

## **Supplemental Material S2.** Computation of the finite verb morphology composite (FVMC).

In the hypothetical sample below, there were 11 obligatory contexts for the target FVMC morphemes. Seven (i.e., Utterances B, D, G, H, J, O, and Q) of the 11 contexts (i.e., Utterances A, B, D, E, F, G, H, J, O, P, and Q) had a correct use of the target morpheme. Thus, the FVMC in this example was 63.64% (7/11). Note that Utterances C, K, M, and N were not included for analysis because they had contexts for using irregular past tense, not past tense *-ed*. Utterance L was not included because it had a context of auxiliary *do*.

- A. One day a rabbit \*was pulling a wagon. (omission of auxiliary *was*; \* indicates omission)
- B. There was another dog. (correct use of copula *was*)
- C. They found a balloon. (no contexts)
- D. They  tied  it on the wagon. (correct use of past tense *-ed*)
- E. And the dog \*was playing with the balloon. (omission of auxiliary *was*)
- F. And he accidentally  untie  the balloon. (omission of past tense *-ed*)
- G. The balloon  was  gone. (correct use copula *was*)
- H. The rabbit  was  mad. (correct use of copula *was*)
- I. And then the dog saw a balloon man. (no contexts)
- J. He  wanted  to buy one balloon. (correct use of past tense *-ed*)
- K. But he had no money. (no contexts)
- L. He didn't know what to do. (no contexts)
- M. Then the dog's father came and gave him ten cents. (no contexts)
- N. The dog bought two balloons (no contexts).
- O. They  were  playing with the new balloons. (correct use of auxiliary *were*)
- P. They \*were silly. (omission of copula *were*)
- Q. They  lived  happily ever after. (correct use of past tense *-ed*)