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## Title:

Embodying language in action: Evidence for functional links between action word processing and the motor system.

## Abstract:

Embodied theories of semantics suggest that conceptual representations are grounded in action-perception systems of the brain. In this view, the sensorimotor system characterizes the semantic content of concepts in terms of the way our body interacts with the world. Support for embodied theories has mainly come from investigations on the interactions between language and action. I will review evidence, from behavioral and neuroimaging experiments as well as studies in patients, for the motor underpinnings of language. Particularly, I will focus on the processing of words or sentences that describe actions, which have been mostly used in the literature, and which have been shown to interfere with movement execution and activate cortical motor regions. These results will be discussed in the framework of embodiment of language assuming that word meaning is understood in reference to grounded physical meanings.