Instructor Instructions for

The Memory Game

An in-class experiment

What you’ll need in advance: Copies of both sets of directions, enough of each for ½ of the class. Also, enough copies of the questions for the entire class. You’ll need one set of “statements” that you will read to the class. Students will only need a pen or pencil.

1. Start the PowerPoint.
2. Before class starts, shuffle the 2 different sets of questions in a random order. When you distribute the directions to the students, hand them out face down. We do not want the students to know that there are different instructions otherwise the experiment is blown!! You do not want to know which set of instructions each student will have. This will make it a Double-Blind experiment!!
3. Read the 25 statements out loud after the students have read their set of instructions. I usually stand in the center of the front of the room and stare straight ahead, making certain not to make eye contact with any one student. DO WHAT IT TAKES TO KEEP THEM QUIET, HOWEVER!
4. Distribute the questions face down.
5. Say start. They have 3 minutes to answer as many as possible.
6. Students then exchange papers with another student in order to score their papers. There is no partial credit or middle ground (e.g. the answer is “Korea,” answers of North or South Korea are simply marked wrong). Have them count the number correct and write that score (0-20) on the top of the page.

*Adapted from an activity created by Adam Shrager*

Adam Shrager’s history: Though I have only had a statistically significant (at α = .05) result a handful of times, the treatment group has never failed to “win” the game. I have 16 trials of data, and growing. I briefly used this result to mention the sign test to my classes this year (2009), though it’s not part of the curriculum, so I didn’t dwell on it.

Adam Shrager:

ashrager@hvrsd.org

AP Statistics Instructor

Hopewell Valley Central High School, Pennington NJ

Lecturer of Public & International Affairs

Woodrow Wilson School of Public & International Affairs

Princeton University, Princeton NJ

Statements for *The Memory Game*:

1. The orange kitten was asleep on the green bench.
2. Business cards are quite expensive to produce.
3. In the park there were two ducks.
4. The brown truck crashed into the mailbox.
5. Five shirts hung from the exercise bicycle in the basement.
6. She mailed him a birthday card, but she forgot to put a stamp on the envelope.
7. The dead body of the sheep was full of maggots.
8. It is 6 o’clock in Korea.
9. Easter is Rebecca’s favorite holiday
10. The deck of cards had five nines in it.
11. Gary prefers shrimp to steak.
12. 10 of my tulip bulbs flowered, but the deer ate 8 of them
13. The upstairs toilet is clogged up again
14. His television set did not receive channel 7
15. At church last week, I got a splinter from the pew.
16. 4 hikers were lost in the blizzard. They are presumed dead.
17. The web sites Brad was surfing at school contained pornographic images.
18. After shooting 3 arrows, Benjamin hit the bull’s-eye of the target.
19. The chocolate candy has walnuts and peanuts in it.
20. Gary wore a plaid flannel shirt to the store.
21. Two planes collided on the runway in the Canary Islands.
22. The storm clouds overhead seem to be drifting Southwest.
23. Yellow candle wax got all over the kitchen counter.
24. The evil super villain threatened to release death spores in the city’s water supply
25. Michele’s foot was bleeding because she cut it on a piece of sharp coral.