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Various sources of distraction in analogical reasoning

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Abstract

Two leading analogical reasoning paradigms: A:B::C:D task and scene analogies, to date studied in isolation, were applied to the same 61 participants. The former task included 3 types of distracting response options (relational, semantic, and perceptual); the latter task imposed cross-mapping (response options that suggested a wrong structure to be mapped). First, relational and semantic, but not perceptual, distractors were similarly frequently selected, but their choices were weakly correlated. These choices were unrelated to cross-mapping in the other task, either. So, various sources of distraction can play a role in the analogical reasoning process.