

Orthographic Similarity of Anagrams Revealed through Repetition Blindness and Masked Priming

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Orthographic repetition blindness (RB) is the finding that when two words sharing letters (e.g., rock, shock) are displayed in close temporal proximity within a rapid-serial-visual-presentation stream, the second word often fails to be identified. Similarly, in primed lexical decision, when primes and targets are orthographic neighbors (e.g., able, axle) response latencies to the target are often lengthened. Our experiments demonstrate that both of these effects can be partially sublexical and insensitive to letter position. Using three-word RSVP displays, strong RB was found for successively-displayed anagrams sharing no letters in the same position (e.g., paws, swap). Large inhibitory effects in lexical decision were also found using the same word pairs as primes and targets with primes displayed for 100 ms. When primes were displayed for only 35 ms, inhibitory effects were smaller but still reliable. Results will be discussed in the context of the Competition Model of Orthographic Priming.