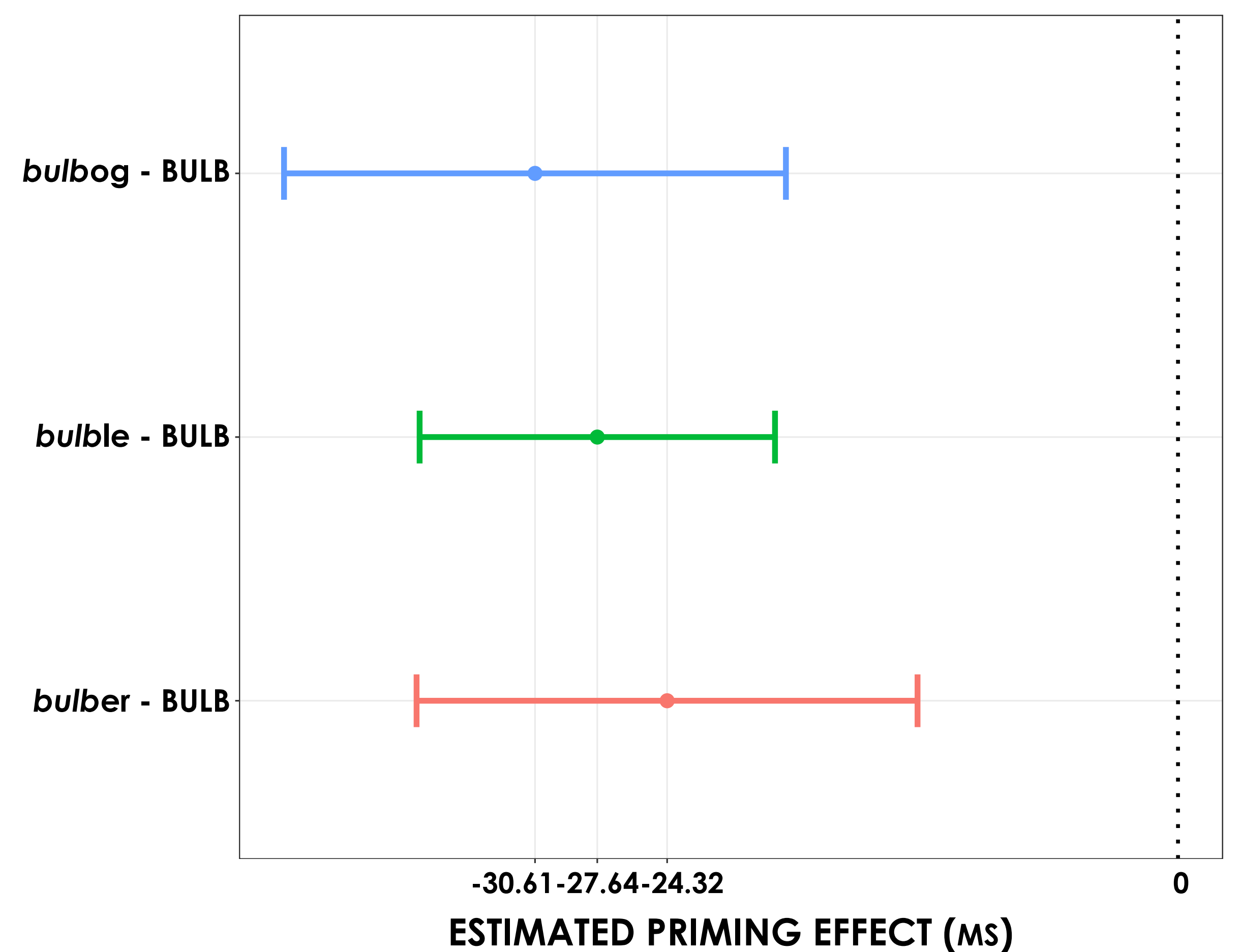


BACKGROUND

Masked priming shows that morphologically complex stimuli (e.g., dealer-DEAL) elicit priming effects, regardless of their genuine morphological status (e.g., corner-CORN)¹ or lexicality (e.g., bulber-BULB)². The effect is supposedly triggered³ or boosted⁴ by the presence of an affix, resulting in a lack of facilitation for stimuli composed of a stem and a non-morphological letter-chunk (e.g., cashew-CASH).

Can affix frequency account for morpho-orthographic decomposition?

	NONWORD PRIMES		
	bulber BULB	bulble BULB	bulbog BULB
LETTER CLUSTER MEANING	+	-	-
LETTER CLUSTER FREQUENCY	+	+	-



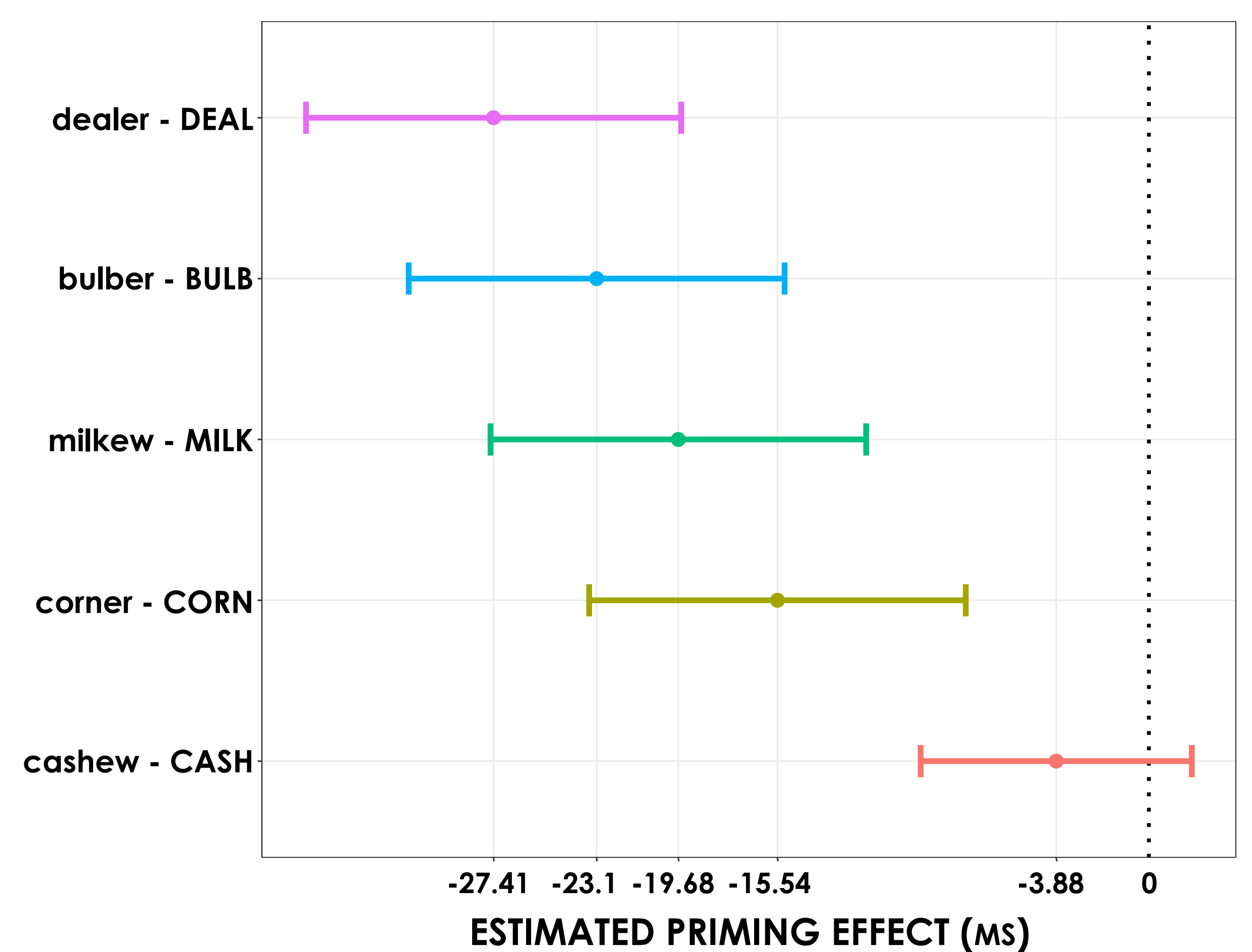
Masked priming lexical decision task.

50 ms prime duration; 56 subjects; 78 target words.

Strong **priming**, as indicated by a main effect of relatedness ($F(1, 3953.2)=88.240, p<0.001$), but no significant interaction with condition ($F(2, 3953.6)=0.075, p=0.92$).

Do affixes play a key role during morpho-orthographic decomposition?

	WORD PRIMES			NONWORD PRIMES	
	dealer DEAL	corner CORN	cashew CASH	bulber BULB	milkew MILK
MORPHO-SEMANTICS	+	-	-	-	-
AFFIX PRESENCE	+	+	-	+	-
	LEXICAL COMPETITION			NO LEXICAL COMPETITION	



Masked priming lexical decision task.

50 ms prime duration; 102 subjects; 130 target words.

Main effects of **relatedness** ($F(1, 11902.9)=261.57, p<0.001$), **condition** ($F(4, 122.2)=2.90, p=0.02$) and a significant **interaction** between the two ($F(4, 11902.8)=15.30, p<0.001$). Post hoc analyses show a graded pattern of facilitation, with the exception of the cashew-CASH items.

CONCLUSIONS

- **Affix frequency** does not drive morpho-orthographic decomposition.
- **The presence of affixes** does not always imply stronger priming, challenging the traditional theories of morpho-orthographic decomposition^{3,4}.
- **Word primes** and **nonword primes** elicit comparable priming effects, questioning the role of lexical competition.

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