION	stability	diversity	priority	tranquility	validity	maturity	mortality	stupidity	DESCRIPTION	4
DEVICE	stereo	camera	radio	satellite	video	battery	telephone	monitor	DEVICE	3
DISCIPLINE	philosophy	biology	pathology	geometry	psychology	humanity	geology	geography	DISCIPLINE	4
DISH/UTENSIL	bowl	knife	fork	plate	pot	pan	tin	dish	DISH/UTENSIL	1
DWELLING	dorm	hut	tent	lodge	shack	cave	barn	ranch	DWELLING	1
EVENT	reservation	dedication	graduation	celebration	recreation	meditation	demolition	consultation	EVENT	4
EVENT2	presentation	calculation	computation	regulation	demonstration	simulation	conservation	transformation	EVENT	4
FISH/REPTILE	blowfish	gator	bullfrog	gecko	flounder	swordfish	tadpole	minnow	FISH/REPTILE	2
FLOWER	poinsettia	hibiscus	begonia	hyacinth	peony	persimmon	petunia	gardenia	FLOWER	3
FOOD	vitamin	sesame	coconut	cinnamon	caviar	cereal	vegetable	vinegar	FOOD	3
FOOD2	vanilla	banana	spaghetti	bologna	sangria	tomato	potato	paprika	FOOD	3
FOOD3	ravioli	minestrone	vermicelli	tapioca	gorgonzola	semolina	cannelloni	pepperoni	FOOD	4
FOOD_	quiche	mousse	gruel	flan	brie	scone	bisque	curd	FOOD_	1
FRUIT/BERRY	mulberry	cantaloupe	blueberry	cranberry	pineapple	blackberry	mandarin	raspberry	FRUIT/BERRY	3
HAT	toboggan	suspenders	bandanna	sombrero	kimono	tiara	fedora	pajamas	HAT	3
ILLNESS	meningitis	laryngitis	carcinoma	sinusitis	streptococcus	dermatitis	halitosis	pharyngitis	ILLNESS	4
INSECT	millipede	silverfish	centipede	bumblebee	honeybee	ladybug	mealybug	grasshopper	INSECT	3
LEGAL.EVENT	prosecution	litigation	nomination	confirmation	termination	liberation	delegation	moderation	LEGAL.EVENT	4
LIQUID	wine	punch	juice	beer	milk	sauce	cream	soup	LIQUID	1
MAMMAL	dog	horse	pig	bear	mouse	cat	bull	fox	MAMMAL	1
MAMMAL2	chipmunk	walrus	groundhog	reindeer	leopard	bobcat	cheetah	muskrat	MAMMAL	2
MATERIAL1	muslin	burlap	denim	rayon	tartan	flannel	netting	cashmere	MATERIAL	2
MATERIAL	fleece	twine	mink	gauze	twill	crepe	suede	tweed	MATERIAL	1
MEASURE.	kaleidoscope	thermometer	speedometer	micrometer	barometer	chronometer	binoculars	spectrometer	MEASURE.	4
MINERAL	garnet	turquoise	topaz	cobalt	carmine	mica	pewter	tungsten	MINERAL	2
MINERAL	copper	concrete	fossil	coral	carbon	nickel	lava	gravel	MINERAL	2
NAME	Marilyn	Dorothy	Pamela	Natalie	Catherine	Stephanie	Caroline	Monica	NAME	3
OCCUPATION	therapist	counselor	messenger	columnist	journalist	vocalist	physicist	carpenter	OCCUPATION	3
OCCUPATION2	lawyer	doctor	pilot	singer	writer	captain	teacher	soldier	OCCUPATION	2
OCCUPATION3	grammarian	neurologist	cartographer	stenographer	percussionist	geneticist	pathologist	technologist	OCCUPATION	4
PERSON	grouch	snitch	dolt	twerp	slob	chump	prude	dunce	PERSON	1

PLACE	gallery	residence	hospital	restaurant	cinema	tournament	studio	factory	PLACE	3
PLACE	roost	gorge	perch	hutch	wharf	butte	coop	sty	PLACE	1
PLANT	dill	clove	sprout	hedge	kale	fern	thyme	shrub	PLANT	1
PRINCIPLE	dogmatism	chauvinism	modernism	populism	tribalism	pacifism	pluralism	nepotism	PRINCIPLE	3
PROFESSION	practitioner	comedian	librarian	historian	psychiatrist	celebrity	photographer	biologist	PROFESSION	4
READING	magazine	newspaper	manual	catalog	document	calendar	bulletin	recipe	READING	3
REGION	Monticello	Nagasaki	Transylvania	Saratoga	Sarasota	Mauritania	Coronado	Tanzania	REGION	4
RELATIVE	mother	nephew	husband	sister	cousin	father	daughter	brother	RELATIVE	2
SMELL/FEEL	slush	musk	sludge	grime	smog	soot	haze	fumes	SMELL/FEEL	1
SPICE	cumin	dijon	tartar	saffron	bourbon	cayenne	fennel	nutmeg	SPICE	2
SPORT	cricket	rugby	tennis	football	hockey	boxing	baseball	soccer	SPORT	2
STATE/CITY	Philadelphia	Mississippi	Cincinnati	Minnesota	Massachusetts	Pennsylvania	Sacramento	Colorado	STATE/CITY	4
TOY	horn	chess	doll	clay	bat	dice	mask	swing	TOY	1
TOY2	scrabble	frisbee	scooter	sandbox	marble	blackboard	sailboat	playhouse	TOY	2
UTENSIL	grinder	scraper	beater	grater	strainer	peeler	spreader	cleaver	UTENSIL	2
VEG/FRUIT	rutabaga	cauliflower	dandelion	coriander	honeysuckle	pomegranate	watermelon	huckleberry	VEG/FRUIT	4
VEHICLE3	dredge	sledge	tram	pram	sleigh	brig	drone	blimp	VEHICLE	1
VEHICLE1	cab	van	jet	truck	ship	tank	bus	boat	VEHICLE	1
VEHICLE2	railroad	taxi	wagon	tractor	ferry	trailer	buggy	missile	VEHICLE	2
WEATHER1	hail	snow	fog	cloud	frost	wind	storm	rain	WEATHER	1
WEATHER2	climate	blizzard	twilight	cyclone	twister	sunshine	thunder	rainbow	WEATHER	2

Table 4: Target Items. Syll. refers to the number of syllables of all target items in the row.