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Recency Effect

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Definition

The recency effect is the tendency for individuals without neurological impairment to show enhanced memory for items presented at the end of a list relative to items presented in the middle of the list. Immediately after presentation, items presented at the end of a list can be retrieved from short-term or primary memory. The recency

effect, therefore, is characterized by features of short-term memory ability such as susceptibility to interference and rapid decay. The recency effect is part of the larger serial position effect.

Cross-References

- ▶ [Primacy Effect](#)
- ▶ [Serial Position Effects](#)

References and Readings

Tulving, E., & Craik, F. I. M. (Eds.). (2000). *The Oxford handbook of memory*. New York: Oxford University Press.