A Appendix: sentence stimuli

Sentences were constructed to either be ambiguous (without comma) or unambiguous (with comma). The noun phrase directly preceding the disambiguating verb *has to* was either singular (without an s) or plural (with an s). The slashes “/” in the sentences indicate the areas of interest that were analysed in the eye-tracking experiment.

1. After Adam phoned(,) the clerk of the manager(s) / has to / finish the / paperwork.
2. While Sally assisted(,) the lawyer of the client(s) / has to / find the / documents.
3. When Frank helped(,) the supplier of the grocer(s) / has to / ask for / more money.
4. After Jane interviewed(,) the representative of the councillor(s) / has to / get more / information.
5. After Ann heckled(,) the follower of the preacher(s) / has to / leave the / building.
6. After Will advised(,) the assistant of the scientist(s) / has to / resolve / a bad situation.
7. After Joe overtook(,) the chauffeur of the shopkeeper(s) / has to / brake all / of a sudden.
8. When Lee taught(,) the student of the teacher(s) / has to / listen / to the recordings.
9. After Kate investigated(,) the relative of the witness(es) / has to / deal with / the proceedings.
10. When Boris kissed(,) the intern of the accountant(s) / has to / think about / the repercussions.
11. While Ben followed(,) the solicitor of the actor(s) / has to / find the / documents.
12. After Jessica interrogated(,) the accomplice of the criminal(s) / has to / go directly / to court.
13. When Al attacked(,) the bodyguard of the dancer(s) / has to / find an / escape route.
14. After Ian monitored(,) the co-worker of the mechanic(s) / has to / vacuum / the carpet.
15. As Juliet approached(,) the nurse of the patient(s) / has to / welcome / the visitors.
16. While Tom sketched(,) the trainee of the painter(s) / has to / prepare / the materials.
17. After Jane left(,) the detective of the tycoon(s) / has to / write down / the conversation.
18. After Chris supervised(,) the employee of the manager(s) / has to / organise / the papers.
19. As Dan cursed(,) the helper of the technician(s) / has to / correct / the mistake.
20. While Jen checked(,) the apprentice of the architect(s) / has to / find faults / in the plans.
21. While Matthew watched(,) the teammate of the player(s) / has to / control / the set-piece.
22. After Juan booed(,) the admirer of the artist(s) / has to / ignore / the outburst.
23. When Shirley interrupted(,) the fan of the singer(s) / has to / stop playing / the record.
24. As Alex called(,) the secretary of the executive(s) / has to / work on / the important files.
25. After Virginia answered(,) the cousin of the farmer(s) / has to / think it / all over again.
26. When Laura paid(,) the associate of the executive(s) / has to / open a / new account.
27. While Jim inspected(,) the superior of the soldier(s) / has to / review / the formation.
28. Before Dave left(,) the chauffeur of the millionaire(s) / has to / go to the / city centre.
29. After Peter cheated(,) the client of the agent(s) / has to / focus on / minor details.
30. While Emily served(,) the companion of the hiker(s) / has to / look for / the toilets.
31. When Michael counselled(,) the prisoner of the warden(s) / has to / formulate / an appeal.
32. When Jacob chased(,) the robber of the pensioner(s) / has to / jump out / of the window.
33. After Anna rang(,) the collaborator of the researcher(s) / has to / meet with / the professor.
34. When Claire visited(,) the examiner of the graduate(s) / has to / think about / the marks.
35. While Charlie painted(,) the friend of the artist(s) / has to / look at / the picture.
36. While Frank applauded(,) the critic of the performer(s) / has to / write down / some comments.
37. When Dick questioned(,) the killer of the teenager(s) / has to / admit to / the awful truth.
38. While Bernard coached(,) the instructor of the gymnast(s) / has to / perform / the routine.
39. After Steve attacked(,) the pilot of the passenger(s) / has to / perform an / emergency landing.
40. Before James examined(,) the mentor of the speaker(s) / has to / revise / the argumentation.