Degree Of Sadness 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 sadness can range from not sad at all (zero amount of sadness) to extremely sad. One can often infer the degree of sadness felt or expressed by a person from what they say. The goal of this task is to determine this degree of sadness. Since it is hard to give a numerical score indicating the degree of sadness, 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 SAD (or having a mental state most inclined towards sadness)

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

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

Broad Sadness Category

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

- dejection
- depression
- desolation
- despair
- gloom
- grimness
- inconsolability

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

Tweets Indicative of Sadness

The tweets may involve:
- explicit expressions of sadness
- 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 sadness
- some information that allows one to infer that the speaker is likely to be feeling a non-zero amount of sadness

Important Notes

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

- This task is about sadness levels of the speaker (and not about the sadness 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 sad), 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: My son is not doing so well in math class
Speaker 2: We lost our home and livelihood to this war #devastated
Speaker 3: Why are people so sad about population growth? New studies show the earth can subsist.
Speaker 4: Thrilled to know I will be traveling to New Zealand this October.

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

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

Ans: Speaker 2.

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

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

Ans: Speaker 4.

EXAMPLE 2

Speaker 1: These days I see no light. Nothing is working out #depressed
Speaker 2: The refugees are the ones running from terror.
Speaker 3: Tim is sad that the business is not going to meet expectations.
Speaker 4: Too many people cannot make ends meet with their wages.

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

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

Ans: Speaker 1.

Q2. Which of the four speakers is likely to be the LEAST SAD (or having a mental state most inclined towards sadness)

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

Ans: Speakers 3 (Speaker 2 is also okay)

Speaker 1: @kayleighmcenany @DonaldJTrumpJr Is that really all you can offer for those who sacrifice daily to keep you safe...? @kayleighmcenany #sad
Speaker 2: Dylon felt dejected. He has a dejected aunt!
Speaker 3: Candice's standing pout face aggravates me every week
Speaker 4: @Aamnaa___ @drkarthik_n your per capita income is almost same like us. Gini Coefficient is very dismal. Ambitions are high but output Zero.

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

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

Comment (optional):

Speaker 1: @dublinwaltz bts' 화양연화 trilogy MV is my all time fav🙌 quite gloomy but beautiful as well✨
Speaker 2: Kinda wanna just book a vacation and go...anyone wanna tag along? #adventure #serious
Speaker 3: Well stomach cramps did not make that spin class any easier. Why does my