

## Appendix A

List of antonymic pairs employed in Experiment 1 and Experiment 2 (second column, in bold). The list was adapted from Ruytenbeek et al. (2017). Criteria for exclusion are reported below.

Adjectival pair (from Ruytenbeek et al. 2017)	English translation for Exp. 1 and Exp. 2	Morphology
certain/incertain	<b>certain/uncertain</b>	morphological
chanceux/malchanceux	<b>lucky/unlucky</b>	morphological
exact/inexact	<b>accurate/inaccurate</b>	morphological
facile/difficile	Not included	morphological
heureux/malheureux	<b>happy/unhappy</b>	morphological
intéressant/inintéressant	<b>interesting/uninteresting</b>	morphological
juste/injuste	<b>fair/unfair</b>	morphological
pair/impair	Not included	
poli/impoli	<b>polite/impolite</b>	morphological
possible/impossible	<b>possible/impossible</b>	morphological
satisfaisant/insatisfaisant	<b>satisfactory/unsatisfactory</b>	morphological
sympathique/antipathique	<b>friendly/unfriendly</b>	morphological
utile/inutile	<b>useful/useless</b>	morphological
bon/mauvais	<b>good/bad</b>	non-morphological
calme/agité	Not included	
chaud/froid	Not included	
facile/compliqué	Not included	
fort/faible	<b>strong/weak</b>	non-morphological
gentil/méchant	<b>kind/mean</b>	non-morphological
grand/petit	<b>tall/short</b>	non-morphological
joyeux/triste	<b>happy/sad</b>	non-morphological
long/court	<b>long/short</b>	non-morphological
poli/grossier	<b>polite/rude</b>	non-morphological

riche/pauvre	<b>rich/poor</b>	non-morphological
satisfaisant/frustrant	<b>satisfactory/frustrating</b>	non-morphological
vieux/jeune	Not included	
vrai/faux	Not included	
Total: 27 pairs	Total: <b>20 pairs</b>	

Criteria for exclusion:

Calme/agité (quiet/restless), facile/difficile (easy/difficult), facile/compliqué (easy/complicated), vieux/jeune (old/young): Not included as they provided inconsistent results in the two polarity tests conducted by Ruytenbeek et al. (2017).

Pair/impair (even/odd), chaud/froid (hot/cold): Not included as the ratings for each member of the antonymic pair did not differ significantly in the two polarity tests conducted by Ruytenbeek et al. (2017).

Vrai/faux (true/false): Not included as difficult to coerce into a contrary opposition.

## Appendix B

### List of experimental stimuli of Experiment 1.

Methodological note: Context and target sentences were created by a research collaborator, who was naive concerning the study's aims. The instructions that accompanied the adjective list were about constructing scenarios in which the target utterance ('X is not *adj*') would predicate a desirable property when *adj* was listed as 'negative polarity' and an undesirable one when *adj* was listed as 'positive polarity'. Furthermore, the instructions stressed that (un)desirability had to be judged from the perspective of the addressee. The list of contexts elaborated by the naive collaborator was then minimally modified by the authors to ensure that there was no power imbalance between speaker and hearer and that the social distance of the two interlocutors was comparable across contexts.

#### 1. certain/uncertain

Confidential files of the company where you work have been leaked to the press. The day after, one of your colleagues tells you:

"Your involvement in the leakage is not certain/uncertain."

#### 2. lucky/unlucky

You have received a bonus despite the low number of contracts you closed in the last month. One of your colleagues, who had a very good performance and as a result got a promotion, tells you:

"You are not lucky/unlucky."

#### 3. accurate/inaccurate

Your legal advisor evaluates your chances to get away with your felony charges and tells you:

"The available evidence is not accurate/inaccurate."

#### 4. happy/unhappy

One of your colleagues left the company where you worked together to join its competitor. At a convention, this ex-colleague tells you:

"I am not happy/unhappy."

#### 5. interesting/uninteresting

You seek a job promotion and compete with a colleague from another department. After attending both of your presentations, your officemate tells you:

"Your competitor's presentation was not interesting/uninteresting."

#### 6. fair/unfair

You have lost your job because you missed an important deadline. One of your colleagues tells you:

"This is not fair/unfair."

#### 7. polite/impolite

Your officemate would like you to cut ties with some colleagues from another department. After you all meet at a corporate event, your officemate tells you:

"You were not polite/impolite."

### **8. possible/impossible**

The company has financial problems and you are scared of possible pay cuts. A colleague from the financial department tells you:

“A pay cut is not possible/impossible.”

### **9. satisfactory/unsatisfactory**

You are competing with one of your colleagues to sell a project to an important client. After reading both projects, your officemate tells you:

“Your competitor’s project is not satisfactory/unsatisfactory.”

### **10. friendly/unfriendly**

Your officemate tells you that the new team member has unjustly taken credit for something your officemate did. After you all meet during lunch break, your officemate tells you:

“You were not friendly/unfriendly.”

### **11. useful/useless**

Your officemate is reorganising the office and tidying it up. You suggest throwing some of your officemate’s old reports away and your officemate tells you:

“These papers are not useful/useless.”

### **12. good/bad**

You want to join a prestigious company and you are competing with one of your current colleagues. After looking at both of your CV, your officemate tells you:

“Your competitor’s CV is not good/bad.”

### **13. strong/weak**

At a seminar on personal development organised by your company, you describe your struggles with interpersonal relationships. One of your colleagues tells you:

“Your mental barriers are not strong/weak.”

### **14. kind/mean**

Your officemate, who is victim of bullying from some colleagues, asks for your help. After you confront the colleagues openly, your officemate comments on your attitude towards them and tells you:

“You were not kind/mean.”

### **15. tall/short**

You are part of a team of architects that is projecting the buildings for a new area in the city. The new constructions should have a minimal impact on the city skyline. One of your colleagues looks at your project and tells you:

“Your buildings are not tall/short.”

### **16. happy/sad**

You have decided to quit your current job and change career path. You are not popular in your team. A colleague from another department tells you:

“Your team is not happy/sad.”

### **17. long/short**

You give a mock interview. The colleague who is playing the role of the interviewer asks you to describe yourself in a few words. After listening to you, your colleague tells you:

"Your presentation was not long/short."

**18. polite/rude**

You complain to your officemate that you cannot work properly because some coworkers listen to music in the office next door. Your officemate tells you:

"They are not polite/rude."

**19. rich/poor**

You want to apply for financial aid from the government. A coworker, who is helping you with the application, looks at your financial records and tells you:

"You are not rich/poor."

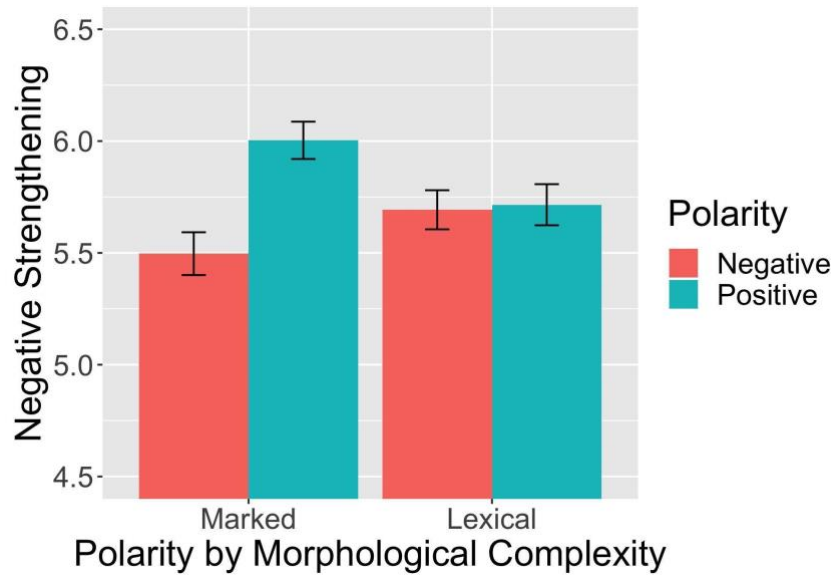
**20. satisfactory/frustrating**

You have repeatedly failed your German language test despite receiving German tutoring twice a week. A coworker, who works with the same tutor, tells you:

"This tutoring is not satisfactory/frustrating."

## Appendix C

Further analyses on morphological complexity and participant gender for Experiment 1. Figure C.1 shows the mean ratings across polarity and morphological complexity and Table C.1 presents the results of the cumulative link model with the factors polarity and morphological complexity.



**Figure C.1:** Mean degree of negative strengthening by polarity and morphological complexity (Experiment 1). Error bars represent +/- 1 SEM.

**Table C.1:** Summary of cumulative link mixed-effects model including the sum-coded fixed effects polarity and morphological complexity (Experiment 1).

	Estimate	SE	z-value	p-value
Polarity	-0.26465	0.06180	-4.282	1.85e-05
Complexity	0.13555	0.06161	2.200	0.0278
Polarity:Complexity	-0.15222	0.06172	-2.466	0.0136

Table C.2 presents the results of the cumulative mixed model with polarity and participant gender (female participants as reference level).

**Table C.2:** Summary of cumulative link mixed-effects model including the sum-coded fixed effects polarity and treatment coded effect of participant gender with females representing the reference level (Experiment 1).

	Estimate	SE	z-value	p-value
Polarity	-0.21635	0.09871	-2.192	0.0284
Participant Gender	-0.39351	0.58246	-0.676	0.4993
Polarity:Participant Gender	-0.08737	0.12590	-0.694	0.4877

## **Appendix D**

List of experimental stimuli of Experiment 2.

### **1. certain/uncertain**

Ordinary context: Your boss is planning to have some employees doing ten hours of very well paid overtime to complete a project on a strict deadline. One of your colleagues tells you: "Your participation is not certain/uncertain."

Non-ordinary context: Your boss is planning to have some employees doing ten hours of unpaid overtime to complete a project on a strict deadline. One of your colleagues tells you: "Your participation is not certain/uncertain."

### **2. lucky/unlucky**

Ordinary context: You want to go to the casino with your friend and you are really counting on winning some money. That day the casino is closed. Your friend tells you: "You are not lucky/unlucky."

Non-ordinary context: You want to go to the casino with your friend even though you have a gambling addiction. That day the casino is closed. Your friend tells you: "You are not lucky/unlucky."

### **3. accurate/inaccurate**

Ordinary context: Your legal advisor evaluates your aggressor's chances to get away with the charges and tells you: "The available evidence is not accurate/inaccurate."

Non-ordinary context: Your legal advisor evaluates your chances to get away with the charges and tells you: "The available evidence is not accurate/inaccurate."

### **4. happy/unhappy**

Ordinary context: After leaving your team and joining another department, one of your colleagues tells you: "I am not happy/unhappy."

Non-ordinary context: After joining your team and leaving another department, one of your colleagues tells you: "I am not happy/unhappy."

### **5. interesting/uninteresting**

Ordinary context: During a meeting you could not attend, your collaborator presents a project in which you were involved. After attending the presentation, your officemate tells you: "The presentation was not interesting/uninteresting."

Non-ordinary context: During a meeting you could not attend, your competitor presents a project in which you were not involved. After attending the presentation, your officemate tells you: "The presentation was not interesting/uninteresting."

### **6. fair/unfair**

Ordinary context: You have lost your job because your boss does not like you even though you managed all your deadlines. One of your colleagues tells you: "This is not fair/unfair."

Non-ordinary context: You have lost your job because you missed an important deadline. One of your colleagues tells you: "This is not fair/unfair."

### **7. polite/impolite**

Ordinary context: Your officemate would like you to strengthen ties with some colleagues from another department. After you all meet at a corporate event, your officemate tells you: “You were not polite/impolite.”

Non-ordinary context: Your officemate would like you to cut ties with some colleagues from another department. After you all meet at a corporate event, your officemate tells you: “You were not polite/impolite.”

#### **8. possible/impossible**

Ordinary context: Your company has financial problems and you are planning a pay cut for your employees. After talking to the financial department, your partner tells you: “A pay cut is not possible/impossible.”

Non-ordinary context: Your company has financial problems but you do not want this to affect your employees. After talking to the financial department, your partner tells you: “A pay cut is not possible/impossible.”

#### **9. satisfactory/unsatisfactory**

Ordinary context: You are collaborating with one of your colleagues to sell a project to an important client. After meeting with your collaborator to review the project budget, the finance officer tells you: “The project budget was not satisfactory/unsatisfactory.”

Non-ordinary context: You are competing with one of your colleagues to sell a project to an important client. After meeting with your competitor to review the project budget, the finance officer tells you: “The project budget was not satisfactory/unsatisfactory.”

#### **10. friendly/unfriendly**

Ordinary context: Your officemate tells you that the new team member was very nice during their first meeting. After you all meet during lunch break, your officemate tells you: “You were not friendly/unfriendly.”

Non-ordinary context: Your officemate tells you that the new team member was very rude during their first meeting. After you all meet during lunch break, your officemate tells you: “You were not friendly/unfriendly.”

#### **11. useful/useless**

Ordinary context: Your officemate is reorganising the office and tidying it up. You suggest digitalising and archiving some old reports. Your officemate tells you: “These papers are not useful/useless.”

Non-ordinary context: Your officemate is reorganising the office and tidying it up. You suggest throwing away some old reports. Your officemate tells you: “These papers are not useful/useless.”

#### **12. good/bad**

Ordinary context: You want to join a prestigious company and you are competing with one of your current colleagues. After looking at your CV, your officemate tells you: “The CV is not good/bad.”

Non-ordinary context: You want to join a prestigious company and you are competing with one of your current colleagues. After looking at your competitor’s CV, your officemate tells you: “The CV is not good/bad.”



### **13. strong/weak**

Ordinary context: At a seminar on personal development organised by your company, you describe your struggles with interpersonal relationships. After discussing about your motivations for personal growth with the group, one of your colleagues tells you: “They are not strong/weak.”

Non-ordinary context: At a seminar on personal development organised by your company, you describe your struggles with interpersonal relationships. After discussing about your mental barriers with the group, one of your colleagues tells you: “They are not strong/weak.”

### **14. kind/mean**

Ordinary context: Your officemate received a generous support from some colleagues. After you meet these colleagues at lunch, your officemate comments on your attitude towards them and tells you: “You were not kind/mean.”

Non-ordinary context: Your officemate was bullied by some colleagues. After you meet these colleagues at lunch, your officemate comments on your attitude towards them and tells you: “You were not kind/mean.”

### **15. tall/short**

Ordinary context: You are part of a team of architects that is projecting the new town hall in the old city center. The new construction should redesign the city skyline. One of your colleagues looks at your project and tells you: “Your town hall is not tall/short.”

Non-ordinary context: You are part of a team of architects that is projecting the new town hall in the old city center. The new construction should have a minimal impact on the city skyline. One of your colleagues looks at your project and tells you: “Your town hall is not tall/short.”

### **16. happy/sad**

Ordinary context: After thinking of a career change for a long time, you have decided to stay in your current job. A colleague from another department tells you: “Your team is not happy/sad.”

Non-ordinary context: After thinking of a career change for a long time, you have decided to quit your current job. A colleague from another department tells you: “Your team is not happy/sad.”

### **17. long/short**

Ordinary context: You give a mock interview. The colleague who is playing the role of the interviewer asks you to describe the details of your business strategy. After listening to you, your colleague tells you: “Your presentation was not long/short.”

Non-ordinary context: You give a mock interview. The colleague who is playing the role of the interviewer asks you to describe your business strategy in a few words. After listening to you, your colleague tells you: “Your presentation was not long/short.”

### **18. polite/rude**

Ordinary context: Some coworkers complain to your officemate that they cannot work properly because you listen to music in the office next door. Your officemate tells you: “They are not polite/rude.”

Non-ordinary context: You complain to your officemate that you cannot work properly because some coworkers listen to music in the office next door. Your officemate tells you: "They are not polite/rude."

### **19. rich/poor**

Ordinary context: You want to apply to join an exclusive country club. A coworker, who is helping you with the paperwork, looks at your financial records and tells you: "You are not rich/poor."

Non-ordinary context: You want to apply for financial aid from the government. A coworker, who is helping you with the paperwork, looks at your financial records and tells you: "You are not rich/poor."

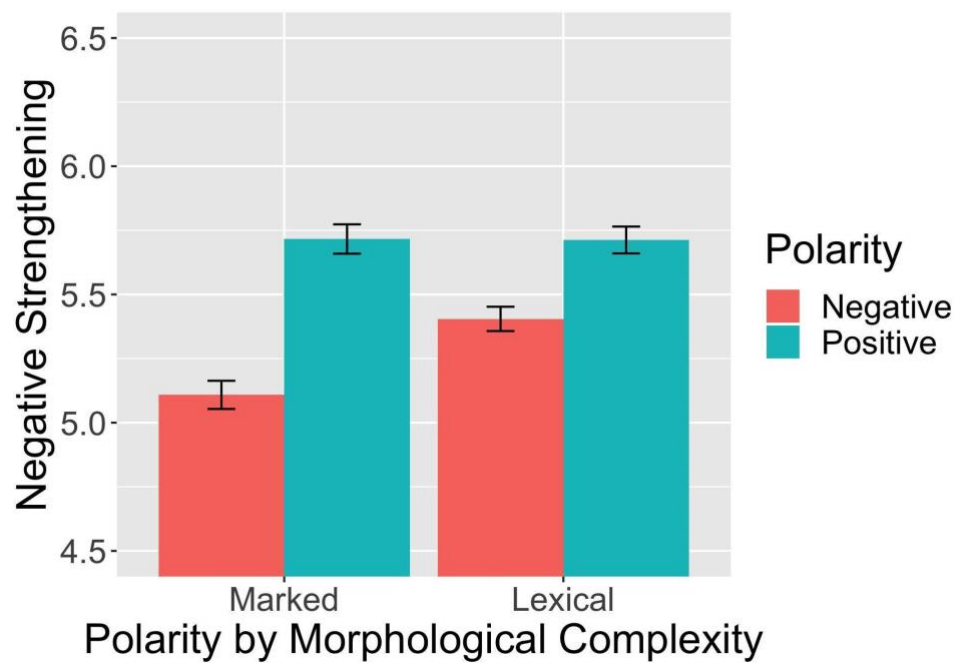
### **20. satisfactory/frustrating**

Ordinary context: After the first German class with a tutor that you widely recommended after passing your language test, one of your colleagues tells you: "This tutoring is not satisfactory/frustrating."

Non-ordinary context: After the first German class with a tutor that you widely discredited after failing your language test, one of your colleagues tells you: "This tutoring is not satisfactory/frustrating."

## Appendix E

Further analyses on morphological complexity and participant gender for Experiment 2. Figure E.1 shows the mean ratings across polarity and morphological complexity and Table E.1 presents the results of the cumulative link model with the factors polarity and morphological complexity.

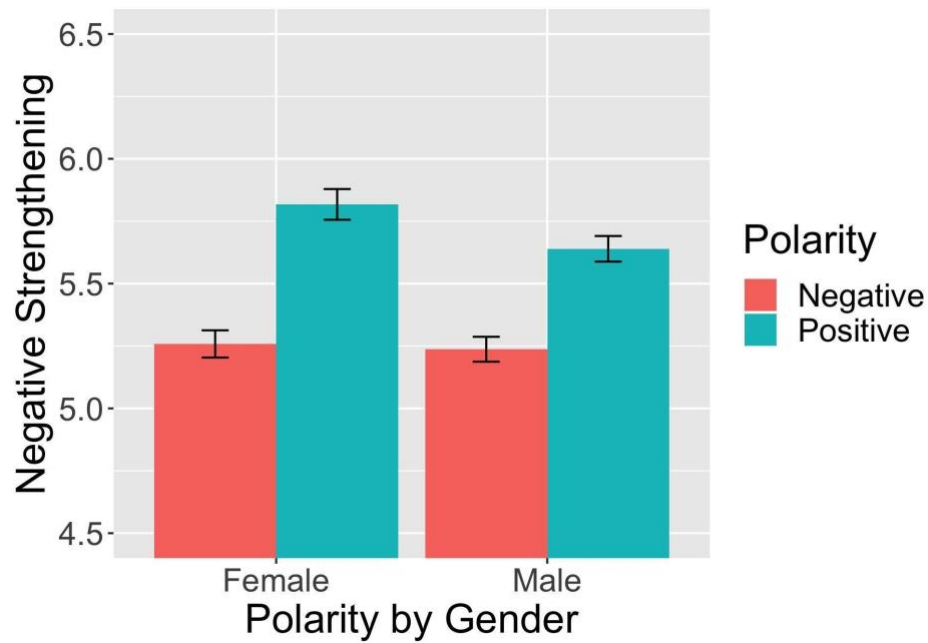


**Figure E.1:** Mean degree of negative strengthening by polarity and morphological complexity (Experiment 2). Error bars represent +/- 1 SEM.

**Table E.1:** Summary of cumulative link mixed-effects model including the sum-coded fixed effects polarity and morphological complexity (Experiment 2).

	Estimate	SE	z-value	p-value
Polarity	-0.46193	0.03528	-13.092	0.000001
Complexity	0.02090	0.06764	0.309	0.757
Polarity:Complexity	-0.15587	0.03436	-4.536	0.000005

The means across polarity and participant gender are displayed in Figure E.2 and the results of the cumulative link mixed-effects model are presented in Table E.2.



**Figure E.2:** Mean degree of negative strengthening by polarity and participant gender (Experiment 2). Error bars represent +/- 1 SEM.

**Table E.2:** Summary of cumulative link mixed-effects model including the sum-coded fixed effects polarity and treatment-coded fixed effect participant gender with female participants as the reference level (Experiment 2).

	Estimate	SE	z-value	p-value
Polarity	-0.62232	0.05455	-11.409	0.0001
Participant Gender	-0.22267	0.42993	-0.518	0.604519
Polarity:Participant Gender	0.25772	0.06958	3.704	0.000213

## References

Ruytenbeek, Nicolas, Steven Verheyen & Benjamin Spector. 2017. Asymmetric inference towards the antonym: Experiments into the polarity and morphology of negated adjectives. *Glossa: A Journal of General Linguistics* 2(1).92. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.151>