

The fox is afraid: evidence for items and generalizations
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Language is at once impressively repetitive and impressively creative. This presentation will report corpus and experimental studies that focus on the restricted distribution of adjectives such as *asleep*, *aware* and *afraid*. The behavior of this class of adjectives provides evidence of both our detailed item-specific knowledge and our tendency to generalize this knowledge.

These adjectives are also interesting in that they highlight an effect of phonology on syntax, and an important role for historical persistence in synchronic grammar.