# USING REPETITION PRIMING TO STUDY BILINGUAL VOCABULARY ACCESS

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Words in receptive and productive vocabulary are comprehended and produced more efficiently with language experience as the words are encountered and used in natural language contexts. Repetition priming is a phenomenon in which experimental repetitions of words elicit faster comprehension and production. The argument is developed that the underlying mechanisms are one and the same, and that repetition-priming experiments can be used to capture and systematically study the learning mechanisms underlying vocabulary acquisition. First, using bilingual manipulations, the processes of comprehension or production can be isolated to estimate repetition-based learning. Second, the learning that occurs follows a typical learning curve. Third, learning in both comprehension and production lasts over time, and the retention/forgetting rates for these two processes differ. Fourth, comprehension exposures in a language increase the probability that later production will be successful and speed word retrieval. Finally, although previous research suggested that words encoded in context would lead to little if any repetition priming, new data show substantial priming based on words encoded in context, and this priming occurs in both comprehension and production.