

Interference from reversed anagram primes:
Another source of inhibition in word recognition?

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Still and Morris (2008) found interference for word targets preceded by reversed anagrams (*yadl*–*lady*) in a lexical decision task. To further investigate this finding, three experiments were conducted using prime exposure durations of 24, 36, and 48 msec. In addition to reversed anagrams, bigram anagrams (*alyd*–*lady*), neighbors (*ludy*–*lady*), and identity primes (*lady*–*lady*) were examined for both low- and high-frequency targets. The results varied by orthographic similarity, target frequency, and prime exposure duration. Significant interference was found for low-frequency, reversed anagram targets for each prime exposure duration. Interestingly, marginally significant facilitation was found for high-frequency, reversed anagram targets with a 24-msec prime exposure duration. No effects were found for bigram anagrams. Significant facilitation was found for low-frequency neighbor targets, but only with a 36-msec prime exposure duration. The consistent finding of interference for reversed anagrams suggests the presence of an additional inhibitory process during the early stages of word recognition.