Degree Of Fear In English Language Tweets

Instructions ▲

I. General Instructions

- Attempt these questions only if you are a native speaker of English.

- Your responses are confidential. Any publications based on these responses will not include your specific responses, but rather aggregate information from many individuals. We will not ask any information that can be used to identify who you are.

- The questions in this task involve reading English language tweets. Since the tweets used here are a sampling of those on Twitter, a small number of them may be offensive and/or use coarse language. You can attempt these questions even if you are not familiar with tweets. Tweets are usually a sentence or two long. They may include some special characters such as:

  - '@' indicating a particular username (person) -- for example, @BarackObama.

  - '#' indicating a topic or emotion or some other information relevant to the rest of the text -- for example, #OccupyWallStreet or #happy.

  - '\n' indicating that a new sentence begins from here. (Consider this to be the same as a period '.')

II. The Task

The scale of fear can range from not fearful at all (zero amount of fear) to extremely fearful. One can often infer the degree of fear felt or expressed by a person from what they say. The goal of this task is to determine this degree of fear. Since it is hard to give a numerical score indicating the degree of fear, we will give you four different tweets and ask you to indicate to us:

- Which of the four speakers is likely to be the MOST FEARFUL (or having a mental state most inclined towards fear), and

- Which of the four speakers is likely to be the LEAST FEARFUL (or having a mental state least inclined towards fear).

Purpose of this Task: Your responses will be used to train an automatic system (computer program) that can determine the degree of fear in tweets.

Broad Fear Category

Consider fear to be a broad category that includes feelings such as:

- anxiety
- apprehension
- concern
- foreboding
- horror
- jitters
- misgiving
- panic

That is, all feelings that can reasonably be assumed to involve some non-zero amount of fear. Sometimes a person might be primarily feeling a different emotion (such as sadness or disappointment), yet you have to judge whether the person is also likely to have some non-zero amount of fear.

Tweets Indicative of Fear

The tweets may involve:
- explicit expressions of fear
- expressions of criticism, negative sentiment, disapproval, etc. of some entity (object, person, etc) from which one can infer that the speaker is likely to be feeling a non-zero amount of fear
- some information that allows one to infer that the speaker is likely to be feeling a non-zero amount of fear

Important Notes

- We say 'likely' in the instructions above to indicate that you do not have to be 100% certain that the speaker is fearful. If upon hearing this tweet, most people will infer that the speaker is fearful, then consider the speaker to be fearful.

- This task is about fear levels of the speaker (and not about the fear of someone else mentioned or spoken to).

- If the answer could be either one of two or more speakers (i.e., they are likely to be equally fearful), then select any one of them as the answer.

- Most importantly, try not to over-think the answer. Let your instinct guide you.

Examples

EXAMPLE 1

Speaker 1: Someone stole my photo on tmblr #grrr
Speaker 2: If the teachers are this incompetent, I am afraid what the results will be.
Speaker 3: Results of the medical test later today #terrified
Speaker 4: Having to speak in front of so many people is making me nervous.

Q1. Which of the four speakers is likely to be the MOST FEARFUL (or having a mental state most inclined towards fear)

- Speaker 1
- Speaker 2
- Speaker 3
- Speaker 4

Ans: Speaker 3.

Q2. Which of the four speakers is likely to be the LEAST FEARFUL (or having a mental state least inclined towards fear)

- Speaker 1
- Speaker 2
- Speaker 3
- Speaker 4

Ans: Speaker 1.

EXAMPLE 2

Speaker 1: Happy to be home during the holidays.
Speaker 2: Anxious about having to take a flight during the winter storm.
Speaker 3: He was nervous about taking a flight in the busy Christmas break.
Speaker 4: Watching netflix with Yana.

Q1. Which of the four speakers is likely to be the MOST FEARFUL (or having a mental state most inclined towards fear)

- Speaker 1
- Speaker 2
- Speaker 3
- Speaker 4

Ans: Speaker 2.

Q2. Which of the four speakers is likely to be the LEAST FEARFUL (or having a mental state least inclined towards fear)

- Speaker 1
- Speaker 2
- Speaker 3
- Speaker 4

Ans: Speakers 1 or Speaker 4.

Speaker 1: i'm... nervous about this test rip
Speaker 2: If the future doesn't fill you with existential dread are you even a real person
Speaker 3: Some of these fb comments and/or tweets should make some people realize why black Americans feel the way they do 😳 #terrible
Speaker 4: Fingers crossed I can finish all my work early enough this Friday in time to catch @Raury at LIB 😦 #nervous #timetogrind

Q1. Which of the four speakers is likely to be the MOST FEARFUL (or having a mental state most inclined towards fear) (required)
- ○ Speaker 1
- ○ Speaker 2
- ○ Speaker 3
- ○ Speaker 4

Q2. Which of the four speakers is likely to be the LEAST FEARFUL (or having a mental state least inclined towards fear) (required)
- ○ Speaker 1
- ○ Speaker 2
- ○ Speaker 3
- ○ Speaker 4

Comment (optional):

Speaker 1: I get so nervous even thinking about talking to ****** I wanna die
Speaker 2: @eileen_davidson on RHOBH, you just do not want to assume an affair while you were married so you criticize @LisaVanderpump!