Understanding word learning with computational models

Psychologists and linguists believe infants can recognize many words even before they begin to talk...

How do they learn all these words? Words can run together...

Researchers have different theories about the clues that babies use:

**Stress:** most words have only one stress, on the first syllable:

But words like *a* or *the* rarely get stressed, and some words break the rules...

**Repetition:** patterns that occur over and over might be words:

**Sound patterns:** some sounds can't occur at the beginnings or ends of words:

How far can these simple cues get you? What’s still missing?

Try the demo to see how stress and repetition help discover words!

How can we tell what words a baby knows—before they start talking?

Babies who know the word *cup* will look at the right picture more often...

Words run together, and it's hard to hear where they begin and end. Babies learn words despite these potential mishearings...but how do they do it?

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The stress rule says words should have only one stress (one big red dot)!

Click to split into two words.