

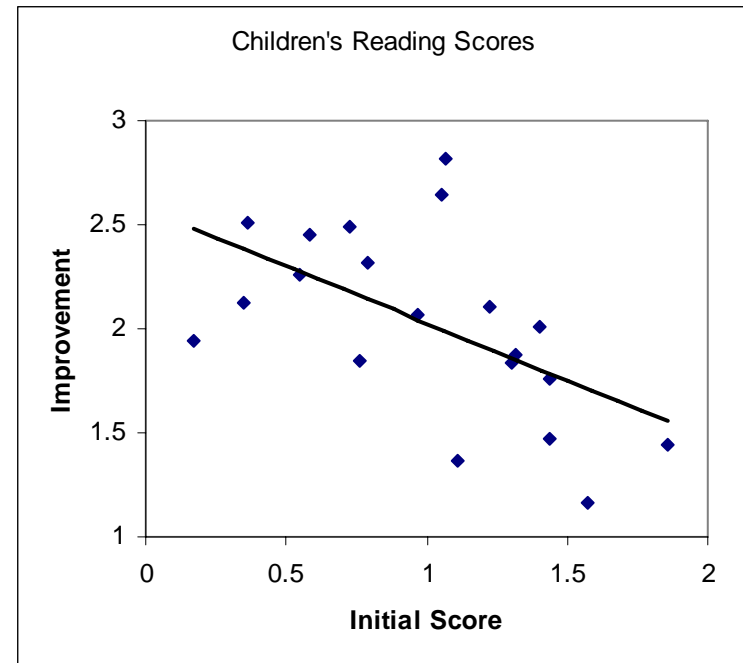
# The things they say

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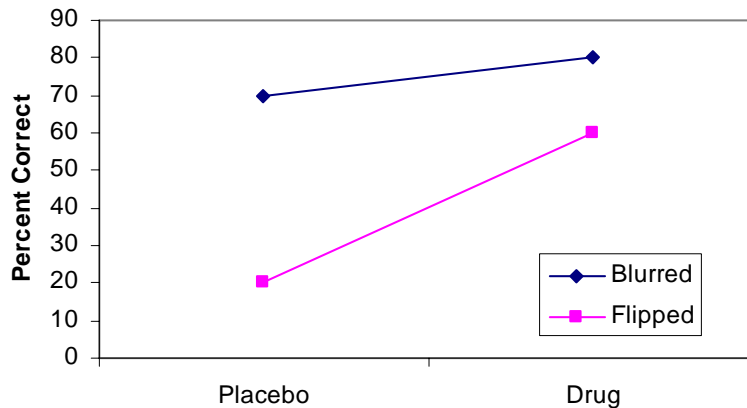
# Improvement in Children's Reading Scores

- As part of the “Rewind” learning programme, children with a range of reading scores underwent 3 weeks of training listening to slowed-down speech.
- It was observed that children who performed more poorly to begin with showed the greatest improvement, as shown by a significant negative correlation ( $r = -0.50$ ,  $df = 19$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) between the initial score and the improvement observed.
- The authors concluded that the rewind programme is especially beneficial for poor readers



# Effects of Thatchycin on Face Recognition

- It has been proposed that a new drug, Thatchycin, specifically aids visual-spatial imagery.
- To test this, 20 healthy volunteers were required to recognise famous faces, portions of which had been inverted, after taking either the drug or a placebo.
- To control for general cognitive effects, the volunteers also recognised faces that had been blurred



- A repeated-measures ANOVA reveals not only a main effect of task, but also a highly significant task X treatment interaction
- Post-hoc tests reveal that the effect of treatment is significant only for the “flipped” task

- It is concluded that Thatchycin does indeed have a specific effect on imagery.

# Lateralised activation of the Samigdala

- Neuropsychological evidence suggests that damage to a region of the brain called the Samigdala area results in impaired processing of Arabic morphology if that damage occurs in the left, but not right, hemisphere.
- An fMRI study was performed with 16 native Arabic speakers, who were required to perform either a morphological or an orthographic task on a set of Arabic words.
- The contrast (morphology minus orthography) was statistically significant in the left, but not right, Samigdala.
- A similar contrast, obtained with native English speakers and English words, revealed no significant effects
- It is concluded that the fMRI evidence confirms a lateralised activation of the Samigdala for tasks involving Arabic morphology.

# Oranges are not the only fruit

- The authors of a recent paper have concluded that the dorsolateral homunculum (DH) is involved in the processing of complex odours:
- An fMRI study in which participants were required to identify the smell of bananas in a mixture of other odours found greater activation in those participants who successfully performed the task than in those who didn't, as shown by a significant correlation between activation in an ROI centred on the DH and percent correct.
- The same study showed that, for a given participant, the DH BOLD response was greater on successful than on unsuccessful trials.
- Both of the above effects were greatly reduced when participants were required to perform a demanding visual task
- Similar findings were obtained when participants were required to identify the smell of oranges