

**Table S1.** Descriptives of 11 lecture videos.

NO.	Topic	Area	Video type	Familiarity <sup>a</sup>	Difficulty <sup>a</sup>	Familiarity <sup>b</sup>	Difficulty <sup>b</sup>
1*	Venus	science	PV	3.21	2.47	2.29	2.70
2*	Volcano	science	VV	3.63	2.47	2.92	2.65
3	Rosetta stone	history	VV	1.37	2.16	1.38	2.94
4	Medici	history	PV	1.95	2.05	1.91	2.18
5	Copper age	history	AV	1.58	2.63	1.56	2.59
6	The sound and the fury	literature	PV	2.42	2.26	1.56	3.06
7	Isabel Allende	literature	AV	1.42	2.05	1.58	2.41
8	Malin Kundang <sup>c</sup>	literature	VV	1.26	1.58	1.42	2.00
9	Rhizanthella gardneri <sup>d</sup>	science	PV	1.31	2.15	1.50	2.56
10	Balinese tiger	science	AV	1.95	1.79	1.76	2.30
11	Permafrost	science	VV	2.16	2.42	2.53	2.67

AV: the audio-video condition; PV: the picture-video condition; VV: the video-video condition; \* used as practice; <sup>a</sup> rated by 20 Chinese students who did not participate in the study; <sup>b</sup> rated by the 64 participants in the eye-tracking experiment; <sup>c</sup> a folk tale in Southeast Asia; <sup>d</sup> an entirely subterranean mycoheterotrophic orchid.