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**Do humans use episodic memory to solve a What-Where-When memory task?**

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4 **Do humans use episodic memory to solve a *What-Where-When***

5 **memory task?**

6

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24 **ABSTRACT** –*What-Where-When* (WWW) memory tasks have been used to study episodic(-like)  
25 memory in non-human animals. In this study, we investigate whether humans use episodic memory  
26 to solve such a WWW memory task. Participants are assigned to one of two treatments, in which  
27 they hide different coin types (*what*) in different locations (*where*) on two separate occasions  
28 (*when*). In the Active treatment, which mimics the animal situation as closely as possible,  
29 participants are instructed to memorize the WWW information; in the Passive treatment,  
30 participants are unaware of the fact that memory will be tested. In both groups, the majority of  
31 participants report using a mental time travel strategy to solve the task, and performance on a  
32 different episodic memory test significantly predicts performance on the WWW memory task. This  
33 suggests that the WWW memory task is a good test of episodic memory in humans. **Participants**  
34 **remember locations and coins from the first hiding session better than they do those of the second**  
35 **hiding session, suggesting their memories may be reinforced during the second hiding session. We**  
36 **also investigated how well episodic memory performance predicted performance on the three**  
37 **aspects of the WWW memory task separately.** In the Passive treatment, episodic memory  
38 performance predicts performance on all three aspects of the WWW memory task equally.  
39 However, in the Active treatment it only predicts performance on the *what* component. **This could**  
40 **imply that during active encoding a different memory system is used for *where* and *when***  
41 **information than during passive encoding. Encoding of *what* information seems to rely on episodic**  
42 **memory processing in both conditions.**

43

44 **Keywords:** What-where-when memory, episodic memory, episodic-like memory, active  
45 memorization, passive memorization, human participants, *Homo sapiens*

46

47 Episodic memory is the type of declarative memory we use to recall/re-experience specific events  
48 from our own personal history. Because the experience of episodic memory is explicitly tied in with  
49 (self-)consciousness, the question of whether non-human animals have episodic memory has been  
50 an active topic of debate in recent years (Crystal 2009). The first evidence to suggest that other  
51 animals might have a similar memory system came from a study in which Western Scrub Jays  
52 (*Aphelocoma californica*) were shown to remember which type of food they had hidden (*what*) in  
53 which location (*where*) and how long ago (*when*) (Clayton and Dickinson 1998). Remembering *what*  
54 happened, *where*, and *when* was part of the original definition of episodic memory in humans  
55 (Tulving 1972), and the performance on these tasks has therefore been termed “episodic-like”  
56 memory, because of the lack of evidence on the subjective experience of the animals. These  
57 findings have been further explored in a number of follow-up studies by the same group (e.g.  
58 Clayton et al. 2001; Clayton et al. 2003; de Kort et al. 2005), was recently replicated in two other  
59 food-hoarding species (the magpie *Pica pica* (Zinkivskay et al. 2009) and the black-capped chickadee  
60 *Poecile atricapillus* (Feeney et al. 2009)) and has led to related tasks in rats (*Rattus norvegicus*; Babb  
61 and Crystal 2005; Babb and Crystal 2006a; Babb and Crystal 2006b; Roberts et al. 2008) and rhesus  
62 macaques (*Macaca mulatta*; Hampton et al. 2005). In addition to these test based on Clayton and  
63 Dickinson’s (1998) task, other approaches have also been taken to explore episodic-like memory in  
64 non-human animals. These include a working memory version of a *what-where-when* task using an  
65 operant approach, which aims at exploring the integration of the three components in the episodic  
66 buffer of the working memory system (Hoffman et al. 2009; Skov-Rackette et al. 2006); a *what-*  
67 *where-which* task, which replaces the temporal context with a spatial context (Eacott et al. 2005);  
68 spontaneous recall of events from the previous day (Menzel 1999); and emphasis on the binding  
69 together of any combination of information about *what*, *where*, *when* and *who* (Schwartz and Evans  
70 2001).

71 There are, however, a number of factors that distinguish the food-hoarding birds' *What-Where-*  
72 *When* (WWW) memory task from typical episodic memory in humans. Firstly, there is of course the  
73 question of auto-noetic consciousness: part and parcel of human episodic memory is the subjective  
74 experience of travelling back in time and re-experiencing the memory in the awareness that this is  
75 something that happened to you personally in the past (Tulving 2001). As it is impossible for us to  
76 measure the subjective experience of other animals, the question of whether the animals  
77 experience their memories in the same way as humans has to remain open. Secondly, the *what*,  
78 *where* and *when* of the WWW memory task are not exactly equivalent to Tulving's (1972) original  
79 definition. Remembering *what* (an event) happened, *where* (in which spatial context) and *when* (in  
80 which temporal context) is not the same as remembering which item you hid in which particular  
81 location and how long ago. Finally, a common property of episodic memories is that information is  
82 being retrieved which, at the time of encoding, was not known to be needed in the future. In other  
83 words, most episodic memories are typically encoded passively, rather than actively. Actively  
84 memorized information may still be recalled using episodic memory, but it may also be moved to  
85 semantic memory (e.g. through rehearsal, such as in the case of studying for exams). Food-hoarding  
86 birds, theoretically, have a strong incentive to actively encode information about their hoards at the  
87 time of making these hoards (Feenders and Smulders 2008). Zentall et al. (2001) have argued that  
88 training animals to report on the three aspects of the WWW memory task may induce them to  
89 actively encode the information, and that this could lead to a semantic "knowing" (rather than  
90 "remembering") where and when which item was encountered (see also Feenders and Smulders  
91 2008; Roberts and Feeney 2009). It is unclear, therefore, whether the WWW memory task really  
92 does test (something equivalent to) episodic memory or not. In the current study, we aim to put this  
93 question to the test by investigating performance on the WWW memory task by the one species  
94 that is known to possess episodic memory: humans. The results should give us more insights into  
95 the cognitive mechanisms possibly being tested in other animals in similar tasks.

96 When the WWW memory task is used with other animals, there is always a certain amount of  
97 training involved. This training is not about the “episodic” information; that information is trial-  
98 unique. Instead, the training is about learning rules (“semantic” information) which allow us to  
99 determine whether the animals can indeed recall the relevant “episodic” information from any given  
100 trial. Because we can only observe the animals’ behaviour, we have to make sure in a typical WWW  
101 that they are motivated to only retrieve one particular type of food at one particular time after  
102 hiding. The scrub jays, for example, had to learn that worms went bad after a certain interval  
103 (Clayton and Dickinson 1998), and the magpies had to learn which colour of food was edible after  
104 which retention interval (Zinkivskay et al. 2009). Only after learning these rules, could they show us  
105 that they remembered where which food was hidden, and how long ago the hiding had happened.

106 For humans, however, this training is not necessary. We can ask humans directly to tell us which  
107 items were hidden in which locations and on which occasions. This not only means that experiments  
108 are shorter to run (no lengthy training), it also means that we can explore **more easily different**  
109 **aspects of the WWW memory task than we can in animals. Our measure of memory performance in**  
110 **animals is based on where they do and do not look. Therefore, it is difficult to get a good measure of**  
111 **the memory strength for items they are not supposed to search for, while it is also often difficult to**  
112 **ascertain whether an error is due to a misremembering of the *what, where* or *when* aspect of the**  
113 **task. In humans, we can simply ask them about all these aspects. Some of these things can of**  
114 **course be tested in animals, but only in tasks in which integration of the three components is not**  
115 **essential to solve the task**, as has been done with macaques and with pigeons (*Columba livia*;  
116 Hoffman et al. 2009; Skov-Rackette et al. 2006). Finally, with human participants, we can  
117 manipulate whether they actively encode the WWW information or not, by modifying the  
118 instructions given.

119 We therefore designed a WWW memory task for humans, which mimics as closely as possible the  
120 food-hoarding birds’ experience in a single given trial: the participants hide two types of items on

121 each of two separate occasions, and are then tested for their memory of *what* was hidden *where*,  
122 and *when*. In addition, they are also tested on a “real” test of episodic memory: unexpected  
123 questions about the context of each of the two hiding episodes that were irrelevant to the actual  
124 task (see Method and Appendix). To investigate the influence of active vs. passive encoding of the  
125 information, we had two groups: an Active group that mimics the birds’ situation closely (i.e. they  
126 knew that items would need to be retrieved in the future) and a Passive one that represented a  
127 more typical human episodic memory situation.

128

## 129 **METHOD**

130 Forty human participants (16 males and 24 females; 36 students between the ages of 18 to 23, 2  
131 non-students of similar age and 2 non-students of 56 and 57) participated in the study, which was  
132 approved by the School of Psychology internal ethics committee. Each participant underwent the  
133 same procedure, which was adapted from our magpie experiment (Zinkivskay et al. 2009), over  
134 three consecutive days. On Day 1, participants were asked to hide four low-value coins (2 pence)  
135 and four higher-value coins (20 pence) in a cluttered living room. On Day 2, they again hid four 2p  
136 and four 20p coins in different locations from those used on Day 1. To prevent the participants from  
137 verbally rehearsing the locations and their content while they were hiding them (something non-  
138 human animals cannot do), they continuously recited a nursery rhyme while performing the task  
139 (articulatory suppression; Hanley 1997). On Day 3, the participants were asked (using free recall in  
140 any order they preferred) where they had hidden which type of coin on which of the previous days.  
141 None of the coins were actually present on Day 3, but the participants were allowed to walk around  
142 the room.

143 Each participant was allocated to one of two conditions. The first participant was randomly  
144 allocated, and consequent participants were alternated between conditions. In the Active condition,



145 participants were told that they were hiding the coins for themselves to retrieve later, and that on  
146 Day 3, they would get to keep the first 5 coins for which they correctly recalled the  
147 coin/location/occasion combination. This gave them an incentive to pay attention to coin type while  
148 hiding them, and on Day 3, to list the locations and occasions of the 20p coins first. In the Passive  
149 condition, participants were told they were hiding the coins for someone else. On Day 3, all  
150 participants were given the same instructions: to list all the coins that they had hidden, including  
151 their locations and the days on which they had been hidden. They were also told (or reminded) that  
152 they would get paid the value of the first 5 coins for which they correctly recalled all three aspects.  
153 No feedback was given until they had finished listing all the coins they remembered. Additionally,  
154 the participants were presented with a set of questions about the context of each of the two hiding  
155 sessions (henceforth “episodic memory questions”). The same 16 questions were asked about each  
156 session, for a total of 32 answers given (see appendix). Because each question was asked specifically  
157 and separately about each of the two hiding episodes, a general memory of e.g. having seen a guitar  
158 or having seen the TV on is not enough to answer the question correctly. It has to be linked to the  
159 specific episode about which the question was asked. We manipulated the room in such a way that  
160 for many of the questions, the correct answer for Day 1 was different from the correct answer for  
161 Day 2. We believe that these questions tap into our real everyday experience of episodic memory,  
162 unlike list learning, which has been shown not to correlate with people’s real-world experience of  
163 episodic memory performance (Plancher et al. 2008). Finally, we asked the participants to describe  
164 how they had recalled the information. We explicitly asked them whether they “remembered  
165 themselves moving around the room and placing the coins in the different places on the two days”  
166 or whether they “just knew where the coins were”. The former was classified as “episodic” and the  
167 latter as “semantic”.

168 We calculated the proportion of correctly recalled coin/location/occasion combinations out of **the**  
169 **maximum number of correct responses (8 for 1 day, 16 for both days together)**. We also calculated

170 the proportion of correctly recalled locations (regardless of whether the other two aspects were  
171 correct) out of the maximum possible correct responses. Sometimes, the participants claimed to  
172 have hidden a coin in a location where they in fact never did hide a coin. In such cases, it is usually  
173 not possible to identify which correct site they meant. Therefore, for those occasions, we were not  
174 able to score whether they recalled the correct coin or correct occasion for that location. The  
175 proportions of correct coin types and correct occasions were therefore calculated for the correctly  
176 recalled locations only. Finally, we calculated the proportion of correctly answered episodic memory  
177 questions out of 32 (or 16 for one day). All proportions were arcsine-square root transformed and  
178 analyzed using the General Linear Model in SPSS 15.0<sup>®</sup> for Windows. We used an alpha-level of  
179 0.05. All results are presented as means  $\pm$  standard error of the mean.

180

## 181 RESULTS

182 Eighteen participants in each condition won the maximum amount possible (£1.00) by first listing 5  
183 completely correct locations and occasions for 20p coins. The other two participants in the Active  
184 condition received 82p (i.e. their first 5 correct answers included one about a 2p coin), while in the  
185 Passive condition, one received 82p and the other 64p. All participants performed above chance on  
186 all aspects of the task: correct coin/location/occasion combination, correct coin, correct occasion,  
187 correct location and the episodic memory task (one-sample t-tests comparing to 50% correct, all  $p$ -  
188 values  $<0.0005$ ). Participants in the Active treatment did better across the board (i.e. on all aspects  
189 of the task combined) than those in the Passive treatment (RM ANOVA, between-subject factor  
190  $F_{1,38}=4.51$ ,  $p=0.040$ ). In both treatments, participants performed best (i.e. got a higher proportion of  
191 answers correct) on the “where” and “when” aspects of the task, next best on the “what” aspect,  
192 and worst on the episodic memory questions (RM ANOVA, within-subject factor  $F_{3,36}=32.69$ ,  
193  $p<0.0005$ ). There was no significant interaction between treatment and which aspect of

194 performance was measured ( $F_{3,36}=0.877$ ,  $p=0.462$ ; Fig. 1). The variances of the four performance  
195 measures were not significantly different between the two treatments (Levene's tests for equality of  
196 variance: all  $p>0.1$ ).

197 On Day 3, participants in both groups remembered more correct WWW combinations from Day 1  
198 than from Day 2 (RM ANOVA: Day:  $F_{1,38}=18.83$ ,  $p<0.0005$ ; Day\*Group interaction:  $F_{1,38}=0.219$ ,  
199  $p=0.643$ ; Fig. 2). This difference seems mainly due to a difference in memory for locations and a  
200 difference in memory for coins. Participants in both groups remembered more locations and more  
201 coins from Day 1 than from Day 2 (locations: Day:  $F_{1,38}=11.77$ ,  $p=0.001$ ; Day\*Group interaction:  
202  $F_{1,38}=0.021$ ,  $p=0.885$ ; coins: Day:  $F_{1,38}=11.88$ ,  $p=0.001$ ; Day\*Group interaction:  $F_{1,38}=0.486$ ,  $p=0.490$ ).  
203 There was no difference in how well they remembered the occasion for the two days (Day:  
204  $F_{1,38}=0.795$ ,  $p=0.378$ ; Day\*Group interaction:  $F_{1,38}=0.664$ ,  $p=0.420$ ), nor for the episodic memory  
205 questions (Day:  $F_{1,38}=0.008$ ,  $p=0.929$ ; Day\*Group interaction:  $F_{1,38}=0.727$ ,  $p=0.399$ ).

206 To test whether performance on the WWW task was predicted by the performance on the episodic  
207 memory questions, we ran a general linear model (GLM) with the proportion of correct  
208 coin/location/occasion combinations as the dependent variable, treatment as the independent  
209 variable, and episodic memory performance as the co-variate. We found that performance on the  
210 episodic memory questions positively predicted performance on the WWW task ( $F_{1,36}=16.54$ ,  
211  $p<0.0005$ ). When controlling for performance on the episodic memory questions, there was no  
212 difference in WWW performance between the two conditions ( $F_{1,36}=0.12$ ,  $p=0.730$ ), and episodic  
213 memory performance predicted WWW performance equally well in both conditions (Interaction:  
214  $F_{1,36}=0.24$ ,  $p=0.629$ ; Fig. 3). The large majority of participants in both conditions reported using an  
215 episodic (i.e. mental time travel) strategy for retrieving the information: 18/20 participants in the  
216 Active condition, and 17/20 for the Passive condition. This is significantly higher than expected by  
217 chance ( $\chi^2_1=22.5$ ,  $p<0.0001$ ), and is not significantly different between the two treatments ( $\chi^2_1=0.23$ ,  
218  $p=0.63$ ).

219 We then compared the performance on the three separate aspects of WWW (i.e. coin (*what*),  
220 location (*where*) and occasion (*when*)) to each other and related performance on these separate  
221 aspects to episodic memory performance, using a repeated-measures analysis with coin vs. location  
222 vs. occasion as the within-subjects factor, treatment as the between-subjects factor and episodic  
223 memory performance as the co-variate. As we saw before, significantly more mistakes were made  
224 with respect to the type of coin than with respect to the location or the occasion ( $F_{2,35}=7.23$ ,  
225  $p=0.002$ ; LSD post-hoc tests). We again found that those who performed well on the episodic  
226 memory questions performed well on all three aspects of the WWW task ( $F_{1,36}=10.00$ ,  $p=0.003$ ), and  
227 that there was no difference between the two treatments in overall performance ( $F_{1,36}=0.38$ ,  
228  $p=0.544$ ), nor an interaction between treatment and episodic memory performance on overall  
229 performance ( $F_{1,36}=0.21$ ,  $p=0.653$ ). We did, however, find that episodic memory performance  
230 differentially predicted performance on the different aspects of the WWW task (task \* episodic  
231 memory performance interaction:  $F_{2,35}=5.60$ ,  $p=0.008$ ), and that the extent of the between-  
232 treatment differences differed for the three aspects of the WWW task (task \* treatment interaction:  
233  $F_{2,35}=3.37$ ,  $p=0.046$ ). We also found a significant three-way task\*treatment\*episodic memory  
234 interaction ( $F_{2,35}=3.47$ ,  $p=0.042$ ).

235 In order to explore the two- and three-way interactions with treatment, we analyzed the two  
236 treatments separately. For participants in the Passive condition, episodic memory performance  
237 predicted performance on all three aspects of the WWW task equally well (main effect:  $F_{1,18}=8.75$ ,  
238  $p=0.008$ ; task \* episodic memory performance interaction:  $F_{2,17}=0.16$ ,  $p=0.853$ ). When controlling  
239 for episodic memory performance, there was no difference in performance between the *what*,  
240 *where*, and *when* aspects of the task ( $F_{2,17}=0.43$ ,  $p=0.658$ ; Fig. 4a). For participants in the Active  
241 condition, however, there was no significant overall effect of episodic memory performance  
242 ( $F_{1,18}=3.12$ ,  $p=0.094$ ), but the effect was significantly different for the three aspects of the WWW  
243 memory (task \* episodic memory performance interaction:  $F_{2,17}=9.50$ ,  $p=0.002$ ). Performance on the

244 *where* and *when* components was better than on the *what* component ( $F_{2,17}=10.65$ ,  $p=0.001$ ; LSD  
245 post-hoc tests). Episodic memory performance strongly and positively predicted performance on  
246 the *what* aspect of the WWW task ( $F_{1,18}=27.00$ ,  $p<0.0005$ ;  $\beta=0.775$ ), but not on the *when* ( $F_{1,18}=0.71$ ,  
247  $p=0.410$ ;  $\beta=0.195$ ) or *where* ( $F_{1,18}=1.31$ ,  $p=0.267$ ;  $\beta=-0.261$ ) aspects (Fig. 4b).

248

## 249 DISCUSSION

250 Performance on our “real-world” episodic memory task significantly predicted the performance on  
251 the WWW task, suggesting strongly that human participants used episodic memory to solve our  
252 WWW memory task. This was also borne out in the debriefing, when most participants agreed to  
253 having used a strategy that was consistent with mental time travel. This was the case for both the  
254 Active and the Passive treatments. Participants in the Active treatment slightly outperformed those  
255 in the Passive treatment across all different aspects of performance. Interestingly, this included the  
256 performance on the episodic memory questions, of which neither group was aware at the time of  
257 memory encoding. This suggests that instructing people to memorize the details of the WWW  
258 memory task generally increased their attention and/or awareness of the context in which the task  
259 took place, slightly improving episodic memory for the whole event. These results suggest that the  
260 WWW memory task is indeed a good test of episodic memory in species that have episodic memory.  
261 We are currently testing how performance on this test relates to other, more traditional cognitive  
262 and memory tasks. Our results do not, of course, prove that other animals also use episodic  
263 memory to solve the task, but if they could, this task would be a good measure of their episodic  
264 memory performance.

265 Interestingly, participants found it easier to recall details of which coins were hidden in which  
266 locations on the first day of the experiment than on the second day (a primacy effect). This finding is  
267 inconsistent with a temporal decay of the memory traces, as they remembered the older

268 information better than the newer information. Instead, we suggest three non-mutually-exclusive  
269 hypotheses to explain this finding. Firstly, it is possible that the information from Day 1 interfered  
270 with the information from Day 2. On Day 1, the experience of the room and of hiding items in the  
271 room was unique and never-before-experienced. However, on Day 2, they had already experienced  
272 the same situation once before, and this may have interfered with accurate retrieval of this  
273 information. We think this explanation is less likely to be the correct one, since such interference  
274 should lead especially to mistakes in the *when* component of the task (i.e. assigning items to the  
275 wrong occasion), which we did not detect. The second possibility is that information encoded on Day  
276 1 had longer to consolidate (e.g. during sleep), because 2 nights had passed, whereas only 1 night  
277 had passed since Day 2. Finally, it is possible that the information from Day 1 was retrieved and  
278 reinforced during the hiding session on Day 2, possibly being used in order to avoid placing the new  
279 coins in the same locations as the day before. This would mainly apply to the *what* and *where*  
280 information, which is exactly what we see in our results. Only further experiments could distinguish  
281 between these different hypotheses.

282 Running this task with humans allowed us to test participants' memories for the different aspects of  
283 the WWW memory task separately and relate them to episodic memory performance, something  
284 that cannot be done in the animal versions of this task. Episodic memory performance predicted  
285 performance on all three aspects of the WWW memory task in the Passive treatment group. This  
286 suggests to us that people who did not actively encode the information about which coin type was  
287 hidden where and when, rely on episodic memory (i.e. mental time travel back to the hiding  
288 occasions) to recall all three aspects of the task. In the Active treatment, however, episodic memory  
289 performance only predicted performance on the *what* aspect of the WWW task, but not on the  
290 other two aspects. There are a number of possible (non-exclusive) explanations for this. Firstly,  
291 because participants in the Active group performed worse on the *what* than on the other two  
292 aspects of the task, and because they overall performed slightly better than those in the Passive

293 group, it is possible that the performance on the *where* and *when* aspects of the task was so close to  
294 ceiling in the Active group that there was not enough variability to find a significant correlation with  
295 the episodic memory performance. We could not find a significant difference in the variance  
296 between the two treatments, but this explanation (essentially a ceiling effect affecting the  
297 regression analysis) cannot be excluded, nevertheless. Future versions of the task could be made  
298 more difficult by increasing the number of locations/items to be remembered. A second possibility  
299 is that the participants in the Active condition used a specific hiding strategy that would make it  
300 easier to remember the *where* and *when* components (but not the *what* component). For example,  
301 they could have only used a certain type of hiding places on day 1, and another type on day 2. Given  
302 that the improvement in performance in the Active vs. the Passive condition is no more for the  
303 *where* and *when* components than for the *what* component, this explanation is also not very likely to  
304 be true. The final possible explanation of this pattern is that when instructed to actively encode  
305 information in memory, a different or additional non-episodic (potentially semantic) memory system  
306 is used to encode and retrieve *when* and *where* information. This same system apparently was not  
307 used for the *what* component, requiring the participants to rely on an episodic memory strategy to  
308 successfully complete the whole task. **Future studies will test the idea that other memory systems  
309 are involved in different aspects of this task.**

310 In both conditions, people had more difficulty remembering the type of coin they hid than the  
311 occasion on which it was hidden or the places where they did the hiding. We used money as the  
312 objects to hide because it has intrinsic value to them and its value is well known to the participants.  
313 In previous attempts at running this task with humans, we did not let the participants keep any  
314 money, and the performance on the *what* aspect of the task was at chance level (unpublished). The  
315 incentive of keeping the money seems to have made the participants try harder to recall the  
316 information. The low performance on the *what* aspect of the WWW task, and the fact that in the  
317 Active group, this is the only aspect of performance predicted by the episodic memory performance,

318 suggest that the coins are more difficult to recall than the other two aspects of the task. This could  
319 be because the coins are only seen for a brief amount of time during the hiding phase, unlike the  
320 locations (which remain visible throughout) and the occasion (which remains the same throughout  
321 the whole session); or because of possible interference with all the other times in their lives when  
322 they have handled and seen these types of coins. It is also possible that the fact that both coin types  
323 had some kind of positive value made a difference. In the typical animal versions of this task, the  
324 choice is between something valuable (food) and something valueless. In our version, however,  
325 both items had intrinsic value upon retrieval (be it different in quantity). Increasing the difference in  
326 value between the two coin types, or even giving one of them a negative value, might have  
327 improved performance. Along the same lines, the amounts of money involved are very small. Just  
328 increasing the absolute value of the reward may improve performance.

329 We therefore conclude that humans, at least, use episodic memory to successfully solve the WWW  
330 memory task. However, depending on the conditions at the time of memory encoding, some  
331 aspects of the task may be solved using additional or different memory systems. The aspect of the  
332 task that is most dependent on the episodic memory system is the identity of the items placed in  
333 particular locations. It seems, therefore, that the most robustly episodic aspect of the WWW  
334 memory task may be linking objects to locations, and not the addition of a temporal aspect to the  
335 task. This is interesting, given the emphasis that has been placed on these temporal components in  
336 the last 10 years (Babb and Crystal 2005; Babb and Crystal 2006a; Babb and Crystal 2006b; Clayton  
337 and Dickinson 1998; Naqshbandi et al. 2007; Roberts et al. 2008; Zhou and Crystal 2009; but see  
338 Eacott et al. 2005; Easton and Eacott 2008). It might be interesting to validate other putative tests  
339 of episodic-like memory in a similar manner.

340



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346 **FIGURE CAPTIONS**

347 **Fig. 1** Performance for both groups is higher on the *where* and *when* aspects than on the *what*  
348 aspect of the WWW memory task. Performance on the episodic memory questions is lower than  
349 that on the WWW memory task. Additionally, participants in the Active treatment slightly  
350 outperformed those on the Passive treatment on all four measures of performance combined. The  
351 measures of performance are the arcsine square-root transformed proportion of correct responses.  
352 Error bars represent the Standard Error of the Mean.

353

354 **Fig. 2** Performance for all participants on the overall WWW memory task, as well as on the *where*  
355 and *what* aspects of that task, is significantly higher when it comes to remembering what happened  
356 on Day 1 compared to Day 2. There is no significant difference for remembering *when* or for the  
357 episodic memory questions. The measures of performance are the arcsine square-root transformed  
358 proportion of correct responses. Error bars represent the Standard Error of the Mean.

359

360 **Fig. 3** Performance on the episodic memory task significantly predicts overall performance (i.e.  
361 getting *what*, *where* AND *when* correct for a given location) on the WWW memory task in both  
362 treatment groups. There is no significant difference in the slope of these two regression lines. The  
363 measures of performance are the arcsine square-root transformed proportion of correct responses.

364

365 **Fig. 4** Performance on the three different components of the *what-where-when* memory task relates  
366 to performance on the episodic memory test in different ways depending on the treatment. **a.** In  
367 the Passive condition, performance on *what*, *where* and *when* components are equally predicted by  
368 performance on the episodic memory task. **b.** In the Active condition, only performance on the

369 *what* component is significantly predicted by performance on the episodic memory task, while *when*  
370 and *where* components are not. (Symbols: open squares and black interrupted line: *what*; closed  
371 circles and black continuous line: *when*; grey crosses and grey interrupted line: *where*). The  
372 measures of performance are the arcsine square-root transformed proportion of correct responses.  
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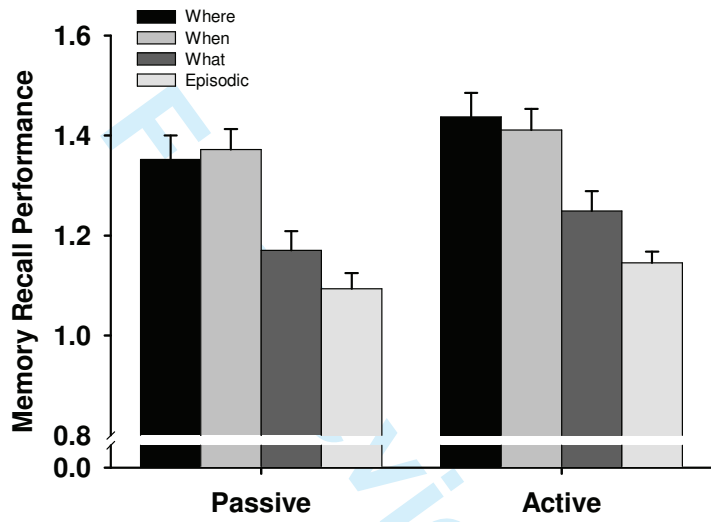
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450 Figure 1



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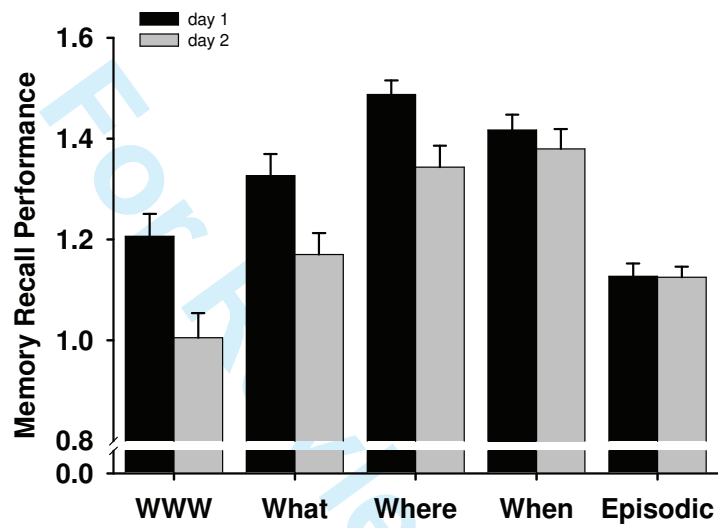
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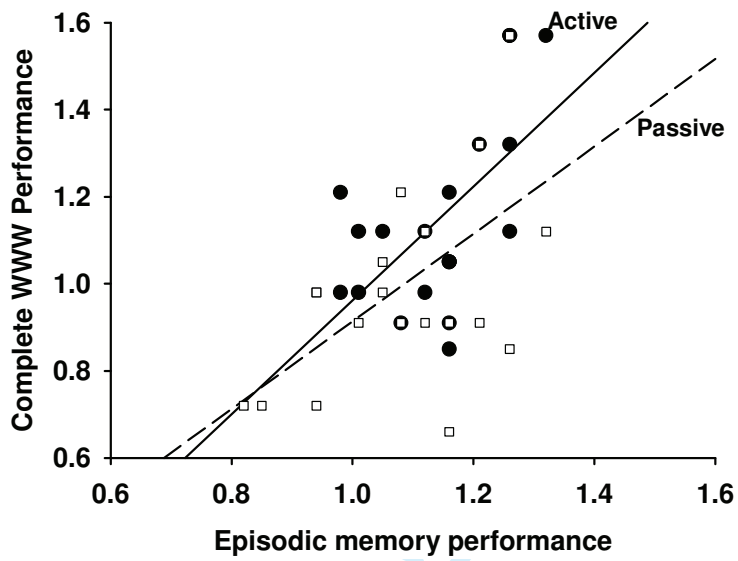
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475 Figure 3

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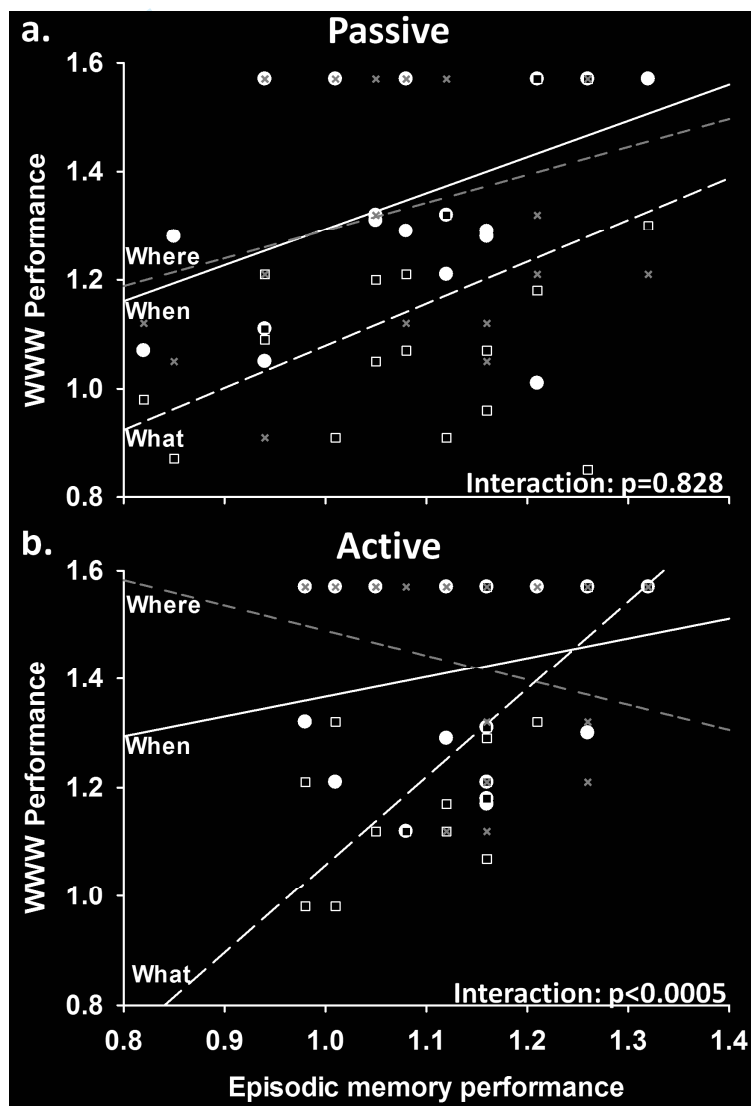


Figure 4

496 Appendix: Episodic memory questions

497 All these questions were asked twice: once referring to the first hiding episode and once to the  
498 second hiding episode. Some of these were manipulated so that they were correct on day one but  
499 not day two and vice versa. Others may have been correct on both or neither day. In order to  
500 answer correctly, it is therefore important to mentally go back to the relevant episode.

- 501 1) Was it raining when you came to the house?
- 502 2) Was there a bike in the hallway?
- 503 3) Were there letters and fliers on the floor by the front door?
- 504 4) Were there coats on the coat rack in the hallway?
- 505 5) Was the living room door open?
- 506 6) Was the window in the living room open?
- 507 7) Was the television on when you first entered the room?
- 508 8) Was the kitchen door open?
- 509 9) Was there a rug on the floor in the centre of the room?
- 510 10) Were there other people in the house?
- 511 11) Was the light on in the living room when you first came?
- 512 12) Was the light on in the hallway when you first came?
- 513 13) Was there a poster on the wall behind the television?
- 514 14) Was the door on the left, before the living room open?
- 515 15) Was there a games console on the floor in front of the television?
- 516 16) Was there a guitar by the sofa near the window?

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