

Using affective knowledge to generate and validate a set of emotion-related, action words

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Emotion concepts are built through situated experience. Abstract word meaning is grounded in this affective knowledge, giving words the potential to evoke emotional feelings and reactions (e.g. Vigliocco et al., 2009). In the present work we explore whether words differ in the extent to which they evoke 'specific' emotional knowledge. Using a categorical approach, in which an affective 'context' is created, it is possible to assess whether words proportionally activate knowledge relevant to different emotional states (e.g. 'sadness', 'anger', Stevenson, Mikels & James, 2007a). We argue that this method may be particularly effective when assessing the emotional meaning of action words (e.g. Schacht & Sommer, 2009). In study 1 we use a constrained feature generation task to derive a set of action words that participants associated with six, basic emotional states (see full list in Appendix A). Generation frequencies were taken to indicate the likelihood that the word would evoke emotional knowledge relevant to the state to which it had been paired. In study 2 a rating task was used to assess the strength of association between the six most frequently generated, or 'typical', action words and corresponding emotion labels. Participants were presented with a series of sentences, in which action words (typical and atypical) and labels were paired e.g. "If you are feeling 'sad' how likely would you be to act in the following way?" ... 'cry'. Findings suggest that typical associations were robust. Participants always gave higher ratings to typical vs. atypical action word and label pairings, even when (a) rating direction was manipulated (the label or verb appeared first in the sentence), and (b) the typical behaviours were to be performed by the rater themselves, or others. Our findings suggest that emotion-related action words vary in the extent to which they evoke knowledge relevant for different emotional states. When measuring affective grounding, it may then be appropriate to use categorical ratings in conjunction with unimodal measures, which assess the 'magnitude' to which words evoke feelings (e.g. Newcombe et al., 2012). Towards this aim we provide a set of emotion-related action words, accompanied by generation frequency and rating data, which show how strongly each word evokes knowledge relevant to basic emotional states.

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24 Introduction

25 Emotion words are not just ‘words’. Recent theories of semantic representation suggest that
26 abstract words (including emotional words) are predominantly understood due to their grounding
27 in situated experience (e.g. Vigliocco et al., 2009; Wilson-Mendenhall et al., 2011; Vinson,
28 Ponari & Vigliocco, 2014). Words derive meaning because they are bound to the emotional
29 experiences that they refer to; words have the power to re-activate or evoke these internal
30 feelings or states (Wilson-Mendenhall et al., 2011). For example, the word ‘Justice’ is
31 understood because it easily evokes certain emotional connotations, such as feelings commonly
32 associated with receiving a jury verdict (e.g. joy, frustration, dismay; example taken from
33 Newcombe et al., 2012). This parallels the proposed situated conceptualisation of concrete words
34 (e.g. ‘pen’), which predominantly find grounding in their sensorimotor bindings (e.g. what a
35 ‘pen’ looks like and how we interact with this object in our environment e.g. Barsalou, 1999;
36 Barsalou et al., 2008).

37 Several findings support the proposed distinction in the types of knowledge that ground abstract
38 and concrete words (e.g. Vigliocco et al., 2009; Wiemer-Hastings & Xu, 2005; Newcombe et al.,
39 2012). Using a feature generation task, Wiemer-Hastings and Xu (2005) showed that participants
40 generated a significantly higher number of ‘experience’ and feeling-related properties when
41 defining abstract concepts in comparison to concrete concepts, which elicited a larger proportion
42 of ‘entity’ and ‘situational’ properties. Findings from lexical decision tasks also show that
43 dimensional, affective ratings (valence and arousal, e.g. Lang, 1980) are better predictors of
44 abstract than concrete word recognition (Kousta, Vinson & Vigliocco, 2009; Kousta et al.,
45 2011). In contrast to the classic finding, abstract words were processed faster than concrete
46 words when other types of experiential property were controlled (e.g. imageability ratings for

47 each word). Importantly, Vinson, Ponari & Vigliocco (2014) also show that valence is similarly
48 predictive of lexical decision latencies when participants responded both to emotion labels (e.g.
49 ‘Sad’) and emotion-related words (e.g. ‘Death’), showing that affective knowledge provides an
50 important binding for words possessing both strong and weak associations to emotional concepts
51 (see also Altarriba & Basnight-Brown, 2010).

52 These findings suggest that dimensional ratings (valence and arousal e.g. Lang, 1980) effectively
53 quantify the affective knowledge that ground abstract words (e.g. Kousta, Vinson & Vigliocco,
54 2009; Kousta et al., 2011; Vinson, Ponari & Vigliocco, 2014). They build on a large body of
55 previous work, showing that dimensional ratings well predict differences in neutral vs. emotional
56 word processing, using the lexical decision paradigm (e.g. Estes & Adelman, 2008; Larsen et al.,
57 2008; Kousta, Vinson & Vigliocco, 2009), even when very large sets of words are sampled (e.g.
58 Vinson, Ponari & Vigliocco, 2014; Kuperman, 2014; Kuperman et al., 2014). However, some
59 researchers explore the utility of new variables. In particular, Newcombe et al., (2012) developed
60 a semantic richness measure, called ‘emotional experience’. This measure is similar to body-
61 object interaction (Siakaluk et al., 2008) and imageability scales (Schock, Cortese & Khanna,
62 2012), which assess the extent to which words represent and elicit the experiential properties of
63 their referents (in the latter case, sensory and motor properties). As such, the emotional
64 experience variable captures the ease with which a word evokes affective knowledge.
65 Newcombe et al., (2012) collected participant-generated emotional experience ratings for a large
66 set of nouns, predictably finding that emotional experience ratings were higher for abstract than
67 concrete words (Moffat et al., 2015; Vigliocco et al., 2009).

68 Importantly, subsequent work showed that emotion experience ratings were significant
69 predictors of abstract word processing in a variety of tasks (e.g. Siakaluk, Knol & Pexman, 2014;

70 Moffat et al., 2015). For example, participants were significantly slower to process abstract
71 words rated high (vs. low) in emotional experience in a Stroop task, suggesting a larger degree
72 of interference when processing words with strong links to a potentially large pool of affective
73 information. Additionally, when participants engaged in a semantic categorisation task, in which
74 they categorised either ‘abstract’ or ‘concrete’ words in a continuous stream, high emotional
75 experience ratings were related to facilitative effects in the abstract categorisation task, and
76 smaller inhibitory effects in the concrete categorisation task (Newcombe et al., 2012; Moffat et
77 al., 2015). Importantly, emotional experience ratings continued to predict all three effects, even
78 when valence and arousal ratings were entered as predictors (Newcombe et al., 2012; Siakaluk,
79 Knol & Pexman, 2014; Moffat et al., 2015). Taken together, these findings show that emotional
80 experience ratings provide a valid way to quantify affective, experiential knowledge (e.g.
81 Newcombe et al., 2012).

82 Categorical ratings present a related way to assess affective grounding. Arguably, emotional
83 experience ratings provide an ‘undifferentiated’ quantification, suggestive of the ease with which
84 a word evokes knowledge relevant to a range of emotional states e.g. the word ‘funeral’ may
85 strongly evoke feelings relevant to different emotions, like ‘sadness’, ‘anguish’ and ‘fear’
86 (Newcombe et al., 2012). Put another way, emotional experience ratings quantify the magnitude
87 to which a word makes you ‘feel’ (Siakaluk, Knol & Pexman, 2014). However, we might be
88 explicitly interested in the likelihood that the word ‘funeral’ evokes feelings of ‘sadness’, in
89 proportion to feelings and knowledge related to other possible states, like ‘fear’ and ‘anguish’.
90 By posing the emotional label of ‘sadness’, a constrained ‘affective context’ is created, under
91 which participants’ judge the specific relationship between the emotional concept of ‘sadness’,
92 and the word ‘funeral’. This conceptualisation brings a greater degree of specificity to the notion

93 that words evoke feelings. In this sense, categorical ratings are similar to context availability
94 measures, which assess the likelihood that words evoke contexts (or, emotional states), in which
95 their referents appear (e.g. Schwanenflugel & Shoben, 1983; Wiemer-Hastings & Xu, 2005;
96 Moffat et al., 2015). Additionally, categorical ratings support Pecher, Boot and van Dantzig's
97 (2011) view of how abstract concepts are grounded. They emphasise that abstract words likely
98 reactivate very specific contexts or situations that we have experienced, rather than being
99 generally evocative; just as concrete words reactivate specific sensory and motor representations,
100 in the same neural areas that initially process sensorimotor information (e.g. Wilson-Mendenhall
101 et al., 2011).

102 Several researchers already provide categorical ratings for emotional words (e.g. Stevenson,
103 Mikels & James, 2007a; Briesemeister, Kuchinke & Jacobs., 2011a). In Stevenson, Mikels &
104 James' (2007a) study participants rated each word in the ANEW database (Bradley & Lang,
105 1999), based on extent of association with the basic states of 'happiness', 'sadness', 'anger',
106 'fear' and 'disgust' (e.g. Ekman, 1992). Here discrete emotional states, denoted by a label, create
107 a constrained 'affective context' and participant ratings indicate the likelihood to which each
108 ANEW word proportionally evokes knowledge relevant to those emotional states. Stevenson,
109 Mikels and James (2007a) were particularly interested in whether words could be 'discretely'
110 related to a particular emotion label. Given that words likely evoke experiential knowledge
111 relevant to a number of emotional states (e.g. Siakaluk, Knol & Pexman, 2014), we reframe
112 Stevenson, Mikels and James (2007a) terminology to talk about 'disproportional' relationships
113 (e.g. how strongly does a word evoke knowledge relevant to one basic emotion state, in
114 comparison to others?)¹. Stevenson, Mikels and James (2007b) assumed that a disproportional

¹ We acknowledge that the word 'categorical' has strong, dichotomous connotations; something is either part of a category, or it is not. Although we argue for a proportional, rather than a categorical, interpretation we continue to use the word 'categorical' to describe our approach due to its strong relationship with other work that has used this

115 association was present when the rating given for the word/label pair was one standard deviation
116 higher than ratings given to that word when paired with all other emotion labels. Using this
117 method 44.54% of the 1,034 words tested were disproportionately related to one or two discrete
118 emotion labels. Briesemeister, Kuchinke & Jacobs, (2011a) produced similar findings when
119 using this rating method with German nouns included in the Berlin Affective Word List (Vö,
120 Jacobs & Conrad, 2006; Vö et al., 2009). When Stevenson, Mikels and James (2007a) criterion
121 was applied, 25.18% of the words within DENN-BAWL could be disproportionately associated
122 with a particular emotion label.

123 Importantly, subsequent work shows that categorical ratings for both English and German words
124 predicted lexical decision latencies (e.g. Briesemeister Kuchinke & Jacobs, 2011a; 2011b; 2014).
125 In particular, words disproportionately related to the discrete state of ‘happiness’ were processed
126 faster than neutral words and words disproportionately associated with negative discrete
127 categories, like ‘disgust’, ‘fear’ (Briesemeister, Kuchinke & Jacobs, 2011a) and ‘anger’
128 (Briesemeister, Kuchinke & Jacobs, 2011b). Briesemeister, Kuchinke & Jacobs, (2014) and
129 Briesemeister et al., (2014) both provide evidence to suggest that behavioural facilitation was not
130 simply driven by the positive valence of these words. Temporally dissociable ERP components
131 (Briesemeister, Kuchinke & Jacobs, 2014) and topographically distinct brain activity
132 (Briesemeister et al., 2014) were found when participants processed words that differed in
133 ‘happiness’ association (high vs. low), but were matched on valence and arousal.

134 A recent study by Westbury et al., (2014) provides further support for the categorical approach.
135 Rather than using participant ratings, Westbury et al., (2014) mapped the semantic distance
136 between emotion labels and words, based on how frequently they co-occurred in close proximity

terminology e.g. Stevenson, Mikels and James (2007a); Briesemeister, Kuchinke & Jacobs, (2011a).

137 within a large corpus of text (HiDeX; e.g. Shaoul & Westbury, 2010). According to Vigliocco et
138 al's., (2009) theory of semantic representation, linguistic co-occurrence supplements experiential
139 grounding of abstract words, pairing affective components whose referents we may not have
140 directly experienced (e.g. knowing that funerals evoke feelings of sadness arguably relies on
141 having attended a funeral; see also Barsalou et al., 2008). First, Westbury et al., (2014) found
142 that the dimensional ratings for a large subset of words (Warriner, Kuperman & Brysbaert, 2013)
143 could be partially predicted by the quantified linguistic co-occurrence between those words and
144 an accepted set of emotion labels. Second, they found that these co-occurrence values could be
145 used to predict lexical decision latencies for those words (taken from the English Lexicon
146 Project, Balota et al., 2007). In some cases, co-occurrence values were better predictors of
147 latency than valence and arousal ratings, particularly when considering co-occurrence with the
148 emotion labels 'pleasant' and 'unpleasant'.

149 These investigations suggest that categorical ratings, or measures which quantify the
150 proportional association between emotion labels and words, are useful for characterising the way
151 abstract words are processed. Although some findings may be interpreted in a way to suggest
152 that categorical ratings capture different aspects of emotional word processing than standard
153 dimensional variables (e.g. Stevenson, Mikels & James, 2007a; Briesemeister, Kuchinke &
154 Jacobs, 2011b, 2014; Briesemeister, Kuchinke & Jacobs, 2014; Westbury et al., 2014) it is
155 beyond the scope of the present work to assess the relationship between, or relative merits of the
156 two approaches (see also Newcombe et al., 2012). Importantly though, we do suggest that
157 categorical ratings may be particularly useful for quantifying the affective grounding of emotion
158 verbs, or action-related words. Here we single out words which describe behaviours related to
159 particular emotional states, without naming the emotion itself (Pavlenko, 2008). It is not yet

160 possible to test this proposal as studies using the DENN-BAWL focus exclusively on emotional
161 nouns (Briesemeister, Kuchinke & Jacobs, 2011a; Briesemeister, Kuckinke & Jacobs 2014).
162 Further it is unclear whether nouns, adjectives and verbs were equally sampled when
163 Briesemeister, Kuchinke and Jacobs (2011b) selected words from Stevenson, Mikels and James'
164 (2007a) categorisation of the ANEW, or when Westbury et al., (2014) sampled from HiDeX
165 (e.g. Shaoul & Westbury, 2010).

166 We argue that emotion-related action words hold a special kind of relationship with experiential
167 knowledge. On the one hand these words may be classified as 'concrete'. According to
168 Vigliocco et al's., (2009) framework then, verb meaning should be predominantly situated in
169 sensorimotor knowledge and understood by reactivation in visual and motor areas (e.g.
170 Pulvermüller, 1999; Hauk, Johnsrude & Pulvermüller, 2004). In support, various researchers
171 show that processing of words directly related to emotional expressions and behaviours e.g.
172 'smile', activate face and body-specific regions for performing that action (e.g. Niedenthal et al.,
173 2009; Moseley et al., 2012) and improve understanding of these expressions, when shown by
174 actors (e.g. Foroni & Semin, 2009; Halberstadt et al., 2009). On the other hand, verbs that refer
175 to emotional actions are still 'emotional' in nature (Altarriba & Basnight-Brown, 2010; Vinson,
176 Ponari & Vigliocco, 2014). Wilson-Mendenhall et al., (2011) emphasise that 'affective',
177 experiential knowledge is necessarily multi-faceted, as it is built within the context of situated
178 activity, and thus include various actions and bodily sensations. Therefore, words referring to
179 emotional actions are likely grounded in both sensorimotor and affective, experiential
180 knowledge.

181 Due to their dual-experiential-representation, it may be important to make an 'affective context'
182 salient when attempting to measure the affective grounding of words that refer to emotional

183 actions. This additional step is less necessary when presenting more ‘abstract’ emotional words,
184 such as nouns, which have weaker sensorimotor grounding (e.g. Vigliocco et al., 2009). Nouns
185 like ‘cancer’, ‘death’ and ‘funeral’ are likely to spontaneously evoke unambiguous, negative
186 affective knowledge, even when presented in isolation (e.g. Pavlenko, 2008; Vinson, Ponari &
187 Vigliocco, 2014), which makes it highly appropriate to use standard dimensional or emotional
188 experience ratings to capture their emotional meaning (e.g. Newcombe et al., 2012). However,
189 when the verb ‘jump’ is presented alone several alternative, but equally acceptable emotional
190 interpretations are available, as the word has both positive and negative connotations. For
191 example, while someone might ‘jump for joy’, they may also jump in reaction to a surprising or
192 fearful stimulus.

193 Physiological evidence supports the notion that it is comparatively difficult to extract emotional
194 meaning from isolated verbs. Comparing across paradigms, the event-related potentials
195 commonly associated with early and late semantic processing of single emotional words (e.g.
196 Herbert et al., 2006) are commonly evidenced at a later onset for emotional verbs (Schacht &
197 Sommer, 2009; Palazova et al., 2011) than for emotional nouns (e.g. Kanske & Kotz, 2007;
198 Kissler et al., 2007) or adjectives (Herbert et al., 2006; Herbert, Junghöfer & Kissler, 2008).

199 With reference to the previous example, emotional meaning is easier to interpret when more
200 information is available to provide an ‘affective context’ e.g. if we know that the actor jumped
201 because ‘the car crashed into the nearby lamppost.’ In this case, the ‘jump(ing)’ behaviour is
202 likely related to a negative emotional state, most likely to be ‘fear’. In support, Schacht and
203 Sommer (2009) reported Early Posterior Negative (EPN) and Late Positive Complex (LPC)
204 onsets comparable to those for emotional nouns and adjectives when a clear, ‘affective context’
205 was applied. Here participants responded to a verb preceded by a noun (e.g. ‘lover-kiss’).

206 Schacht and Sommer (2009) argue that the preceding noun improved participants' ability to
207 extract the intended, emotional meaning from test verbs during a lexical decision task. Applying
208 a similar manipulation, Palazova, Sommer and Schacht, (2013) found comparable EPN onsets
209 when emotional verbs referred to more concrete, context-invariant behaviours, which had clear
210 affective connotations (e.g. to dance vs. to hope).

211 The present work aims to explore whether a categorical approach can be used to examine the
212 affective, experiential knowledge that partially grounds action word meaning. Importantly, in the
213 first study we pose basic emotion labels (e.g. 'Sad') to create a constrained 'affective context'.
214 Participants will self-generate emotional action words that they commonly associate with each
215 emotional state. Generation frequencies, per action word, will be indicative of the likelihood that
216 the word evokes affective, experiential knowledge relevant to paired emotion labels. In the
217 second study a rating task will be conducted to validate use of generation frequencies as a
218 measure of associative strength. Verbs are paired with the emotional labels to which they have
219 been most disproportionately generated, and rated according to the strength of that association.
220 This work provides relevant research communities (e.g. researchers interested in both emotion
221 and language processing) with a database of emotion action words. Accompanying generation
222 frequency (study 1) and rating data (study 2) are suggestive of the extent to which these words
223 evoke affective knowledge related to a set of basic emotional states.

224

225 **Study 1- Identifying action words that proportionally evoke affective knowledge**

226 In study 1 we use emotion labels to provide a constrained, 'affective context'. Following
227 Stevenson, Mikels and James., (2007a) and Briesemeister, Kuchinke and Jacobs, (2011a), we
228 present the universal, basic emotion labels used by Ekman (1992; 'happy', 'sad', 'fear', 'anger',

229 ‘disgust’ and ‘surprise’). We reason that these states represent commonly experienced emotions
230 which will be fluently associated with behavioural referents.

231 Rather than use a rating task, we conduct a highly constrained semantic feature-generation task.
232 Participants are instructed to self-generate multiple single-word actions that they commonly
233 associated with experiencing each of these discrete emotional states (see McRae et al., 2005;
234 Vinson & Vigliocco, 2008 and Buchanan et al., 2013 for broader examples of semantic feature
235 generation²). Explicit instructions were important as action words have rarely been produced
236 when emotion labels are posed as ‘concepts’ in feature generation tasks (e.g.; Hutchison et al.,
237 2010; Buchanan et al., 2013). By encouraging participants to engage separately with each
238 emotion label we also hoped to widen the stimulus set, as rating methods often produce a
239 ‘happiness asymmetry’ (many words are strongly associated with ‘happiness’, but far fewer
240 words are associated with discrete, negative states e.g. Stevenson, Mikels & James, 2007a;
241 Briesemeister, Kuchinke & Jacobs, 2011a).

242 Overall, we measure the likelihood that an action word evokes discrete affective knowledge
243 based on the frequency of participants who endorse the pair (e.g. McRae et al., 2005). However,
244 we acknowledge that the ability to infer proportional association also relies on the number of
245 ~~additional emotional states to which the action word is generated.~~

² We acknowledge that similar methods have been used to elicit related stimuli, such as action-readiness and tendency items (Smith & Ellsworth, 1985; Frijda, 1986; Frijda, Kuipers & Ter Schure, 1989). However, these items usually refer to a general anticipatory state that the individual enters after appraising an emotionally salient event (Frijda, 1986). Although important components of affective knowledge, these items are generally dissociable from the concrete, overt behaviours derived in the present study, which may be viewed as the eventual behavioural consequence of experiencing such states.

246 **Method**247 *Ethics*

248 This research is subject to ethical guidelines set out by the British Psychological Society (1993)
249 and was approved by the School of Psychology's ethics committee, at the University of Leeds
250 (reference number: 13-0032, date of approval: 24/02/2013).

251 *Participants*

252 Twenty-five participants (17 female, 8 male) generated action words. Participants had a mean
253 age of 27.24 (SD=7.63) and all reported themselves to be native English speakers (7 participants
254 spoke a second language, though did not consider themselves fluent). An opportunity
255 recruitment method was used. Participants responded to links posted on research recruitment
256 websites and completed the study online (e.g.
257 <http://www.psych.hanover.edu/research/exponnet.html>; <http://www.onlinepsychresearch.co.uk>;
258 <http://www.in-mind.org/content/online-research>; <http://www.reddit.com/r/SampleSize>).

259 *Procedure*

260 All materials, including informed consent items, were presented using the Survey Monkey
261 platform (<http://www.surveymonkey.com>, Survey Monkey Inc. Palo Alto, California, USA).
262 Participants ticked a series of boxes to confirm that they understood task instructions and gave
263 their informed consent to take part. Participants were then asked to carefully read the definition
264 of an emotion-related action word, below (taken from Pavlenko, 2008). Definitions were edited
265 to include relevant examples.

266 *‘Emotion-related’ words are used to describe behaviours related to a particular emotional state,*
267 *without naming the actual emotion. For example, the word ‘cry’ might describe the behaviour of*
268 *someone feeling sad while the word ‘smile’ may describe the behaviour of somebody who is*
269 *happy.’*

270 Participants were directed to six basic emotion labels, listed below the definition (‘sad’, ‘happy’,
271 ‘anger’, ‘disgust’, ‘surprise’ and ‘fear’, Ekman, 1992). They were asked to generate as many
272 emotional action words as they could which were related to each basic label. Separate boxes
273 were provided for participants to type their examples. Participants were instructed to provide
274 single-word answers and to avoid label synonyms or adverbs (e.g. ‘sadness’, ‘sadly’). They were
275 also discouraged from using the internet to generate responses. Participants were asked to work
276 on the basic labels sequentially and labels were presented in a randomised order across
277 participants. There was no time limit imposed on word generation.

278 **Results: Data modifications and modal exemplars**

279 In total, participants generated 362 unique words, across the six labels. On average, participants
280 each generated 27.32 words during the task (SD = 15.18). We parsed the data in various ways to
281 determine an acceptable set of action words, which were ‘modally’ associated with one or more
282 emotion labels (see McEvoy & Nelson, 1982; Doost et al., 1999; McRae et al., 2005 and Vinson
283 & Vigliocco, 2008 for similar methods). The Cambridge Online English Dictionary
284 (<http://www.dictionary.cambridge.org/>) and an online Thesaurus (<http://www.Thesaurus.com>)
285 were consulted to support these modifications. First, words were deemed unacceptable if (a) they
286 did not describe a concrete action (e.g. tearful; both verbs and nouns were accepted), or (b) were
287 synonyms for the emotion label itself (e.g. ‘Afraid’, generated in response to ‘Fear’). Second,
288 multiple-word responses or phrases were only retained if they could be simplified to a single

289 word with the same or similar meaning, for example, ‘sharp intake or breath’ was replaced with
290 ‘gasp’. Third, merging techniques were used either when participants provided grammatical
291 derivatives or plurals of the same word (e.g. ‘ran’, ‘run’, ‘runs’, ‘running’, ‘ran away’) or
292 generated synonyms for action words that had already been provided by themselves or others
293 (e.g. ‘scream’ and ‘shriek’). In the former case, plurals were changed to their singular form and
294 grammatical derivatives were merged and represented by the simplest version, provided their
295 meaning did not change (e.g. ‘run’).

296 The second type of merging (non-derivative words) was wholly motivated by our need to
297 develop stimuli for study 2. Here we required only six action words, each of which held the most
298 disproportional association with one of the six emotion labels, respectively. Therefore it was
299 important to ensure that words with the same/very similar meanings were grouped together, and
300 their frequencies summed, to aid assessment of how strongly those related behaviours evoked
301 discrete, affective knowledge³. Strict criteria were imposed for this form of merging. Action
302 words were only classed as synonymous if there was evidence of forward and backward
303 association e.g. when ‘laugh’ was entered into the thesaurus ‘giggle’ was given as a synonym,
304 and when ‘giggle’ was entered into the thesaurus, ‘laugh’ was given as a synonym. We were
305 mindful that some action words could have multiple meanings when presented in isolation (e.g.
306 Schacht & Sommer, 2009). For example, the action word ‘jump’ could mean ‘to leap, spring or
307 skip’, ‘to recoil’ or ‘to avoid’ (definitions taken from <http://www.thesaurus.com>). In these cases
308 the participants’ intended meaning was discerned by considering the emotion label to which the

³ Although this type of merging helped to identify the top-six modal action words, for use in study 2, it necessarily inflated the apparent frequency-based strength of association between those core action words and corresponding emotion labels. Readers are encouraged to consult Appendix A, in which all modal exemplars are listed alongside unmerged generation frequencies, which provide a clearer estimation of the strength with which individual action words evoke affective knowledge relevant to different emotion states. From appendix A, researchers may select stimuli based on unmerged exemplars, or apply their own criteria to identify and merge synonymous exemplars.

309 word had most frequently been generated. As the word ‘jump’ was frequently endorsed for the
310 labels ‘surprise’ and ‘fear’ it went unmerged with ‘skip’, which although a synonym, was only
311 given in response to the label ‘happy’. Here we considered that the two words likely had a
312 different intended meaning, each congruent with the core emotion concept to which they had
313 been modally generated (see Buchanan et al., 2013 for similar consideration of ‘cue’ word when
314 merging ‘target’ words).

315 Where merging occurred, frequencies for both/all action words were added together. For non-
316 derivative synonyms the dominant response was retained, based on existing frequencies (i.e. the
317 action word given by the highest number of participants). This exemplar became the ‘core’ action
318 word and non-dominant responses were subsumed and became ‘subsidiary’ action words. For
319 example, in response to the label ‘sad’, ‘cry’ became a core action word and the synonyms
320 ‘weep’ and ‘sob’ became subsidiaries⁴. The number of participants who generated the action
321 words ‘cry’, ‘weep’ and ‘sob’ were added together to provide a frequency total for the core
322 action word (‘cry’). Note that frequencies could exceed 25 if participants had provided both core
323 and subsidiary action words in response to the same emotion label.

324 Following these steps our set still contained a large number of ‘idiosyncratic’ responses,
325 generated by only one participant in response to a particular label (124 words, 56.88% of

⁴ It was particularly difficult to make merging decisions about the exemplar ‘cry’. As this exemplar was given in response to the ‘sad’, ‘anger’, ‘fear’, ‘happy’ and ‘surprise’ categories, consideration of cue word could result in two (or more) definitions being accepted. To illustrate, when generated in response to ‘sad(ness)’ the definition ‘to weep or make sad sounds’ would be most relevant, but when generated in response to ‘anger’ the definition ‘to call out/yell’ was most appropriate (definitions taken from <http://www.Thesaurus.com>). Arguably participants may have had either meaning in mind when they generated the exemplar in response to the remaining emotion labels, which complicated the issue. We made the decision to merge ‘cry’ contingent on the first sadness-related definition, only, as the exemplar was most frequently given in response to the ‘Sad’ category. ‘Cry’ become the core action word, and ‘weep’ and ‘sob’ the subsidiary action words. As ‘cry’ was already the unmerged, top modal exemplar for ‘sad(ness)’, this merging decision did not change the modal response that was chosen for the ‘sad’ label in study 2. If we had alternatively (or additionally) chosen to merge according to the second definition, ‘cry’ could have been grouped with ‘scream’, ‘shout’ and ‘shriek’. This was problematic as our criteria suggested that ‘scream’ and ‘shriek’ could be merged with ‘yell’, but ‘yell’ could not be merged with ‘cry’. Therefore, the strategy adopted was both simpler, and more conservative.

326 remaining responses). These exemplars are unlikely to represent words which commonly evoke
327 discrete affective knowledge; therefore, we decided to remove these responses from the sample
328 (see Buchanan et al., 2013). Following removal of idiosyncratic responses, there were 51
329 unique, modal action words; including 15 core action words, and 19 subsidiary action words.
330 Here ‘modal’ refers to an action word that was generated by two or more participants, but was
331 not synonymous with other responses and went unmerged. Therefore, they differ from ‘core’ and
332 ‘subsidiary’ action words. This final selection represents 14% of the total number of unique
333 words originally generated.

334 The top three most frequently generated action words, per emotion label, are shown in Table 1.
335 Response frequencies are shown in parenthesis, in the second column. When these words
336 represent core exemplars, frequencies also include the number of participants who generated
337 subsidiary action words (corresponding subsidiary words are shown in the column three).
338 Frequencies above 25 are shown when a proportion of participants gave both the core and
339 subsidiary exemplars in response to the same emotion label. The full set of action words (core,
340 subsidiary and modal), are provided in Appendix A. In addition, all responses are provided in
341 the supplementary data file (acceptable and unacceptable idiosyncratic and modal responses).

342

343

344

[Insert Table 1 here]

345

346 Analysing by exemplar, 78.43% of all modal action words were generated in response to one
347 emotion label only, leaving 21.57% that were generated for multiple labels. This distinction was

348 present even for the most frequently generated action words, displayed in Table 1. When only
349 these exemplars were considered, 15.79% represented the most frequent responses for more than
350 one emotion label, and 68.75% were generated by at least two participants in response to one of
351 more other emotion labels. These findings support the work of Stevenson, Mikels and James,
352 (2007b). In their study, although 44.54% of ANEW words obtained ratings to suggest that they
353 were disproportionately associated with one (or two) discrete emotions, 22.70% of words were
354 associated with three or more emotion labels, representing an analogue to the ‘overlapping’
355 exemplars in the present study.

356 **Discussion**

357 In the present study we introduced a constrained ‘affective context’ to identify action words that
358 were likely to evoke affective knowledge, proportionally relevant to different emotional states
359 (e.g. Stevenson, Mikels & James, 2007a). The greater the number of participants that generated a
360 particular action word in response to an emotion label, the greater likelihood that that action
361 word would be situated in, and evoke affective knowledge relevant to that emotion. Both action
362 words and generation frequencies are available in Appendix A. We suggest possible uses for our
363 stimuli in the general discussion.

364 Importantly, findings suggest that participants generated a selection of action words that were
365 either strongly (or disproportionately) associated with a particular emotional state, or were
366 proportionally related to a number of different emotional states (overlapping exemplars). These
367 findings have important implications both for theories of affective, experiential grounding and
368 emotional attribution; the latter addressed in the general discussion. Some researchers suggest
369 that words are understood by evoking very specific representations of situations in which their
370 referents appear (e.g. Schwanenflugel & Shoben, 1983; Pecher, Boot and van Dantzig, 2011).

371 This parallels understanding of concrete concepts, which rely on reactivation in the same
372 sensorimotor areas initially recruited during interactions with the referent object (e.g. Barsalou,
373 1999). Finding that some action words were disproportionately associated with one emotion
374 label appear to provide support for this view. However, finding overlapping exemplars support
375 the notion that words are ‘generally’ evocative and have the potential to re-activate affective
376 knowledge relevant to a range of emotional states (e.g. Newcombe et al., 2012). In the present
377 study ‘Cry’ may be a particularly good example of a word that is ‘generally’ evocative. This
378 exemplar and its synonyms (e.g. sob and weep) were frequently given as exemplars in response
379 to the ‘sad’, ‘anger’ and ‘fear’ labels, and also by a smaller number of participants in response to
380 the ‘happy’ and ‘surprise’ labels. In study 2 we use a rating task to assess the robustness of the
381 most frequent action word-to-label associations, generated during study 1.

382

383 **Study 2- Validating associations between action words and emotion labels**

384 In study 2 we assess (a) the typicality of self-generated action words, and (b) the stability of
385 action word-to-label associations. We adopt a rating task, similar to Stevenson, Mikels and
386 James, (2007a), in which participants rate the relationship between the six most frequently
387 generated action words, and each discrete, emotion label. Emotion labels and action words are
388 presented within a sentence e.g. “if you see someone ‘recoil’ how likely are you to think that
389 they are feeling the following emotion?... ‘disgust’ ”. Primarily, we would expect ratings to
390 indicate a comparatively stronger association between action words and the emotion labels to
391 which they were (most frequently) generated. This would confirm that the word is understood
392 due to its (dis)proportional activation of affective knowledge relevant to that emotional state.

393 This validation attempt was particularly important for assessing whether the top exemplars ‘cry’
394 and ‘smile’ were as strongly linked to the respective emotional states of ‘sad(ness)’ and
395 ‘happ(iness)’ as generation frequencies suggested. This was a concern as both action word/label
396 pairs had been included as examples in the task instructions for study 1, so frequent endorsement
397 may not reflect spontaneous generation. This may also explain why the word ‘cry’ was given so
398 frequently, across the different ‘affective contexts’. In addition, although participants were
399 discouraged from using the internet to generate their responses during study 1, we were unable
400 to definitively rule out the possibility that they had done so. Use of external sources may have
401 inflated frequencies, artificially creating modal exemplars. Although this seems unlikely, as
402 participants generated a larger number of idiosyncratic than modal exemplars, it is important to
403 address this possible methodological issue.

404 Two further manipulations were applied to the rating task to test the robustness of action word-
405 to-label associations. First, we varied rating direction (i.e. whether participants made an action
406 word-to-emotion category, or emotion category-to-action word association). The following is an
407 example of an action word-to-category rating: “if you see someone ‘cry’, how likely are you to
408 think that they feel ‘sad’?”. Researchers commonly evaluate semantic relationships by
409 measuring both the ‘forward’ and ‘backward’ associations between category labels and
410 exemplars, and quantify the strength of the association using conditional probabilities (e.g.
411 Nelson, McEvoy & Schreiber, 2004). Here conditional probabilities measure whether action
412 words evoke knowledge relevant to a particular emotional state as strongly as that emotional
413 state (label) evokes knowledge of the action word’s referent.

414 Second, we asked participants to rate action word/category pairings from both a first person
415 perspective (e.g., “If you are ‘crying’, how likely is it that you are feeling ‘sad’?”) and a third

416 person perspective. (e.g., “if someone is ‘crying’, how likely are they to be feeling ‘sad’?”). This
417 was an exploratory manipulation, which had the potential to inform us about the way in which
418 affective knowledge is used for emotional attribution. On the one hand, higher ratings between
419 action words and emotion labels might be expected when a first-person perspective is applied.
420 Given that affective knowledge is predominantly grounded in an individual’s situated experience
421 (e.g. Vigliocco et al., 2009), words may preferentially evoke feelings that are self-relevant.
422 Conversely, participants may view a simpler correspondence between behaviours and emotions
423 for other people, than for themselves. Self-relevant affective knowledge may be richer and more
424 variable, complicating behaviour-to-state mappings when participants use first-person
425 instructions (e.g. ‘people tend to act this way when they are feeling a certain emotion, but when I
426 was feeling happy I didn’t act that way’). This account would predict stronger action word/label
427 ratings when participants adopt a third-person perspective.

428 **Method**

429 *Ethics*

430 This research is subject to ethical guidelines set out by the British Psychological Society (1993)
431 and was approved by the School of Psychology’s ethics committee, at the University of Leeds
432 (reference number: 13-0032, date of approval: 24/02/2013). As before, informed consent items
433 were embedded in an online survey and participants agreed to take part by ticking a series of
434 boxes.

435 *Design*

436 A 2 (instruction perspective: first or third person, between) \times 2 (rating direction: category to
437 action word or action word to category, between) \times 2 (typicality: typical or atypical label/action

438 word pairing, within) mixed factorial design was employed. The instruction perspective factor
439 manipulated whether participants received first-person perspective instructions (“if you are
440 feeling ‘sad’, how likely are you to act in the following way?” e.g. ‘cry’) or third person
441 perspective instructions (“if someone is feeling ‘sad’, how likely are they to act in the following
442 way?” e.g. ‘cry’). The rating direction factor manipulated whether participants rated associations
443 in an action word-to-category direction (“if you are ‘crying’, how likely are you to be feeling the
444 following emotion?” e.g. ‘sad’) or a category-to-action word direction (“if you are feeling ‘sad’,
445 how likely are you to act in the following way” e.g. ‘cry’). Participants each made 36 ratings,
446 based on all combinations of six discrete emotion labels and the action words most frequently
447 endorsed in response to each of these labels, during study 1. Feature generation data determined
448 whether emotion label / action word pairings were typical (e.g. six pairs, ‘happy’ and ‘smile’), or
449 atypical (30 pairs, e.g. ‘sad’ and ‘smile’).

450 Participants were presented with an open-ended sentence for each rating, which included either
451 an emotion label or action-word e.g. “if you are feeling ‘sad’, how likely are you to act in the
452 following way?”. Participants were invited to substitute each of the six action words (or labels)
453 into the end of this sentence (e.g. ‘cry’), and to provide a likelihood rating for each label/action
454 word pairing. After all six ratings were submitted, participants were presented with the next
455 open-ended sentence, which included a new label (or action word). Overall, participants made
456 ratings in six, separate blocks, which presented a different label (or action word) to be rated
457 against each action word (or label), respectively. Block order was counterbalanced across
458 participants. Within a particular block, participants encountered each of the six ratings in a fixed
459 order. Although fixed per participant, this order was randomised per block, to ensure that the
460 typical pairing was not always presented in the same rating position (e.g. in the ‘sad’ block

461 participants rated associations with action words in the following order: ‘smile’, ‘cry’ ‘jump’ ...,
462 but in the ‘happy’ block they rated action words in a different order: ‘hide’, ‘scream’, ‘smile’ ..).
463 Therefore, while block order differed, rating order within blocks was the same for all
464 participants within a particular condition.

465 *Participants*

466 Forty participants each completed the task using first-person perspective instructions (25 female,
467 Mean age = 26.48, SD = 8.97) and third-person perspective instructions (29 female, Mean age =
468 27.53, SD = 9.47). Forty participants completed tasks that required category-to-action word
469 ratings (31 female, Mean age = 25.65, SD = 9.56) and forty completed tasks that required action
470 word-to-category ratings (29 female, Mean age = 28.35, SD = 8.70).

471 Participants indicated whether they spoke any languages in addition to English and estimated
472 how many years they had been able to do so. Those judged to be fluent bilinguals or multi-
473 linguals were omitted from the sample. An opportunity recruitment method was used;
474 participants responded online, to links posted on social media sites (see Study 1). The study was
475 presented using the Survey Monkey platform (<http://www.surveymonkey.com>, Survey Monkey
476 Inc. Palo Alto, California, USA). There was no time limit imposed.

477 *Materials*

478 We re-used the six basic emotion labels from study 1 (‘fear’, ‘happy’, ‘sad’, ‘disgust’, ‘anger’
479 and ‘surprise’, e.g. Ekman, 1992). The most frequently generated action words for each emotion
480 label were selected from the merged, feature generation data. They were as follows: ‘scream’
481 (matched with ‘anger’); ‘smile’ (‘happy’), ‘cry’ (‘sad’), ‘recoil’ (‘disgust’), ‘hide’ (‘fear’) and
482 ‘jump’ (‘surprise’).

483 *Procedure*

484 Each participant was randomly assigned to one of the four between-participants conditions of the
485 2 (instruction perspective) \times 2 (rating direction) design. Ratings were made on a five-point
486 Likert-style scale for each question, anchored 'Very Unlikely' (1) to 'Very Likely' (5). All
487 participants were presented with the same combination of emotion label/action word pairings
488 and made 36 ratings in total.

489 **Results**490 *Data preparation*

491 For each emotion label, two mean ratings were calculated per participant. The 'typical' mean
492 was the rating given to the most typical label and emotion word pairing, according to the feature
493 generation data (e.g. 'cry' and 'sad'). The five remaining ratings given by the participant were
494 summed and then averaged to produce a grouped 'atypical' score (mean scores for the full set of
495 36 label/action word ratings are shown in Appendix B).

496 *Analysis*

497 A 2 (instruction perspective: first or third) \times 2 (rating direction: category-to-action word or
498 action word-to-category) \times 6 (category: sad, anger, happy, disgust, surprise, fear) \times 2 (typicality:
499 typical or atypical) mixed factorial ANOVA was performed. Instruction perspective and rating
500 direction were between-subjects factors. Main effects and interactions are displayed in Table 2.
501 Hereafter we focus on interactions with the typicality factor. 'Typicality' reflects the strength of
502 association between action words and emotion labels (operationalised here as high or low), thus
503 indicating the likelihood that action words disproportionately evoke affective knowledge
504 relevant to emotional states.

505

506

[Insert Table 2 here]

507

508

509 *Validation of self-generation data:*

510 Participants gave significantly higher mean likelihood ratings to typical pairings ($M = 4.31$, SD
511 $= 0.56$), than grouped atypical pairings, ($M = 2.56$, $SD = 0.49$), on a scale from 1-5. This finding
512 provides support for the label-action word associations derived from the feature generation data
513 (study 1). The typicality effect was qualified by a significant interaction with emotion category,
514 prompting investigation of the effect for each discrete, emotion category (see Table 3 and Figure
515 1).

516

[Insert Table 3 here]

517 All six paired samples t-tests were significant and in the anticipated direction (typical
518 category/action word pairings received higher association ratings than the grouped atypical
519 pairings). Therefore, the interaction likely reflects general differences in the strength with which
520 typical action words evoke affective knowledge disproportionately related to corresponding
521 emotional states, all effects being conventionally large ($d > 0.8$). In support, Figure 1 shows that
522 the 95% confidence intervals for mean typical ratings and the summed average of atypical
523 ratings did not overlap for any emotion category. That typicality predictions were supported
524 weakens the suggestion that participants used the internet to generate their responses during
525 study 1. In addition, typicality effects were present for the specific pairings of 'happy' / 'smile'

526 and ‘sad’ / ‘cry’ pairings, reducing the likelihood that participants generated these associations
527 simply as a result of their inclusion in previous task instructions.

528

529 [Insert Figure 1 here]

530

531 *Further manipulations and typicality ratings.*

532 *Rating Direction*

533 The typicality \times rating direction \times emotion category interaction was significant. Separate
534 typicality \times rating direction analyses were conducted for each emotion category (see Table 4).

535

536 [Insert Table 4 here]

537

538 There were significant typicality \times direction rating interactions for the ‘sad’ and ‘fear’
539 categories.

540 Interactions followed a similar pattern for both emotion categories. As predicted, paired samples
541 t-tests showed that participants gave significantly higher likelihood ratings to typical vs. atypical
542 pairs, for both action word-to-category pairings [$t_{sad}(39) = 24.12, p < 0.001, d = 5.33; t_{fear}(39) =$
543 $12.74, p < 0.001, d = 2.30$], and category-to-action word pairings [$t_{sad}(38) = 13.34, p < 0.001, d$
544 $= 2.51; t_{fear}(38) = 6.98, p < 0.001, d = 1.10$]. Independent samples t-tests showed that
545 participants rated atypical pairs similarly, independent of rating direction, [$t_{sad}(74) = -0.079, p =$
546 $0.94; t_{fear}(84) = -0.16, p = 0.88$], but gave significantly higher ratings to typical pairings

547 presented in an action word-to-category format than a category-to-action word format, [$t_{sad}(84) =$
 548 $-2.06, p = 0.043, d = 0.68$; $t_{fear}(84) = -2.004, p = 0.048, d = 0.59$]. In sum, for ‘Fear’ and ‘Sad’
 549 categories, typical pairings were given comparatively higher likelihood ratings when rated in an
 550 action word-to-category vs. category-to-action word direction.

551

552 *Instruction perspective*

553 Critically, there were no significant instruction perspective \times typicality, or instruction
 554 perspective \times typicality \times category interactions ($p > 0.10$).

555 However, the instruction perspective \times rating direction \times typicality \times category interaction was
 556 significant (see descriptive statistics in Table 5).

557

558 [Insert Table 5 here]

559

560 To explore this interaction, separate instruction perspective \times typicality \times direction rating mixed
 561 factorial ANOVAs were conducted for each emotion category. There was a significant
 562 interaction for one category only: ‘disgust’; $F(1,82) = 8.71, \text{MSe} = 0.79, p = 0.004, \eta_p^2 = 0.097^5$.

⁵ To explore this interaction, separate direction rating \times typicality mixed ANOVAs were conducted for disgust ratings, for participants who received first and third person instructions, respectively. This two-way interaction was significant for participants who received first-person instructions, $F(1, 37) = 13.06, \text{MSE} = 0.65, p = 0.001, \eta_p^2 = 0.26$, but not for those who received third person instructions, $F(1, 37) = 0.45, \text{MSE} = 0.93, p = 0.51, \eta_p^2 = 0.012$.

Paired samples t-tests revealed that, independent of direction rating, participants who had received first person instructions always gave higher ratings to the typical pairing, than grouped atypical pairings, [$t_{category-to-action\ word}(18) = 3.90, p = 0.001, d = 1.20$; $t_{action\ word-to-category}(19) = 12.13, p < 0.001, d = 3.37$.] While independent t-tests showed that these participants rated atypical pairings similarly in both rating directions [$t(37) = 1.84, p = 0.074$], they gave significantly higher ratings to the typical pairing when embedded in action word-to-category versus category-to-action word sentences, $t(37) = 2.70, p = 0.010, d = 0.89$.

563

564 ***Discussion***

565 Ratings confirm that participants were more likely to associate action words with the emotional
566 state to which they had been typically generated in study 1. This lessens the likelihood that
567 endorsement was inflated by the examples included in task instructions, or use of the internet. In
568 addition, direction and person perspective manipulations had little impact on ratings, indicating
569 that typical pairings contained action words and emotional states that were robustly associated.
570 Overall, these findings validate the associations derived during study 1 and support the notion
571 that action word meaning is proportionally grounded in, and evokes affective knowledge
572 relevant for different emotional states.

573 However, it is important to acknowledge the following issue: task design meant that participants
574 rated one label (or action word) in association with all six action words (or labels) before they
575 were presented with the next label (or action word). This may have encouraged participants to
576 adopt a ‘relative’ rating strategy, in which they simultaneously compared the likely association
577 between all six items and the dominant label, or action word. Typical pairings may then receive
578 the highest likelihood ratings because they represent the ‘best option’, rather than giving a true
579 indication of the way in which action words proportionally activate affective knowledge relevant
580 to the presented label. This limitation is compounded as, per block, participants responded to the
581 six pairings in the same order. Any biases that this presentation strategy encouraged would
582 therefore be applicable to all participants, despite care to vary presentation of the typical pair, per
583 block.

584 However, our data suggest it is unlikely that participants automatically employed a comparative
585 rating strategy. If they had we would expect all atypical pairings to receive very low ratings on

586 the scale. Although some of the averaged, atypical ratings were below the scale midpoint (2.5;
587 'happy', 'anger', 'sad' and 'disgust'), others were higher ('fear' and 'surprise'). These findings
588 are expected given that there were overlaps in the some of the typical action words included in
589 the task and the top, three modal action words generated for other emotion labels, during study 1.
590 This was the case for the three labels that attracted the highest average atypical ratings ('fear',
591 'surprise' and 'anger'). For example, although the action word 'cry' represented the typical
592 exemplar for the label 'sad', it was also frequently generated in response to the emotion labels
593 'fear' and 'anger' (see table 1). Similarly, the typical action word for the label 'anger' ('scream')
594 had been frequently endorsed in response to the label 'surprise'. The inclusion of these
595 overlapping exemplars meant that, for some emotion labels, not all 'atypical' exemplars were
596 equally 'atypical', inflating the averaged atypical ratings. Importantly, these findings indicate
597 that participants judged each action word/label pair based on the 'absolute' association between
598 the two words, rather than making a comparative judgment that was biased by the presence of an
599 obviously 'typical' pairing. They also support the idea that 'typicality' is expressed as a matter
600 of degree, as action words may simultaneously evoke affective knowledge relevant to several
601 emotional states (e.g. Newcombe et al., 2012).

602 One further finding should be highlighted. When direction was manipulated, ratings revealed
603 different forward and backward connection strengths between the emotion labels 'fear' and 'sad'
604 and their paired, typical action words. In both cases participants gave higher ratings when
605 presented with the pair in action word-to-category order, than in category-to-action word order
606 (e.g. $P(\text{Hide}|\text{Fear}) < P(\text{Fear}|\text{Hide})$). This trend was also present for the label 'disgust' and typical
607 action word of 'recoil', but only when the pairing was considered from a first-person perspective
608 (see footnote 4).

609 To aid interpretation we explicitly consider the behaviours to which action words refer, and how
610 they may inform emotional attribution. The present data suggest that the propensity to ‘hide’
611 (‘cry’) when expressing ‘fear’ (‘sadness’) may vary depending on the type of stimulus causing
612 ‘fear’ (‘sadness’), but that given the behaviour of hiding (crying), the likelihood that a person is
613 experiencing fear (sadness) is much greater. Arguably the latter attributional pattern may be
614 more prevalent in Western societies. Here people are often encouraged to mask or regulate
615 behavioural signs of emotional states that cause them to be perceived as weak in public, like
616 ‘sadness’ and ‘fear’ (e.g. Wierzbicka, 1994; Barrett, Mesquita & Gendron, 2011). If related
617 behaviours are observed then the attribution process may be more automatic. A justification may
618 follow: ‘I/they must be feeling very ‘sad’ if I/they feel the need to ‘cry’ in public.’ In sum, while
619 the present data confirm that there is stability in the way some action words disproportionately
620 evoke affective knowledge, there is some evidence that cultural background may influence the
621 way affective knowledge is constructed and used for attribution (e.g. Barrett, Mesquita &
622 Gendron, 2011).

623 **General Discussion**

624 We provide a set of emotion-related action words, accompanied by data to show how strongly
625 each word evokes emotional knowledge relevant to several, discrete emotional states. This work
626 is consistent with the proposal that emotion words are grounded in affective knowledge (e.g.
627 Vigliocco et al., 2009) and complements previous research, by exploring whether word-to-
628 knowledge links are constructed, at least partially, in a categorical fashion (e.g. Stevenson,
629 Mikels & James, 2007a; Briesemeister, Kuchinke & Jacobs, 2011a; 2011b, 2014; Westbury et
630 al., 2014).

631 Action words were elicited from participants using a constrained feature-generation task (e.g.
632 McRae et al., 2005; Vinson & Vigliocco, 2008). Emotion labels were used to create (and
633 constrain) six, different ‘affective contexts’ (e.g. Stevenson, Mikels & James, 2007a;
634 Briesemeister, Kuchinke & Jacobs, 2011a). This method allowed assessment of the strength with
635 which each action word elicited specific affective knowledge; the larger the number of
636 participants who endorsed the pair the greater the likelihood that the word (dis)proportionally
637 evoked knowledge relevant to that emotional state. Using a rating task (study 2) we confirmed
638 that the action words most frequently elicited in study 1 were more likely to be associated with
639 the emotion label to which they had been generated (typical pairs), than to other emotion labels
640 (atypical pairs). Typical pairs also retained rating dominance when two further sentence-based
641 manipulations were applied (rating direction and person perspective), suggesting a degree of
642 robustness in the way typical words evoke affective knowledge.

643 To facilitate use of the current stimuli, all acceptable action words, generated by two or more
644 participants in study 1, are included in Appendix A (a fuller list, including idiosyncratic
645 responses, is provided in the supplementary materials). Words are presented alongside raw,
646 unmerged frequencies to indicate the number of participants who generated the action word in
647 response to each emotion label. This will allow researchers to select stimuli, based on unmerged
648 frequencies, or apply their own merging criteria. However, for completeness, we also indicate
649 whether the action word was classed as a ‘core’, ‘subsidiary’ (i.e. a synonym for the selected
650 ‘core’ exemplar) or modal exemplar (a unique, non-synonymous response), based on our
651 merging criteria. Further, we provide ratings for each of the 36 action word/label pairs, included
652 in study 2 (Appendix B).

653 On the one hand the current approach, and data produced, may provide an alternative way to
654 select emotional stimuli, based on the extent to which each word is likely to evoke specific
655 affective knowledge (e.g. Stevenson, Mikels & James, 2007a; Briesemeister, Kuchinke &
656 Jacobs, 2014). The current set of action words may be highly compatible for particular types of
657 task. Previous research shows that participants mimic congruent facial expressions when they
658 encounter emotion words (e.g. Foroni & Semin, 2009), and that mimicry leads to enhanced
659 processing of subsequently presented emotional stimuli e.g. valence-congruent sentences (e.g.
660 Havas, Glenberg & Rinck, 2006) and facial expressions (e.g. Halberstadt et al., 2009). Based on
661 Vigliocco et al's., (2009) framework, we might expect emotion-related action words to more
662 strongly elicit congruent facial mimicry, given their dual grounding in affective (Vinson, Ponari
663 & Vigliocco, 2014) and sensorimotor knowledge (e.g. Hauk, Johnsrude & Pulvermüller, 2004;
664 Niedenthal et al., 2009; Moseley et al., 2012). However, few studies incorporate action words
665 and those that do find inconsistent evidence for a verb (vs. adjective) advantage (Foroni &
666 Semin, 2009; Halberstadt et al., 2009). If these findings reflect inconsistent use of linguistic
667 stimuli then our data may help by providing a larger set to select from. Further, by choosing
668 words that are both disproportionally related to a particular emotional state and related to facial
669 actions, researchers may extend investigations into whether language-mediated facial mimicry is
670 'category' or 'valence' driven. Specifically, whether reading an action word strongly associated
671 with 'fear' specifically induces mimicry in category-diagnostic features of a fearful face, (Ponari
672 et al., 2012) or whether reading any negatively valenced word induces a similar pattern of
673 negative mimicry.

674 On the other hand, the present data may encourage two types of 'additive' approach, important
675 for assessing the relative validity of current attempts to measure affective grounding (e.g.

676 Newcombe et al., 2012). First, as we provide new categorical data for words which already have
677 dimensional rating norms (e.g. Warriner, Kuperman & Brysbaert, 2013), we facilitate attempts to
678 assess whether categorical and dimensional ratings are mutually predictive of one another, or
679 quantify emotional information in the same way. Stevenson, Mikels and James (2007a) and
680 Westbury et al., (2014) have conducted similar work, both showing a degree of heterogeneity in
681 the ability of categorical ratings to predict dimensional ratings. In particular, Westbury et al.,
682 (2014) showed that co-occurrence distances between emotion labels and words were more
683 strongly predictive of valence, than arousal ratings, and that both types of dimensional rating
684 were predicted by co-occurrence distances from distinct sets of emotion labels (e.g. those
685 naming ‘automatic’ emotions, like ‘panic’, for arousal, and those associated with approachability
686 and potency, for valence).

687 This approach could also be used to assess the relationships between the current categorical data
688 and semantic richness norms (e.g. emotional experience ratings), which assess the magnitude to
689 which words evoke undifferentiated, affective knowledge (e.g. Newcombe et al., 2012). This is
690 not yet possible, as Newcombe et al., (2012) only provide normative data for nouns. It would be
691 particularly interesting to provide a comparison for overlapping exemplars, such as ‘cry’, which
692 our participants modally endorsed as evoking affective knowledge relevant to five of the six
693 discrete emotional states. We might expect emotional experience ratings to fluctuate dependent
694 on both the number of emotional states that the word can be associated with, and the frequency
695 of endorsement, across emotions.

696 A second, related investigation, would involve entering different types of rating as separate
697 predictors, to assess whether they account for unique variance in emotional word processing
698 outcomes. Previous work focuses on prediction of lexical decision latencies, presumably because

699 large datasets of reaction times already exist (e.g. Balota et al., 2007; Keuleers et al., 2012).
700 However, it may be equally possible to apply ratings as predictors to other types of task that
701 examine emotional word processing (Briesemeister, Kuchinke & Jacobs, 2011b). For example,
702 the emotional Stroop task (Mackay et al., 2004) and De Houwer's (2003) affective Simon task
703 (Altarriba & Basnight-Brown, 2010). So far, lexical decision data confirm that categorical and
704 dimensional ratings account for unique variance and that, when combined, ratings account for a
705 slightly larger proportion of overall variance in latencies than they do independently (e.g.
706 Briesemeister, Kuchinke & Jacobs, 2011a; 2011b; 2014; see also Newcombe et al., 2012 and
707 Moffat et al., 2015 for comparisons of semantic richness and dimensional ratings). In support,
708 physiological evidence shows that both types of information are important for emotion word
709 processing; when words are disproportionately associated with particular emotional states then
710 categorical information is processed first, followed by dimensional or valence-based properties
711 of the word (e.g. Briesemeister, Kuchinke & Jacobs, 2014; Briesemeister et al., 2014). Linear
712 processing stages are consistent with Panksepp's (1998; 2012) hierarchical model, which
713 includes a secondary, automatic stage for categorical processing of emotional stimuli (relation to
714 the proposed play, seeking, rage, lust, fear, panic and care subsystems), and a subsequent,
715 tertiary stage, in which dimensional properties of the stimuli are considered.

716 However, one caveat is important when considering the compatibility of our stimuli for lexical
717 decision, or other tasks that require single-word processing. As previously argued, participants
718 tend to be poor or inconsistent in their ability to extract affective meaning from verbs (e.g.
719 Schacht & Sommer, 2009; Palazova et al., 2011). Meaning activation will depend on the task in
720 which the verb is presented, and its associated goals. For example, when action words are presented in
721 isolation and participants make a non-affective judgment, as they do in lexical decision tasks, action

722 words are unlikely to spontaneously evoke the same constrained, affective knowledge that they do in the
723 present work. Therefore, in order to assess whether categorical ratings predict action word
724 processing, the same ‘affective context’ might need to be applied to the new task. Following
725 Schacht and Sommer’s (2009) approach, researchers might present the word pair ‘sad’ and ‘cry’,
726 asking participants to respond to the action word in the pair, only.

727 Situated approaches emphasise that words are referents for experiential components; in this case,
728 behaviours. As such, some of our findings have implications for how overt cues influence
729 emotional attribution and interpretation. Finding that participants sometimes associated the same
730 behaviours with several emotional states in study 1, and showed fluctuations in their ratings of
731 atypical behaviour/state pairings in study 2, both stand in contrast to basic emotion views (e.g.
732 Ekman, 1992). These accounts suggest that behaviours show strong, discrete, relationships with
733 basic emotional states and are important diagnostic cues for interpretation. In contrast,
734 ‘proportional’ associations are favoured both by construction and componential models (e.g.
735 Scherer, 1984; Smith & Ellsworth, 1985; Barrett, Lindquist & Gendron, 2007; Lindquist, 2009).
736 According to these accounts, behavioural cues need not be diagnostic as emotional interpretation
737 is driven by the summation of multiple pieces of evidence, only some of which will be present at
738 the time of perception (e.g. Smith & Ellsworth, 1985; Lindquist & Gendron, 2013). People
739 flexibly recruit other ‘evidence’ from a highly intra-individual repository of affective
740 knowledge, built through relevant past and present experiences (e.g. what precipitated the
741 current emotional state, how the actor has behaved in the past, how the observer themselves felt
742 under similar circumstances). Some of this knowledge will be shaped by the societal or cultural
743 norms applicable to the individual (see study 2, e.g. Barrett, Mesquita & Gendron, 2011).
744 Flexible knowledge recruitment explains why the same behaviour may be interpreted to

745 represent different emotional states by different observers, or by the same observer, across
746 different time-points (e.g. Lindquist & Gendron, 2013).

747 In conclusion, we provide a set of English action words, characterised by their proportional
748 likelihood to evoke affective knowledge relevant to different emotional states. We used basic
749 emotion labels to create a set of constrained ‘affective contexts’, both for initial generation of
750 action words (study 1) and validation of the most typical exemplars (study 2). Our stimuli both
751 complement and extend existing linguistic databases that contain categorical norms (e.g.
752 Stevenson, Mikels & James, 2007a; Briesemeister, Kuchinke & Jacobs, 2011a). Our data may
753 similarly be used to explore whether emotional word processing is predicted by categorical
754 norms alone, or in conjunction with other types of rating (e.g. dimensional or semantic richness
755 ratings, Lang, 1980; Newcombe et al., 2012).

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Table 1 (on next page)

Top three, most frequently generated action words for each emotion label

Top three, most frequently generated action words for each emotion label. Action words are presented alongside subsidiary responses (where appropriate). Response frequencies for each action word are presented within parenthesis in the second column. These frequencies represent merged totals when a corresponding subsidiary action word is shown in the third column.

2 *Table 1: Top three, most frequently generated action words for each emotion label, presented alongside subsidiary responses (where*
 3 *appropriate). Response frequencies for each action word are presented within parenthesis in the second column. These frequencies represent*
 4 *merged totals when a corresponding subsidiary action word is shown in the third column.*

5

Emotion Label	Most frequent action words (response frequency)	Corresponding, subsidiary action words (core action word)
Anger	Scream (34); Hit (13); Cry (7)	Shout/Yell/Shriek (scream); punch (hit); sob/weep (cry)
Happy	Smile (27); Laugh (20); Dance (10)	Grin (smile); Giggle (laugh); Skip (dance)
Sad	Cry (23); Frown (9), Withdraw (7)	Sob/Weep (cry); Grimace (Frown)
Disgust	Recoil (7); Frown (6); Gag/Vomit (5 each)	Cringe (Recoil); Grimace (Frown); Retch (Gag)
Fear	Hide/Run (13 each); Shiver (11); Cry (9)	Avoid (Hide); Shake (Shiver); Sob/Weep (cry)
Surprise	Jump (15); Gasp (13); Scream (12)	Inhale/Sharp Intake (Gasp); Shout/Yell/Shriek (Scream)

6

Table 2 (on next page)

Main effects and interactions for the mixed factor ANOVA (italics denote significant and marginal results, at $p < 0.1$).

Main effects and interactions for rating direction x instruction perspective x emotion category x typicality, mixed factorial ANOVA (italics denote significant and marginal results, at $p < 0.1$).

2 *Table 2: Main effects and interactions for the rating direction × instruction perspective × emotion category × typicality, mixed*
 3 *factorial ANOVA (italics denote significant and marginal results, at $p < 0.1$).*

<i>Effect</i>	<i>DF</i>	<i>MSE</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P</i>	η_p^2
<i>Category</i>	<i>(4.34, 325.24)</i>	<i>0.53</i>	<i>18.93</i>	<i>< 0.001*</i>	<i>0.20</i>
<i>Typicality</i>	<i>(1,75)</i>	<i>1.04</i>	<i>696.35</i>	<i>< 0.001*</i>	<i>0.90</i>
<i>Instruction Perspective</i>	<i>(1,75)</i>	<i>2.05</i>	<i>6.19</i>	<i>< 0.015*</i>	<i>0.08</i>
<i>Rating Direction</i>	<i>(1,75)</i>	<i>2.05</i>	<i>5.50</i>	<i>< 0.022*</i>	<i>0.07</i>
Category*Instruction Perspective	(4.34, 325.54)	0.53	1.42	0.23	0.02
Category*Rating Direction	(4.34, 325.54)	0.53	0.28	0.90	0.004
Typicality*Instruction Perspective	(1,75)	1.04	0.08	0.77	0.001
Typicality*Rating Direction	(1,75)	1.04	1.25	0.27	0.016
<i>Category*Typicality</i>	<i>(4.25, 318.60)</i>	<i>0.45</i>	<i>26.79</i>	<i>< 0.001*</i>	<i>0.34</i>
Instruction perspective*Rating Direction	(1,75)	2.05	0.37	0.55	0.005
Category*Instruction Perspective*Rating Direction	(4.34, 325.24)	0.45	0.90	0.47	0.012
Typicality*Instruction Perspectives*Rating Direction	(1, 75)	1.04	1.37	0.25	0.018
Category*Typicality*Instruction Perspective	(4.25, 318.60)	0.45	0.90	0.47	0.0012
<i>Category*Typicality*Rating Direction</i>	<i>(4.25, 318.60)</i>	<i>0.45</i>	<i>3.84</i>	<i>0.004*</i>	<i>0.049</i>
<i>Category*Typicality*Instruction Perspective*Rating Direction</i>	<i>(4.25, 318.60)</i>	<i>0.45</i>	<i>3.43</i>	<i>0.008*</i>	<i>0.044</i>

5 * *Greenhouse-Geisser corrections were applied for 'Category' and 'Category × Typicality' effects.*

Table 3 (on next page)

Table depicting mean ratings for typical and atypical word pairs

Mean typical and atypical ratings, t, p and d statistics for each emotion category.

2 *Table 3: Mean typical and atypical ratings, t, p and d statistics for each emotion category.*

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<i>Emotion Category</i>	<i>Typical Mean (SD)</i>	<i>Atypical Mean (SD)</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>d</i>
Happy	4.78 (0.47)	2.29 (0.75)	24.24	< 0.001	4.0
Surprise	4.08 (1.11)	3.03 (0.66)	9.06	< 0.001	1.58
Sad	4.47 (0.81)	2.19 (0.55)	23.86	< 0.001	3.31
Fear	4.35 (0.80)	3.22 (0.70)	13.04	< 0.001	1.51
Anger	3.96 (1.02)	2.37 (0.67)	13.22	< 0.001	1.85
Disgust	4.20 (1.03)	2.25 (0.72)	13.12	< 0.001	2.21
<i>Totals</i>	<i>4.31 (0.87)</i>	<i>2.56 (0.68)</i>	-	-	-

4

5 **Degrees of Freedom were always (1, 78)*

Figure 1 (on next page)

Mean typical and atypical ratings, per emotion category

Mean typical and atypical ratings, per emotion category. *Error bars represent 95% CI*

Figure 1: Mean typical and atypical ratings, per emotion label (error bars represent 95% CI)

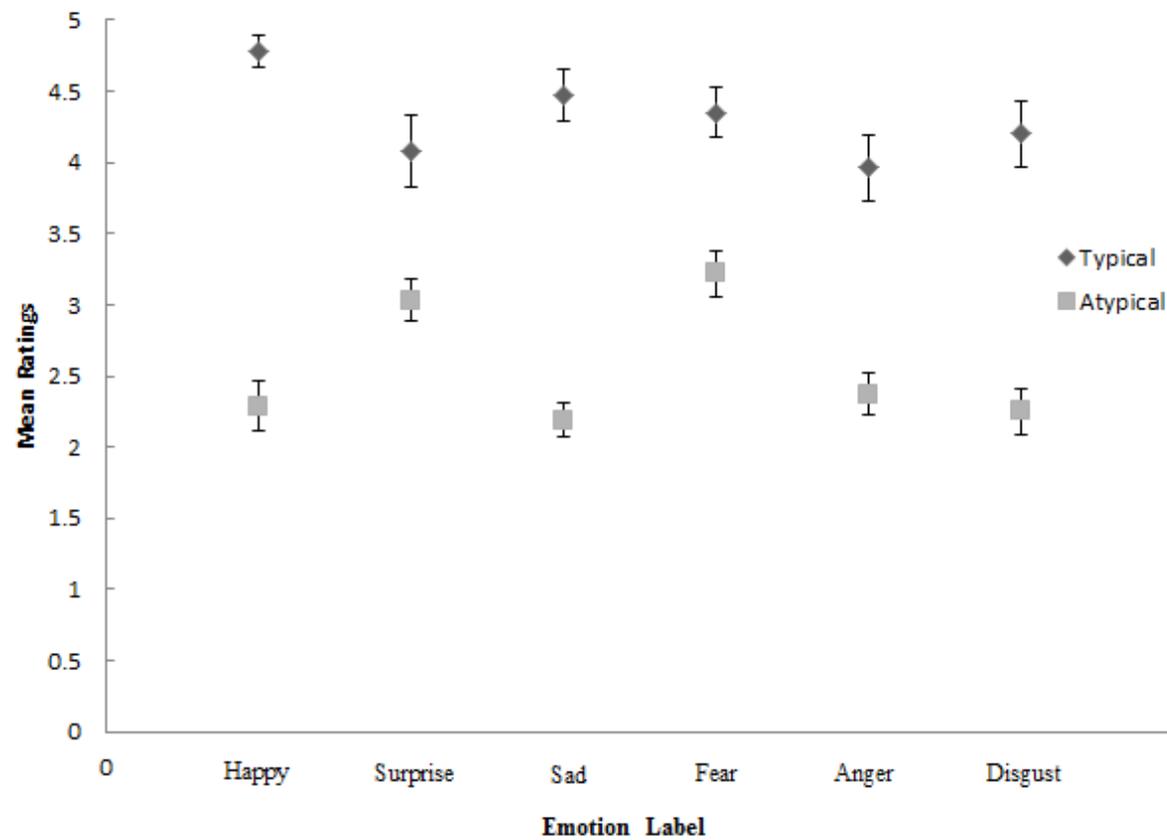


Table 4(on next page)

Mean action word-to-category (A-to-C) and category-to-action word ratings (C-to-A), by typicality and emotion category.

Mean action word-to-category (A-to-C) and category-to-action word ratings (C-to-A), by typicality and emotion category. F , p and η_p^2 statistics are displayed for each effect.

Significant interactions are starred ($p < 0.05$).

2 Table 4: Mean action word-to-category (A-to-C) and category-to-action word ratings (C-to-A), by typicality and emotion category. F , p and η_p^2
 3 statistics are displayed for each effect. Significant interactions are starred ($p < 0.05$).

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Category	Mean C-to-A rating (SD)		Mean A-to-C rating (SD)		F	MSE	p	η_p^2
	Typical	Atypical	Typical	Atypical				
Happy	4.77 (0.54)	2.10 (0.77)	4.80 (0.41)	2.47 (0.70)	2.73	0.41	0.10	0.034
Surprise	3.97 (1.18)	2.97 (0.79)	4.18 (1.03)	3.08 (0.51)	0.18	0.54	0.67	0.002
Sad	4.21 (1.00)	2.18 (0.59)	4.73 (0.45)	2.20 (0.51)	7.40	0.33	0.008*	0.088
Fear	4.13 (0.98)	3.19 (0.74)	4.58 (0.50)	3.25 (0.66)	5.32	0.29	0.024*	0.065
Anger	3.90 (0.97)	2.17 (0.67)	4.03 (1.07)	2.58 (0.61)	1.37	0.57	0.25	0.017
Disgust	4.00 (1.03)	2.30 (0.66)	4.40 (1.01)	2.20 (0.78)	2.91	0.86	0.092	0.036
<i>Totals</i>	<i>4.16 (0.95)</i>	<i>2.49 (0.70)</i>	<i>4.45 (0.75)</i>	<i>2.63 (0.63)</i>	-	-	-	-

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6 *Degrees of freedom were always (1, 77).

Table 5 (on next page)

Mean third-person and first-person perspective ratings.

Mean third-person and first-person perspective ratings, by rating direction, typicality and emotion category (standard deviations in parenthesis).

2 *Table 5: Mean third-person and first-person perspective ratings, by rating direction, typicality and emotion category (standard*
 3 *deviations in parenthesis).*

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Emotion Category	First person ratings (SD)				Third person ratings (SD)			
	Category-to-Action Word		Action Word-to-Category		Category-to-Action Word		Action Word-to-Category	
	Typical	Atypical	Typical	Atypical	Typical	Atypical	Typical	Atypical
Happy	4.70 (0.66)	1.98 (0.84)	4.73 (0.45)	2.22 (0.70)	4.85 (0.37)	2.20 (0.68)	4.85 (0.37)	2.70 (0.67)
Surprise	3.95 (1.23)	2.74 (0.95)	4.00 (1.17)	2.98 (0.61)	4.00 (1.12)	3.19 (0.51)	4.25 (0.97)	3.09 (0.42)
Sad	4.05 (1.31)	1.96 (0.60)	4.58 (1.03)	2.15 (0.56)	4.40 (0.52)	2.36 (0.54)	4.70 (0.47)	2.19 (0.50)
Fear	3.80 (1.20)	3.02 (0.89)	4.27 (0.72)	2.98 (0.79)	4.45 (0.51)	3.35 (0.48)	4.75 (0.44)	3.50 (0.38)
Anger	3.97 (1.18)	2.17 (0.80)	3.92 (1.09)	2.60 (0.75)	4.00 (0.73)	2.16 (0.53)	4.15 (0.93)	2.53 (0.47)
Disgust	3.58 (1.22)	2.39 (0.76)	4.42 (0.99)	1.90 (0.75)	4.40 (0.60)	2.21 (0.55)	4.35 (1.23)	2.45 (0.73)
<i>Totals</i>	<i>4.01 (1.13)</i>	<i>2.38 (0.81)</i>	<i>4.32 (0.91)</i>	<i>2.47 (0.69)</i>	<i>4.35 (0.61)</i>	<i>2.58 (0.55)</i>	<i>4.51 (0.74)</i>	<i>2.74 (0.53)</i>

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