Instructions for Annotators in the English Lexical Substitution Task for SemEval

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1   An Introduction to the Task

Please note that there is no right or wrong answer. We just want your opinion for each item on this task.

For each test word, we would like you to substitute the test word with another that preserves the meaning of the sentence as much as possible. The test word is shown in bold in each case.

Please don't spend ages on each sentence. You are free to consult a dictionary or thesaurus if it helps, but not another person. If you do consult a dictionary for any of the sentences for a word please tick the dictionary box.

We will now provide some examples and instructions. You can see these instructions again at any point during the task by clicking on the instructions button.

For example:

Sentence #1:
Greer Garson was a world-famous **star** of stage, screen and television

Substitute: actor OK

☐nil ☐extra responses ☐name ☐used a dictionary

2 Using base forms of words (not critical though)

Don't spend time on this but if the word is in plural, tensed or comparative or superlative form please try and supply your answer in singular, untensed or base form. For instance:

Sentence #2:
They were world-famous **stars** of stage, screen and television

Substitute: `actor` [OK]
☐nil ☐extra responses ☐name ☐used a dictionary

Sentence #3:
They **pranced** around the room

Substitute: `strut` [OK]
☐nil ☐extra responses ☐name ☐used a dictionary

Sentence #4:
Indian food is **spicier** than Italian.

Substitute: `savory` [OK]
☐nil ☐extra responses ☐name ☐used a dictionary

3 Supplying more than one answer with the extra response box

You can supply several answers for each item if they all fit the sentence well. To do this simply click on the "extra responses" checkbox and another 3 boxes will appear. You can now add up to 3 extra responses but please only add extra responses if you feel they all fit the sentence equally well:

Sentence #5:
They were world-famous **stars** of stage, screen and television

Substitute: `actor` [OK]
☐nil ☑extra responses ☐name ☐used a dictionary
Extra response #1: `celebrity`
Extra response #2: `famous person`
Extra response #3: `                    `

4 Using NIL when there isn't an answer

Please click the "nil" checkbox if you cannot think of a good substitute for that sentence:

Sentence #6:
The ship would determine that the **star** was close enough to actuate deceleration.

Substitute: [_____] [OK]
☑nil ☐extra responses ☐name ☐used a dictionary

5 Picking substitutes with slightly more general meanings

You may also put a substitute that is close in meaning, even though it doesn't preserve the meaning. In such cases, please aim for a word as close as possible to the meaning of the test word, and preferably one more general than the target word. Please ONLY use a more general word if you really can't find a substitute that is a near match for the target word in meaning, e.g.:

Sentence #7:
The teacher drew **stars** on the board.

Substitute: [shape_____] [OK]
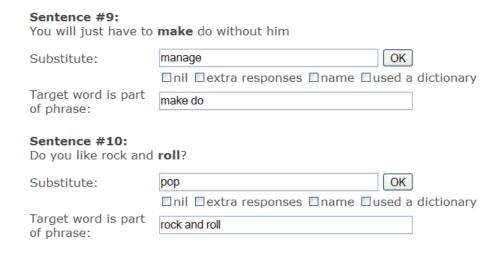☐nil ☐extra responses ☐name ☐used a dictionary

6 Using a phrase as a substitute

If at all possible we would prefer you to use a substitute word, rather than a phrase, but you can use a phrase if necessary:

Sentence #8:
Can you **pursue** this matter soon?

Substitute: [act on_____] [OK]
☐nil ☐extra responses ☐name ☐used a dictionary

7 Where the target word is part of a phrase

If you think the word is actually an integral part of a phrase which appears within the sentence please indicate this in your response by entering the phrase in the box marked "Target word is part of phrase:" and then supplying your substitute in the usual response box:

Sentence #9:
You will just have to **make** do without him

Substitute: | manage | OK
☐nil ☐extra responses ☐name ☐used a dictionary

Target word is part of phrase: | make do

Sentence #10:
Do you like rock and **roll**?

Substitute: | pop | OK
☐nil ☐extra responses ☐name ☐used a dictionary

Target word is part of phrase: | rock and roll

8 Where the target word is part of a phrase with intervening words

Note that the phrase may appear with intervening words, e.g.:

Sentence #11:
Just like the balloon would go up and you could sit all day and wish it would spring a leak or **blow** to hell up and burn and nothing like that would happen.

Substitute: | burst | OK
☐nil ☑extra responses ☐name ☐used a dictionary

Extra response #1: | explode
Extra response #2: |
Extra response #3: |
Target word is part of phrase: | blow up

9 Names

Please click the "name" checkbox if the word in bold is a proper name:

Sentence #12:
The smallest planet in the solar system is **mercury**.

Substitute: [_____] [OK]
☑nil ☐extra responses ☑name ☐used a dictionary

10 Your comments, e.g. if there are problems with the sentence

These "sentences" are automatically collected from the world wide web, and some of them won't be well formed in some way or may involve non British dialects. Just respond with what would best fit the meaning of that sentence. In case you think there is something wrong in the sentence, you wish clarifications or you just need to spot a problem, please enter any kind of note in the "comments" box, e.g.:

Sentence #13:
Dictionaries contain an alphabetical list of words with information about them.

Substitute: [_____] [OK]
☐nil ☐extra responses ☐name ☐used a dictionary
Target word is part
of phrase: [_____]
Comments: As no word is highlighted, I do not
know which substitute to choose

11 Using the summaries page

You can repeat these instructions at any point by clicking on the instructions button. You can see a list of words you have completed by clicking on the Summaries button and for any of these words, clicking the word will provide a summary of the responses for those words. You can go back and change responses if necessary but only do this if you are aware that you made a mistake. There is no right or wrong answer for any item and we simply want your opinion.