

[Cognition](#)

[Volume 118, Issue 1](#), January 2011, Pages 123–129

Do English and Mandarin speakers think about time differently?

- [Lera Boroditsky](#) 

Abstract

Time is a fundamental domain of experience. In this paper we ask whether aspects of language and culture affect how people think about this domain. Specifically, we consider whether English and Mandarin speakers think about time differently. We review all of the available evidence both for and against this hypothesis, and report new data that further support and refine it. The results demonstrate that English and Mandarin speakers do think about time differently. As predicted by patterns in language, Mandarin speakers are more likely than English speakers to think about time vertically (with earlier time-points above and later time-points below).