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*Animacy Effects in Immediate Serial Recall*

Inspired by work on the “animacy” distinction in both development and perception, recent research has shown that living (animate) concepts are remembered better than non-living (inanimate) concepts in long-term memory (Nairne, VanArsdall, Pandeirada, Cogdill, & LeBreton, 2013). The current study expands on this finding, exploring how animacy influences short-term memory. In Experiment 1, participants saw and were asked to remember—in order—24 pure lists of seven animate (e.g., “baby”) or inanimate (e.g., “hat”) words. Although no difference between word types was found for serial position accuracy, animate words were more often recalled overall. In Experiment 2, participants performed the same task with six-item lists containing three words of each type drawn from a larger pool. In this mixed-list design, animacy advantages were found in both serial position accuracy and overall recall.