

Supplemental Material S2. Example contexts and mean informativeness ratings for the words "collusion" and "hyperbole."

Target word	Text example	Mean Informativeness Rating ^a (SD)
collusion	We provide a collusive framework with heterogeneity among firms, investment, entry, and exit. It is a symmetric-information model in which it is hard to sustain collusion when there is an active firm that is likely to exit in the near future. Numerical analysis is used to compare a collusive to a noncollusive environment.	-0.5 (0.53)
	In his discussion of this issue in the context of the fallout from California's recent attempt at electricity deregulation, Dr. Rapp notes that claims of collusion must be reconciled with the specific market facts and regulatory rules that affect suppliers' bidding behavior and capacity decisions. This is not always easy.	0.0 (0.67)
	The classic example is launching a nuclear missile where at least two officers have keys to the firing console and both must use them simultaneously. Requiring more than one person to perform a potentially damaging action means that it will probably require collusion of two or more people and lessen the likelihood of a problem.	1.0 (0.94)
	Some poker players think that by sharing information with their friends on Party Poker, they can gain an advantage and cheat their opponents. This is known as poker collusion , two or more players will use a chatroom, instant messages or even the telephone to tell their friends what cards they have.	1.7 (0.48)
hyperbole	Personally, I probably would not buy a metaphor or hyperbole unless the place got it from would give a refund if I did not like it. Maybe it is foolish to be so wary just because of two or three less than perfect examples. I leave this up to you.	-0.4 (0.52)
	A particularly interesting example of hyperbole on the climate issue was sent in by John Fleck (Thanks!). The incident is interesting, not so much because of the hyperbole itself, but because scientists, including some closely affiliated with the IPCC, were willing to take a public stand on the hyperbolic statements.	+0.1 (0.32)
	An early version of 2003's "The Brown Bunny," an independent film by Vincent Gallo, sparked disagreement, with some French critics approving even as dozens of other audience members walked out. (Ebert called it, with deliberate hyperbole , "the worst film in the history of the festival"; he changed his mind when Gallo presented a re-edited version several months later.)	+0.9 (0.74)
	Hyperbole is a form of speech that could be described as 'extravagant exaggeration'. It is not appropriate when writing essays or reports, but a little hyperbole (pronounced 'hi-per-bo-lee') is an effective way to colour the speech of a character in a short story, or to make a point effectively in a humourous piece of writing.	+1.9 (0.32)

^aThe rating scale ranged from: (+2) *very helpful*, (+1) *somewhat helpful*, (0) *neutral*, or (–1) *bad*. “Helpful” contexts were those that seemed to reinforce the target word’s meaning and to be understandable to high school students. “Neutral” contexts seemed to neither help nor hinder a student’s understanding of the target word. “Bad” contexts were misleading or deemed too difficult or obscure for a high school student to understand.