



Imaginal Prestatement of Test Context During Study Improves Recall

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Question

Suppose learners study material in one location and are tested on that material in another. If learners imagine the test context while studying, will their recall increase?

Background

Context plays an important role in memory.
1. Students' test performance is higher if they are tested where they studied the material versus if they are tested in a different location (Smith, Glenberg, & Bjork, 1978).
2. If they *are* tested in a different location but *imagine* the study context, their recall similarly improves (Smith, 1979).
3. During study, if students imagine a *generic* test context, their recall improves (Jerabek & Standing, 1992).

References

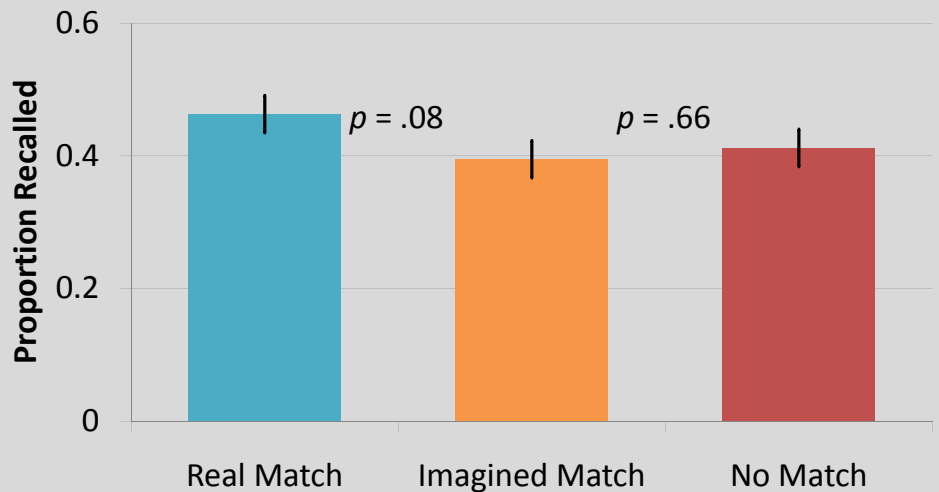
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Procedure

Pre-Learning: "Please sketch this room as you see it from where you're sitting. Please include details that will be easy for you to remember. It doesn't have to be good; it just has to be memorable."
Learning: 24 words were read aloud at a rate of one word every three seconds.
Testing: The participants were allotted three minutes to write, in any order, all of the words they could remember.

Phase	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3
Pre-Learning			
Learning			
Testing			

Results (n = 107)



Answer

Not this time.