Exercise 3.0  Sentence predictability

Instructions to the Speaker
1  Give the listener their copy of the written sentences presented on page 209.
2  Say the entire sentence, including the missing word or phrase. Present the
    missing word or phrase under limited accessibility (for example, visual-only or in
    background noise). Missing word and phrase suggestions are given below, or
    you can make up your own to suit the listener’s needs.
3  Ask the listener to repeat or write down the missing word or phrase.
4  Once the sentences are completed, discuss with the listener the influence of
    within-sentence context cues (primarily lexical and semantic) on the perception of
    missing portions of the sentence.

High predictability sentences
1  He was so angry, he slammed the ........
   Missing word suggestion: door

2  My car has another flat ........
   Missing word suggestion: tire

3  Please wipe your ........ on the mat.
   Missing word suggestion: feet

4  Don't forget to water the ........
   Missing word suggestion: plants

5  The little girl clapped her ........
   Missing word suggestion: hands

6  Dig the ........ over here, by this bush.
   Missing word suggestion: hole

7  He baked a ........ cake for her birthday.
   Missing word suggestion: chocolate

8  Would you like another cup of ........?
   Missing word suggestion: coffee

Moderate predictability sentences
1  My dog refuses to eat ........
   Missing word suggestions: dog food; chicken

106 Source: Erber, 1996
2 We've just moved from South ..........  
   Missing word suggestions: Australia; America

3 She and her husband have .......... children.  
   Missing word suggestions: three; five

4 The .......... flew away when we got close.  
   Missing word suggestions: birds; geese

5 He gave the .......... bicycle to the boy.  
   Missing word suggestions: red; brand new

6 This radio has a broken ..........  
   Missing word suggestions: dial; speaker

7 We fed some bread to the ..........  
   Missing word suggestions: ducks; black swans

8 We saw .......... in the barn.  
   Missing word suggestions: chickens; hay bales

**Low predictability sentences**

1 We often talked about the ..........  
   Missing word suggestions: weather; news headlines; gravy

2 After dinner, she showed me the ..........  
   Missing word suggestions: bathroom; vacation, photos; dishwasher

3 I just bought a ..........  
   Missing word suggestions: house; second-hand car; loaf of bread

4 He didn't know about the ..........  
   Missing word suggestions: new book; missing van; sale

5 Please don't ask me about the ..........  
   Missing word suggestions: accident; latest current affairs; broken windows

6 I've never heard of a ..........  
   Missing word suggestions: talking hamster; two-headed ghost; blue-ringed octopus

7 Do you have a ..........?  
   Missing word suggestions: new car; second bathroom; spare key

8 We couldn't remember the name of the ..........  
   Missing word suggestions: hotel; art gallery; film
Exercise 3.0  Sentence predictability

Instructions to the Listener
1  The sentences below all have missing words or phrases.
2  The speaker will read the entire sentence, including the missing word or phrase.
3  Repeat or write down the missing word or phrase.

High predictability sentences
1  He was so angry, he slammed the ........
2  My car has another flat ........
3  Please wipe your ........ on the mat.
4  Don’t forget to water the ........
5  The little girl clapped her ........
6  Dig the ........ over here, by this bush.
7  He baked a ........ cake for her birthday.
8  Would you like another cup of ........?

Moderate predictability sentences
1  My dog refuses to eat ........
2  We’ve just moved from South ........
3  She and her husband have ........ children.
4  The ........ flew away when we got close.
5  He gave the ........ bicycle to the boy.
6  This radio has a broken ........
7  We fed some bread to the ........
8  We saw ........ in the barn.

Low predictability sentences
1  We often talked about the ........
2  After dinner, she showed me the ........
3  I just bought a ........
4  He didn’t know about the ........
5  Please don’t ask me about the ........
6  I’ve never heard of a ........
7  Do you have a ........?
8  We couldn’t remember the name of the ........

107 Source: Erber, 1996