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Supplementary Data

1. Testing for biased semantic content in the stories. The stimulus set used in this experiment is significantly larger and broader than that used in any previous neuroimaging study of language. However, there is the possibility that certain semantic categories are over- or under-sampled in the stories, which could potentially affect both the interpretation and generalization performance of the estimated voxel-wise models.

To address this issue we tested whether certain semantic categories were significantly over- or undersampled in the stories, relative to a large text corpus. (This text corpus was used to construct the semantic feature space and it contains billions of words of text.) We identified semantic categories by performing Ward agglomerative clustering on the 10,470-word vocabulary in the 985-dimensional semantic feature space. Words were clustered into 200 categories so that each category would consist of about 50 words. We then computed the frequency with which each category appeared in the text corpus and in the stories used in this study. Categories that appeared less than once per 10,000 words in the text corpus were excluded as noise. We used a Binomial test to determine whether each category was present significantly more or less frequently in the stories than in the large text corpus (q(FDR)<0.01, 2-sided test; see Supplementary Table 1 for all significantly over- and under-sampled categories).

The Binomial test showed that 79 of the 200 semantic categories are significantly under-sampled in the stories, meaning that they appear significantly less frequently in the stories than in the large text corpus. Two of these categories are entirely absent from the stories, and the other 77 are under-sampled by factors ranging from 35.2x to 1.2x (small factors such as 1.2x can be significant for extremely frequent categories, but seem unlikely to have any effect on the results of this experiment). One of the missing categories is related to boating and the sea (containing words like "sinking", "stern", "boat", and "diving"). The other missing category contains character names from 19th and 20th century British novels that are included in the text corpus ("nickelby", "poirot", "marple").

Many of the categories that are under-sampled in the stories are related to specific sociological and historical topics (monarchy, international relations, politics, crime, government) or scientific topics (signal processing, mechanical engineering, the internet, mathematics). The absence of these categories is not surprising, given that the text corpus (which includes all of Wikipedia) contains many descriptive entries, while the stimuli consisted of natural narrative stories. Thus, it seems likely that these topics would be under-sampled even in a much larger set of narrative stories.

However, some of the categories that are under-sampled in the stories are more surprising. Words describing geography ("woods", "meadows", "grove", "canyon", "river") appear 5.2x more frequently in the large text corpus than in the stories. Wild animals ("possum", "elephant", "wolves", "turtle", "butterfly") appear 3.4x more frequently in the large text corpus. Foods ("bacon", "cooking", "ate", "wholesome", "rice") appear 2.0x more frequently in the large text corpus. Music words ("music", "onstage", "singer", "release", "violin") appear 1.6x more frequently in the large text corpus. These categories would not be out of place in a narrative story, so we expect that a larger set of stories would contain more mentions of them.

The Binomial test also showed that 26 of the 200 semantic categories are significantly over-sampled in the stories, meaning that they appear significantly more frequently in the stories than in the large text

corpus. These categories are over-sampled by factors ranging from 14.6x to 1.4x. Some of these categories, such as colloquialisms (e.g. "lookin", "dunno"; 14.6x) and written-out numbers (e.g. "sixteen", "twenty-three"; 5.6x), likely reflect differences between the spoken language of the stories and the written language of the text corpus. Others include articles of clothing ("blouse", "hat"; 4.1x), household words ("laundry", "upstairs"; 3.0x), words describing personal appearance ("beauty", "spectacles"; 2.0x), words describing (bad) smells ("foul", "herb", "cigarettes"; 1.9x), family members and family-related events ("son", "funeral"; 1.9x), and body parts ("fingernails", "mouth"; 1.5x). None of these categories are surprising given the narrative and autobiographical nature of the stories used in this experiment.

Based on these results it seems unlikely that under-sampling of some categories in the stories had a large effect on the results of this study. Most differences in category frequency are corrected by the stimulus whitening that occurs during VM regression. However, stimulus whitening also magnifies noise in the estimated response for infrequent categories. Thus, our statistical power to detect representations is reduced for severely under-sampled categories, such as words describing geography or wild animals. Further experiments will be required to compare the cortical representations of categories that were under-sampled in these stories against the representations for other categories.

It is also possible that biases in the content of the stories could have affected the twelve semantic clusters that we found based on the fMRI data (Figure 2A). If the words in many of these twelve semantic clusters were significantly over-sampled in the stories, then we would not expect these results to generalize to other stories. We tested for this possibility by comparing the frequency with which words in each cluster appeared in the stories and in the text corpus (Binomial test, 2-sided, q(FDR)<0.01). This analysis found that three of the clusters were significantly over-sampled in the stories relative to the large text corpus (*violent* by a factor of 1.8x, *social* by 1.6x, and *mental* by 1.5x), and that two of the clusters were significantly under-sampled in the stories (*visual* by 2.0x and *communal* by 1.8x). Once again, these frequency differences are not large, and so will likely be corrected by the stimulus whitening that occurs during VM regression. These results do not suggest that the clusters we found are dependent on the particular stories that we used in this experiment.

2. The effect of subject handedness on PrAGMATiC prediction performance. A wealth of evidence suggests that handedness is related to language laterality in the brain: among ambidextrous individuals 15% are right-lateralized for language, while among strongly right-handed individuals only 4% are right-lateralized (Knecht et al., 2000). PrAGMATiC assumes that functional selectivity and distribution of cortical areas within each hemisphere is identical across subjects, but this assumption would be flawed if some subjects' language systems are organized differently than others.

To test whether subject handedness has any effect on the results of this study we first obtained a handedness score for each subject using the Edinburgh handedness inventory (Oldfield, 1971). For the seven subjects in this study the handedness scores ranged from +10 (ambidextrous with a slight dextral bias) to +100 (entirely dextral). Two subjects were rated as "ambidextrous" (having a laterality quotient less than 48) while the other five subjects were rated as dextral. We then computed a PrAGMATiC generalization score for each subject by subtracting the average prediction performance of the subject's own voxel-wise models from the average prediction performance of the PrAGMATiC model that was trained on the other six subjects. If this score is high (or close to zero), then the semantic map for the subject in question is highly predictable from the other subjects. If this score is

low, then the semantic map is not predictable from the other subjects. Finally we computed the correlation between handedness and PrAGMATiC generalization scores. If the ambidextrous subjects are organized very differently, they should have lower PrAGMATiC generalization scores than the other subjects, and the correlation between dextrality and PrAGMATiC generalization score should be positive. However, we did not find a significant correlation between dextrality and PrAGMATiC generalization score should be positive. However, we did not find a significant correlation between dextrality and PrAGMATiC generalization scores (Pearson's r = -0.20, p-value = 0.66 for the left hemisphere; r = -0.06, p-value = 0.90 for the right). This result suggests that semantic maps in the ambidextrous subjects are not organized very differently from semantic maps in the dextral subjects.

3. Controlling for emotional and physiological responses. The principal components analysis (Figure 2) and PrAGMATiC results (Figure 3, Extended Data Figures 6-12) suggest that *violent*, *emotional*, and *social* concepts are represented in many areas of the cortex. One alternative explanation for these results is that emotionally charged narratives evoked emotional responses and physiological arousal. Physiological arousal might alter heart rate or blood pressure, affect blood flow, and bias measured BOLD responses. Arousal might also have an indirect effect by altering attention or global attentiveness. If arousal or emotional response is correlated with certain semantic domains (such as violence), then it is possible that some fraction of the responses that we interpret as semantic selectivity are actually driven by arousal.

To test whether emotional or physiological responses could explain the semantic maps that we report here, we compared the original principal components (PCs) of the estimated voxel-wise models with PCs obtained from data that had been corrected for physiological and emotional responses. We used standard methods to remove all BOLD variance related to physiological factors from each voxel (Verstynen & Deshpande, 2011). Complete physiology data (photoplethysmograph and breath belt) were only available for five of the seven subjects (subjects 2 & 4-7), so this analysis was restricted to only those five subjects. We found that physiological factors explained a large fraction of the variance in only a small number of voxels. These voxels were located mainly within the sylvian fissure, within the central sulcus, and within the calcarine sulcus. We subtracted these physiological effects from the data before performing further analyses.

In order to model emotional responses we asked five raters to code the emotional content of the stories. Each rater listened to each of the stories while continuously rating emotional content on 6 different scales (anger, happiness, surprise, amusement, pity, and embarrassment). This procedure was then repeated using the same stories, but with a different set of 6 scales (excitement, relief, disgust, irritation, fear, and cuteness). Ratings were temporally smoothed with a Gaussian kernel (s.d. = 2.0045 seconds or 1 TR), and then averaged across raters.

Next, we re-estimated the semantic VM weights using the physiology-corrected data with the emotion ratings included as nuisance regressors (along with the previously used nuisance regressors for phonemes, word rate, and phoneme rate). Then we performed PCA on the resulting semantic VM weights using the same procedure that was used to generate the results shown in Figure 2 of the main text. For purposes of comparison, we also performed PCA on the original semantic VM weights (without removing physiological responses or including emotion regressors) using data from only the five subjects used here (i.e. excluding subjects 1 and 3).

If physiological or emotional responses influenced our estimates of semantic selectivity, then the PCs

obtained after removing variance related to emotional or physiological arousal should be substantially different than the original PCs. However, the corrected PCs and original PCs are almost identical. The correlation between the first arousal-corrected PC and the first original PC is 0.994, the second PC is 0.990, the third PC is 0.988, and the fourth PC is 0.955. This high degree of correlation suggests that the semantic models are almost entirely unaffected by emotion or physiological arousal.

There is still a chance that semantic models are affected by factors that are not directly related to the semantic content of speech, such as emotional prosody. However, we do not currently have a reliable computational method for extracting prosodic features from narrative speech, so we cannot test this hypothesis here.

4. Comparing voxel-wise model prediction performance to other feature spaces. In the main text we state that the semantic voxel-wise models accurately predict BOLD responses to natural speech throughout the semantic system (Figure 1, Extended Data Figure 1). However, there are two potential issues that could influence our interpretation of these results. First, it is possible that similar performance could be achieved using a much simpler model that is not based on word co-occurrence statistics. This would suggest that semantic domains are not as important a factor in representation as we had thought. Second, it is possible that the performance we find depends on specific details of the training corpus or procedure we used to construct our semantic feature space. This would suggest that our results are not generalizable.

To test for these possibilities we compared the prediction performance of voxel-wise models constructed using our original semantic feature space to those constructed based on two alternative feature spaces. The first alternative feature space consists of simple indicator variables for each unique word in the estimation and validation stories. Because this feature space does not consider word co-occurrence statistics, it should provide a poor description of the semantic domains in the stories. To test the words feature space we employed the same voxel-wise modeling procedure used in the main text. We used regularized linear regression to estimate how each word influenced BOLD responses in each individual voxel and in every subject. Then we used the models to predict responses to a new story that had not been used for estimation. We measured the prediction performance of the new models by computing the correlation between predicted and actual responses in the validation data. Finally, we compared the prediction performance of this simplified model to that of our co-occurrence-based model (for this comparison we used the raw correlation between predicted and actual responses to measure performance; no noise-ceiling correction was performed).

Our original co-occurrence-based semantic model predicts voxel responses significantly better than the simplified model (paired *t*-test across all voxels; t=170, p<1e-16). The number of voxels that were significantly predicted (q(FDR)<0.05) was, on average across subjects, 274% higher for the original model than the simplified model. Among voxels that were significantly predicted by either model, the performance of the original model was higher by an average of 0.11. Among very well-predicted voxels where either model had prediction performance above 0.5, the performance of the original model was higher by an average of 0.28. These results demonstrate that the co-occurrence-based semantic feature space that was used in this study substantially outperforms a simpler model that does not incorporate word co-occurrence statistics. This, supports our conclusion that semantic domains are an important factor in representation.

The second alternative feature space that we tested is word2vec (Mikolov, Yih, & Zweig, 2012). Like the feature space used in the main text, word2vec is a word embedding space constructed using word co-occurrence statistics across a large corpus of text. We used a pre-trained 300-dimensional word2vec embedding space that was constructed using approximately 100 billion words of text from Google News. (This pre-trained model is freely available at https://code.google.com/p/word2vec/.) The procedure for constructing the word2vec space is also similar to that used to construct our original feature space, except that word2vec uses unsupervised dimensionality reduction while our feature space uses hand-selected dimensions based on the list of 985 common English words. Because word2vec only has 300 dimensions while the original model has 985, we might expect word2vec to do slightly worse than the original model if 300 dimensions are insufficient to describe semantic representations. Similarly, if 985 dimensions are too many, then we might expect the original model to perform slightly worse than word2vec. If word2vec performs substantially better or worse than our original model, it would suggest that the model performance we find is dependent on the exact corpus or procedure used to construct the semantic feature space. This would call into question the generality of our results and conclusions.

To test the word2vec feature space we employed the same voxel-wise modeling procedure used in the main text. We used word2vec to transform each word that was spoken in the stories into a 300-dimensional vector, and then temporally downsampled these vectors to the same rate as the fMRI acquisition. Next we used regularized linear regression to estimate how the 300 word2vec semantic features influenced BOLD responses in each individual voxel and in every subject. Then we used the word2vec models to predict responses to a new story that had not been used for model estimation. We measured the prediction performance of the word2vec models by computing the correlation between predicted and actual responses in the validation data set. Finally we compared the prediction performance of the semantic model described in the main text. (For this comparison we used the raw correlation between predicted and actual responses to measure performance; no noise-ceiling correction was applied).

Our original semantic model predicts voxel responses significantly better than does the word2vec model (paired *t*-test across all voxels; *t*=49, p<1e-16). The number of voxels that were significantly predicted (q(FDR)<0.05) was, on average across subjects, 17% higher for the original model than the word2vec model. Among voxels that were significantly predicted by either model, the performance of the original model was higher by an average of 0.017. Among very well-predicted voxels where either model had prediction performance above 0.5, the performance of the original model was higher by an average of 0.066. The differences between our original model and the word2vec model are much smaller than the differences between our original model and the indicator variable model described above. Thus, the small but significant differences between our original model and the word2vec model do not provide any strong evidence that our results and conclusions are unduly affected by our choice of feature space design or text corpus. Instead, this small difference likely reflects the difference in dimensionality of the two feature spaces: our original feature space has more than three times as many dimensions as the word2vec space and thus provides a richer representation of the stimuli.

5. Alternative methods for labeling semantic word clusters. Using principal components analysis we extracted four shared semantic dimensions from the voxel-wise modeling data, and then we sought to interpret those dimensions using *k*-means clustering. This revealed twelve distinct clusters (Supplementary Table 2). These clusters can loosely be thought of as semantic domains, although each

cluster could potentially combine multiple domains, or a domain could be split across clusters. Each cluster was labeled by hand. We attempted to select cluster labels that captured the common properties of the words in each cluster and that were not overly specific, while keeping in mind that the clustered words were selected on the basis of having high projections onto the semantic dimensions and thus are likely to be relatively extreme examples of each cluster. For some clusters the labels were relatively obvious. For example, almost all the words in the *temporal* cluster are related to time. For other clusters it was difficult to select a single label that applied to the entire cluster. For example, the *abstract* cluster contains words such as "natural" and "diverse".

Although our label assignment was necessarily somewhat subjective, we feel that the labels are generally accurate enough to be useful for understanding the results of this study. However, it is also important to ask what other labels might reasonably be assigned to these clusters. Here we used two alternative methods to assign cluster labels and evaluated the results of each. The first alternative method that we used to assign labels was to ask 10 human raters to examine each cluster and write down five possible labels for each. These raters did not include the authors, but one of the raters was also a subject in the fMRI experiment. To summarize the ratings we used the word2vec word embedding space (Mikolov et al., 2012). For each cluster we first averaged together semantic vectors for the five labels assigned by each rater, and then averaged the resulting vectors across raters. Then we queried the space to find the most similar words to the average label vector for each cluster. Here we list the experimenter-assigned label for each cluster, along with the two best words according to the consensus across raters (excluding alternate word forms such as "clothing" and "clothes"). For the temporal cluster the best words were "time" and "schedule"; for abstract they were "nature" and "art"; for professional they were "work" and "business"; for visual they were "clothing" and "attire"; for violent they were "death" and "murder"; for tactile they were "shape" and "curvature"; for communal they were "society" and "culture"; for *mental* they were "emotion" and "feeling"; for *numeric* they were "quantity" and "amount"; for *emotional* they were "religion" and "spirituality"; for social they were "crime" and "family"; and for locational they were "sports" and "recreation".

Some of the rater-assigned cluster labels are very similar to those assigned by the experimenter (such as *temporal*, *professional*, *violent*, *communal*, and *numeric*), while others are different (such as *abstract*, *visual*, *tactile*, *mental*, *emotional*, *social*, and *locational*). In some cases these differences seem to arise because of fundamental difficulty in assigning a label to the cluster (as in *abstract* and *tactile*). For those clusters the labels assigned by the individual raters were highly variable. In other cases the differences seemed to arise because raters preferred specific labels that capture a subset of the words in the cluster over generic labels that more loosely describe the entire cluster (as in *visual*, *mental*, *emotional*). And in the final case (*social*) the difference seemed to arise because the label assigned by the experimenter label took into account the selection bias for extreme words. While the *social* cluster does contain many words related to crime, we believe that this reflects an extreme manifestation of dramatic social interaction.

The second alternative method that we used to assign labels was to find the average word for each cluster in the word2vec word embedding space (Mikolov et al., 2012). To do this we converted every word into a semantic vector and then averaged together all the vectors for each cluster. Then we queried the space to find the most similar words to each average vector. Here we list the experimenter-assigned label for each cluster, along with the two best words according to the word embedding space (excluding alternate word forms such as "thick" and "thicker"). For the *temporal* cluster the best words were "hours" and days"; for *abstract* they were "subtle" and "delicate"; for *professional* they were

"house" and "rented"; for *visual* they were "pink" and "purple"; for *violent* they were "kill" and "die"; for *tactile* they were "thicker" and "thinner"; for *communal* they were "educated" and "community"; for *mental* they were "imagining" and "thinking"; for *numeric* they were "five" and "four"; for *emotional* they were "hatred" and "feelings"; for *social* they were "mother" and "son"; and for *locational* they were "facilities" and "spaces".

One downside of this method is that it provides typical examples of each category but generates no summary labels. For instance, the best words for the *temporal* cluster were "hours" and "days", which are both typical examples of temporal words. Therefore these results require slightly more interpretation than the labels assigned by raters. Still, for most of the clusters the typical words are in good agreement with the labels assigned by hand (such as *temporal*, *visual*, *violent*, *communal*, *mental*, *numeric*, *emotional*, *social*, and *locational*). For the other three clusters, however, the correspondence is less clear. For the *abstract* cluster the typical words were "subtle" and "delicate", which are both adjectives that can describe either concrete or abstract nouns. Thus, this result does little to clarify the *abstract* category. For the *professional* cluster the typical words were "house" and "rented", which seem more closely related to everyday locations than to work or business. And for the *tactile* cluster the typical words were "thicker" and "thinner", which both describe shape, but not necessarily tactile sensation.

The results of these two analyses suggest that most of the cluster labels are uncontroversial (such as *temporal, violent*, and *numeric*), but that a few are less clear. In particular the *abstract* and *tactile* clusters seem to have multiple valid interpretations. For the *abstract* category the human raters selected labels related to "nature" and "art" and the word embedding method selected the words "subtle" and "delicate". The overall theme of the *abstract* category seems to be descriptions that are not linked to any particular sense, including words like "subtle", "exaggerated", and "strong". The manually assigned label *abstract* does not fully capture this this property, but the alternate labeling methods do not seem to offer a better alternative. For the *tactile* category the human raters selected labels related to "shape" and "curvature" and the word embedding method selected the words "thicker" and "thinner". We selected the more general label *tactile* because in addition to shape words this category also includes texture/material words (such as "smooth" and "metallic") and specifically tactile words (such as "fingers", "pinch", and "pressing").

6. Testing whether rotating the shared semantic dimensions increases interpretability. The shared semantic dimensions revealed by PCA of the voxel-wise models describe a low-dimensional semantic space that is common across our subjects (Figure 2). The space spanned by these four dimensions captures, in total, the maximum amount of variance in the voxel-wise models that can be captured by any four-dimensional space. However, any four-dimensional rotation of these dimensions will span the same four-dimensional space, and so will explain the same amount of variance in total. In the main text we interpret some of the shared dimensions by examining which semantic categories they distinguish between. It is possible that rotating the shared semantic dimensions would result in more interpretable dimensions, while still explaining the same amount of variance in the data. This practice is commonly used in the factor analysis literature, and there are several methods for rotating orthonormal bases to increase interpretability.

Here we applied the most commonly used method, varimax rotation, to the shared semantic dimensions. In varimax rotation the dimensions are rotated such that the variance of the squared factor

loadings is maximized (Kaiser, 1958). This often makes the factor loadings more sparse (as they tend to be either very large or very small) and can thus increase interpretability. In our case the factor loadings are the coefficients for the 985 features in our word embedding space. We found that applying varimax rotation to the shared semantic dimensions increased the variance of the squared factor loadings by 12% (thus resulting in slightly sparser coefficients), but had little effect on our interpretations.

Varimax rotated the first dimension by 39 degrees (correlation between original and rotated first PC is 0.78). The original first dimension has the categories *tactile* and *locational* at one end, and *social* and *emotional* at the other. The rotated first dimension has *tactile* and *numeric* at one end, and *social* and *communal* at the other. These changes do not affect our interpretation of the first dimension, which still seems to generally distinguish between social and perceptual concepts.

Varimax rotated the second dimension by 32 degrees (correlation between original and rotated second PC is 0.85). The original second dimension has the categories *visual* and *tactile* at one end, and *mental* and *professional* at the other. The rotated second dimension has *violent* and *tactile* at one end, and *professional* and *mental* at the other. Again, these changes do not affect our interpretation of the second dimension, which still seems to distinguish between perceptual and non-perceptual concepts.

However, the third and fourth dimensions were more strongly affected by varimax rotation. Varimax rotated the third dimension by 63 degrees (correlation between original and rotated third PC is 0.46). The original third dimension has the categories *numeric* and *professional* at one end, and *abstract* and *emotional* at the other. The rotated third dimension has *visual* and *locational* at one end, and *mental* and *violent* at the other. The original third dimension could be interpreted as distinguishing between quantitative concepts and subjective or qualitative concepts. The rotated third dimension might be more accurately described as distinguishing between emotional and unemotional concepts.

Varimax rotated the fourth dimension by 61 degrees (correlation between original and rotated fourth PC is 0.48). The original fourth dimension has the categories *communal* and *emotional* at one end, and *temporal* and *numeric* at the other. The rotated fourth dimension has *abstract* and *emotional* at one end, and *numeric* and *temporal* at the other. The original fourth dimension might, like the third dimension, be interpreted as distinguishing between quantitative and qualitative concepts. The rotated fourth dimension is a closer match to the original third dimension (the correlation between the two is 0.85), but the interpretation seems very similar.

Because the varimax rotation did not substantially increase the interpretability of the shared semantic dimensions, we maintained the original dimensions for subsequent analyses.

7. Detailed descriptions of semantic maps in seven cortical regions. In this report we have divided the semantic atlas into seven regions based on anatomical distinctions (Binder, Desai, Graves, & Conant, 2009; Bookheimer, 2002; Hickok & Poeppel, 2007; Price, 2010). These regions are lateral parietal cortex (LPC, 15 semantically-selective areas in the left hemisphere and 13 in the right), medial parietal cortex (MPC; 14 left, 10 right), superior prefrontal cortex (SPFC; 18 left, 19 right), lateral temporal cortex (LTC; 8 left, 8 right), ventral temporal cortex (VTC, 6 left, 1 right), inferior prefrontal cortex (IPFC; 12 left, 9 right), and opercular and insular cortex (OIC; 4 left, 3 right). One area in left motor cortex did not fall cleanly into any of these regions, so we grouped it with OIC due to its functional similarity to other semantically-selective areas within OIC. To enforce a uniform labeling scheme we labeled each region separately. Within each region we assigned each area a number

according to its average anatomical location, such that numbers increase from posterior to anterior. The MNI coordinates for every area are listed in Supplementary Table 3. A detailed interactive version of the semantic atlas (including MNI coordinates for each area) can be explored online at http://gallantlab.org/huth2016.

Semantic maps in lateral parietal cortex (LPC). Lateral parietal cortex, and in particular the angular gyrus (AG), is thought to play a central role in processing complex semantic information (Binder et al., 2009; Price, 2010). The AG is also one of the primary nodes in the default mode network (DMN) (Buckner, Andrews-Hanna, & Schacter, 2008; Raichle et al., 2001). We find that LPC contains a heterogeneous collection of semantically-selective areas (15 in the left hemisphere and 13 in the right) centered around the AG (Extended Data Figure 6). In the core of LPC, which lies on the AG itself, we find areas selective for social concepts (L6, 7, 9, 11; R5, 7). Some of these core LPC areas are also selective for emotional concepts (L6, 7, 9, 11; R7), mental concepts (L7, 9, 11; R5, 7), communal concepts (L6, 7, 9), professional concepts (L6, 7; R5, 7), violent concepts (L7, 9, 11; R5, 7), and temporal concepts (R5, 7). On the ventral bank of the intraparietal sulcus, which curves around the core of LPC, we find areas that are selective for visual concepts (L2, 4, 5, 8; R6, 11). Most of these areas are also selective for *tactile* concepts (L2, 8; R6, 11) and *numeric* concepts (L2, 4, 5; R6, 11). On the supramarginal gyrus, anterior to the AG, we find areas selective for both *temporal* and *numeric* concepts (L13; R9). On the posterior bank of the postcentral sulcus, just outside primary somatosensory cortex, we find areas selective for *tactile* concepts (L14, 15; R11, 12, 13). Posterior to the core of LPC, at the lateral lip of the transverse occipital sulcus, we find areas selective for both *locational* and professional concepts (L3, 4; R3, 4). The semantic map in LPC for the two hemispheres are somewhat bilaterally symmetric, but there are some differences. Overall, right LPC responds more than left LPC to mental, professional, temporal and locational concepts, but less than left LPC to violent and visual concepts (q(FDR)<0.05, t-test). Previous studies have shown that lesions to the left AG and surrounding cortex produce a wide variety of different cognitive deficits (Binder et al., 2009), including anomia, alexia, acalculia, visual-spatial disorders, body schema disorders, and many others. Some of these disorders could be explained by damage to specific semantic brain areas near AG; acalculia, for example, could result from damage to areas selective for *numeric* concepts, visual-spatial disorders from areas selective for *visual* concepts, and body schema disorders from areas selective for *tactile* concepts. However, other lesion outcomes—such as anomia and alexia—cannot be explained by the semantic selectivity that we observe here. This difference suggests that areas within LPC also play other roles in cognition and language processing.

Semantic maps in medial parietal cortex (MPC). Medial parietal cortex, and in particular the precuneus, is thought to be important for episodic memory function (Lundstrom, 2003; Wagner, Shannon, Kahn, & Buckner, 2005) and social processing (Iacoboni et al., 2004). Like LPC, it also contains one of the primary nodes in the DMN (Buckner et al., 2008; Raichle et al., 2001). We find that MPC contains a heterogeneous collection of semantic areas (14 in the left hemisphere and 10 in the right) centered around the subparietal sulci (Extended Data Figure 7). Again like LPC, the core of MPC contains areas selective for *social* and *mental* concepts (L6, 8, 10; R6, 7). The most dorsolateral areas in MPC, near the intraparietal sulcus, are selective for *tactile* concepts (L2, 4; R1) and *visual* concepts (L5, 9; R4, 9). In ventral MPC, near retrosplenial cortex, we find areas selective for *professional, temporal*, and *locational* concepts (L11, 12, 14; R8). Just superior to retrosplenial cortex we find one distinct area in both hemispheres that is selective for *mental, professional* and *temporal* concepts (L7; R3). The semantic maps in MPC for the two hemispheres are largely bilaterally symmetric, but overall,

right MPC responds more than left MPC to *mental* concepts (q(FDR)<0.05, *t*-test). Lesions to MPC have been known to cause deficits in processing the temporal ordering of events (Bowers, Verfaellie, Valenstein, & Heilman, 1988; McDonald, Crosson, Valenstein, & Bowers, 2001). This is consistent with our finding that the majority of areas in both left and right MPC are selective for *temporal* concepts.

Semantic maps in superior prefrontal cortex (SPFC). Superior prefrontal cortex is thought important for self-initiated retrieval of semantic information from memory (Robinson, Blair, & Cipolotti, 1998), but little is known about its role in language comprehension. Like LPC and MPC, SPFC also contains one of the primary nodes in the DMN (Buckner et al., 2008; Raichle et al., 2001). We find that SPFC also contains a heterogeneous collection of semantic areas (18 in the left hemisphere and 19 in the right). However, this region does not appear to be organized around a group of core areas as are MPC and LPC. Instead, the organization in SPFC seems to follow the long rostro-caudal sulci and gyri of the dorsal frontal lobe (Extended Data Figure 8). In posterior SPFC, on the middle frontal gyrus and in the intermediate frontal sulcus, we find areas selective for social concepts (L4, 6; R6, 9, 11). Some of these areas are also selective for *communal* and *emotional* concepts (L4, 6) or *professional* concepts (R6, 11). Above, in the superior frontal sulcus, we find areas selective for *tactile* concepts (L2, 3, 8; R1), *numeric* concepts (L2, 3, 7; R5, 7, 13), and *visual* concepts (L2, 3). Above the superior frontal sulcus, on the superior frontal gyrus, we find a long strip of areas that are selective for *social* concepts (L1, 5, 10, 12-15; R8, 10, 12, 14-17). Many of these areas are also selective for *emotional* and *violent* concepts (L1, 5, 10, 12-15; R8, 14, 15), and for *mental* concepts (L1, 5, 10, 12, 13; R8, 15). In the left hemisphere many of these areas are also selective for *communal* concepts (L5, 10, 12, 13, 15). In the right hemisphere many are selective for *temporal* concepts (R8, 10, 15, 17). This strip appears to bifurcate at its most rostral extent. One segment extends into ventromedial prefrontal cortex and the other crosses the anterior-most part of the superior frontal sulcus. In ventromedial prefrontal cortex we find one distinct area in each hemisphere that is selective for *mental* concepts (L17; R18).

The variety of semantic domain selectivity across SPFC appears to be as broad as in LPC and MPC. and suggests that SPFC represents many different types of semantic information. This finding is consistent with dozens of earlier neuroimaging studies that have found some relationship between semantic processing and activity in this region (Binder et al., 2009). However, the precise role of SPFC in semantic processing is still unclear. Our results do not fit cleanly with some earlier studies, which have indicated that SPFC is mainly involved in memory retrieval during language production (Binder et al., 2009; Binder & Desai, 2011), and that SPFC lesions do not cause chronic deficits in language comprehension (Baldo & Shimamura, 1998; Thompson-Schill et al., 1998). This could be because SPFC lesions are generally too broad or too variable across subjects to reliably identify domain-specific deficits. Alternatively, semantic representations in SPFC could be useful but not necessary for semantic processing, and thus lesions in SPFC might be easily compensated for by other parts of cortex. Our results are also difficult to reconcile with the working memory literature, where earlier studies have found little domain specificity in SPFC (Courtney, 1998; Levy & Goldman-Rakic, 2000; Linden, Oosterhof, Klein, & Downing, 2012). This could indicate that those earlier studies did not effectively probe the space of semantic domains relevant to working memory, or that SPFC serves some role in semantic processing that is distinct from working memory. Further work will be required to disentangle the many roles that functional areas within SPFC seem to play in different aspects of cognition.

The complex semantic maps that we find in LPC, MPC, and SPFC correspond to three of the primary components of the default mode network (DMN). This is consistent with the claim that the DMN is

involved in language processing (Binder et al., 2009). Semantic maps within two of these regions, the lateral parietal cortex (LPC) and medial parietal cortex (MPC), are organized into similar circular motifs. The core of each region is selective for *social* concepts and the peripheral areas are heterogeneous. This suggests that there may be a common computational architecture to these two regions of high-level association cortex. It is clear that more work will be required to elucidate the relationship between the semantic domain selectivity observed here and other putative roles for the DMN, such as introspection, rumination, and conscious cognition (Buckner et al., 2008).

Semantic maps in lateral temporal cortex (LTC). Lateral temporal cortex (LTC) encompasses much of auditory cortex, and is considered critical for semantic processing (Binder et al., 2009; Binder & Desai, 2011; Warrington, 1975). Thus, we might expect that this region, like LPC, MPC, and SPFC, would contain a widely varied collection of semantic areas. However, our results suggest that semantic selectivity in LTC is much more homogeneous than that found in other regions (Extended Data Figure 9). In anterior LTC we find areas selective for *social* and *emotional* concepts (L4-8; R4, 5, 7, 8). In the right hemisphere, we also find one area on the posterior middle temporal gyrus that is selective for *numeric* and *temporal* concepts (R2). In posterior LTC near occipital cortex we find areas selective for *visual*, *tactile*, and *numeric* concepts (L1-3; R1). What little semantic domain selectivity we see at the temporal pole is not consistent across subjects. However, the quality of fMRI signals in this region is poor (Visser, Jefferies, & Lambon Ralph, 2010), so the absence of clear selectivity should not be taken as evidence for the absence of semantic domain representation in the temporal pole.

The limited semantic domain selectivity that we find in LTC is surprising, given the important role that LTC seems to play in language and semantic processing (Peelen, Romagno, & Caramazza, 2012; Warrington, 1975). One possible explanation for this result is that neural populations in LTC are domain-selective, but they are anatomically organized along non-semantic dimensions such as phonemic content (Mesgarani, Cheung, Johnson, & Chang, 2014). This would make it difficult to distinguish semantic domain-selective representations using our methods. Alternatively, LTC might contain few domain-selective representations, but instead serve a more general role in semantic processing, such as coordinating brain activity in other regions during narrative comprehension.

Semantic maps in ventral temporal cortex (VTC). Ventral temporal cortex (VTC) is thought to play an important role in semantic processing for both vision (Epstein & Kanwisher, 1998; Kanwisher, McDermott, & Chun, 1997) and language (Binder et al., 2009; Lüders et al., 1991). Confirming these earlier reports, we find that every area in VTC is selective for *visual* concepts (Extended Data Figure 10). Areas in left posterior VTC are selective for *tactile*, *visual*, and *abstract* concepts (L1-4). Most of these areas are also selective for *numeric* concepts (L2-4). Areas on the parahippocampal gyrus, near or overlapping with the parahippocampal place area (Epstein & Kanwisher, 1998), are selective for *locational* concepts (L5, 6; R1).

Semantic maps in inferior prefrontal cortex (IPFC). Inferior prefrontal cortex (IPFC) contains Broca's area, and it is thought to play an important role in both general language processing and semantic processing (Binder et al., 2009; Price, 2010). We find that IPFC contains several semantically selective areas, but that these areas appear to be more homogeneous in their semantic domain selectivity than are those located within LPC, MPC, or SPFC (Extended Data Figure 11). Areas in the inferior precentral sulcus (L1-3; R1) and inferior frontal sulcus (L4-7; R5) are selective for *visual, tactile*, and *numeric* concepts. Areas on the pars opercularis and pars triangularis are selective for *social, emotional*, and *violent* concepts (L8; R4, 7). Areas in the orbitofrontal sulcu are selective for *tactile*, *visual, numeric*,

abstract, and locational concepts (L10; R9).

Semantic maps in opercular and insular cortex (OIC). We defined a separate region called opercular and insular cortex (OIC) that encompasses the frontal operculum, anterior insula, and one area in the central sulcus. Areas in OIC are selective for *abstract, emotional*, and *communal* concepts (Extended Data Figure 12). This result is consistent with earlier reports that damage to perisylvian areas such as the frontal operculum impair knowledge of abstract concepts (Binder et al., 2009).

Supplementary Methods

1. Subject handedness. All subjects were right handed or ambidextrous according to the Edinburgh handedness inventory (Oldfield, 1971) (laterality quotient of -100: entirely left-handed, +100: entirely right-handed). Laterality scores were +90 (decile R.7), +80 (decile R.5), +100 (decile R.10), +25 (ambidextrous), +80 (decile R.5), +10 (ambidextrous), and +90 (decile R.7) for S1-7, respectively.

2. fMRI data pre-processing. Each functional run was motion-corrected using the FMRIB Linear Image Registration Tool (FLIRT) from FSL 5.0 (Jenkinson & Smith, 2001). All volumes in the run were then averaged to obtain a high quality template volume. FLIRT was then used to automatically align the template volume for each run to the overall template, which was chosen to be the template for the first functional run for each subject. These automatic alignments were manually checked and adjusted as necessary to improve accuracy. The cross-run transformation matrix was then concatenated to the motion-correction transformation matrices, and the concatenated transformation was used to resample the original data directly into the overall template space.

Low-frequency voxel response drift was identified using a 2nd order Savitsky-Golay filter with a 120second window and then subtracted from the signal. The mean response for each voxel was then subtracted and the remaining response was scaled to have unit variance.

3. Cortical surface reconstruction and visualization. Cortical surface meshes were generated from the T1-weighted anatomical scans using Freesurfer software (Dale, Fischl, & Sereno, 1999). Before surface reconstruction, anatomical surface segmentations were carefully hand-checked and corrected using Blender software and pycortex (Gao, Huth, Lescroart, & Gallant, 2015). Relaxation cuts were made into the surface of each hemisphere and Blender and pycortex were used to remove the surface crossing the corpus callosum. The calcarine sulcus cut was made at the horizontal meridian in V1 using retinotopic mapping data as a guide.

Functional images were aligned to the cortical surface using boundary based registration (BBR) implemented in FSL. These registrations were checked for accuracy and, if necessary, adjusted using pycortex.

Model prediction performance maps shown in Figure 1 and Extended Data Figure 1 and model selectivity maps shown in Figure 2 and Extended Data Figures 3-4 & 6-12 were created by projecting values for each voxel onto the cortical surface using the *nearest* scheme in pycortex. This projection scheme finds the location of each pixel in the image in 3D space, and then assigns that pixel the value of the enclosing voxel. This was done by finding pixel locations only on the mid-cortical surface, which lies halfway between the pial and white matter surfaces generated by Freesurfer.

4. Localizers for known ROIs. Known regions of interest (ROIs) were localized separately in each subject using standard techniques. Some of these ROIs were used as landmarks for the PrAGMATiC analysis. For all subjects we defined ROIs using three experiments: a visual category localizer, an auditory cortex localizer, and a motor localizer. For some subjects we also defined retinotopic visual ROIs using a retinotopic localizer, and area MT+ using an MT localizer.

Visual category localizer. Visual category localizer data were collected in six 4.5-minute scans consisting of 16 blocks, each 16 seconds long. During each block, 20 images of either places, faces,

human body parts, non-human animals, household objects, or spatially scrambled household objects were displayed. Each image was displayed for 300 ms followed by a 500 ms blank. Occasionally the same image was displayed twice in a row, in which case the subject was asked to respond with a button press.

The contrast between faces and objects was used to define the fusiform face area (FFA) (Kanwisher et al., 1997) and occipital face area (OFA). The contrast between human body parts and objects was used to define the extrastriate body area (EBA) (Downing, Jiang, Shuman, & Kanwisher, 2001). The contrast between places and objects was used to define the parahippocampal place area (PPA) (Epstein & Kanwisher, 1998), occipital place area (OPA) (Nakamura et al., 2000), and retrosplenial cortex (RSC).

Auditory cortex localizer. Auditory cortex localizer data were collected in one 10 minute scan. The subject listened to 10 repeats of a 1-minute auditory stimulus, which consisted of 20-second segments of music (Arcade Fire), speech (Ira Glass), and natural sound (a babbling brook). To determine whether a voxel was responsive to auditory stimuli, the repeatability of the voxel response across the 10 stimulus repeats was calculated using an *F*-statistic. The *F*-statistic map was used to define the auditory cortex (AC).

Motor localizer. Motor localizer data were collected during one 10-minute scan. The subject was cued to perform six different motor tasks in a random order in 20-second blocks. For the hand, mouth, foot, speech, and rest blocks the stimulus was simply a word at the center of the screen (e.g. "Hand"). For the saccade block the subject was shown a pattern of saccade targets.

For the "Hand" cue the subject was instructed to make small finger-drumming movements with both hands for as long as the cue remained on the screen. Similarly for the "Foot" cue the subject was instructed to make small toe movements for the duration of the cue. For the "Mouth" cue the subject was instructed to make small mouth movements approximating the nonsense syllables *balabalabala* for the duration of the cue—this requires movement of the lips, tongue, and jaw. For the "Speak" cue the subject was instructed to continuously subvocalize self-generated sentences for the duration of the cue. For the saccade condition the written cue was replaced with a fixed pattern of twelve saccade targets, and the subject was instructed to make frequent saccades between the targets. A linear model was used to find the change in BOLD response of each voxel in each condition relative to the mean BOLD response.

Weight maps for the foot, hand, and mouth responses were used to define primary motor and somatosensory areas for the feet (M1F, S1F), hands (M1H, S1H), and mouth (M1M, S1M); supplementary motor areas for the feet (SMFA) and hands (SMHA); secondary somatosensory area for the feet (S2F) and, in some subjects, the hands (S2H); and, in some subjects, the ventral premotor hand area (PMVH). The weight map for saccade responses was used to define the frontal eye field (FEF), frontal operculum eye movement area (FO), intraparietal sulcus visual areas (IPS), and, in some subjects, the supplementary eye field (SEF). The weight map for speech production responses was used to define Broca's area (BA) and the superior ventral premotor speech area (sPMv).

Retinotopic localizer. Retinotopic mapping data were collected in four 9-minute scans. Two scans used clockwise and counterclockwise rotating polar wedges, and two used expanding and contracting rings. Visual angle and eccentricity maps were used to define visual areas V1, V2, V3, V4, LO, V3A, V3B,

and V7.

Area MT+ localizer. Area MT+ localizer data were collected in four 90-second scans consisting of alternating 16-second blocks of continuous and temporally scrambled natural movies. The contrast between continuous and temporally scrambled natural movies was used to define visual motion area MT+.

5. Abbreviations for annotated gyri and sulci. In the flattened cortical maps shown in Figure 3 and Extended Data Figures 6-12 some sulci and gyri are annotated and labeled. The nomenclature generally follows (Ono, Kubik, & Abernathey, 1990). Here we list abbreviations and complete labels for these sulci and gyri: POS, posterior occipital sulcus; TOS, transverse occipital sulcus; LOS, lateral occipital sulcus; AOS, anterior occipital sulcus; CoS, collateral sulcus; mFus, midfusiform sulcus; OTS; occipitotemporal sulcus; ITS, inferior temporal sulcus; STS, superior temporal sulcus; HS, Heschl's sulcus; IPS, intraparietal sulcus; AG, angular gyrus; SMG, supramarginal gyrus; sbPS, subparietal sulcu; CgS, cingulate sulcus; SFS, superior frontal sulcus; CeS, central sulcus; PreCeS, precentral sulcus; IFS, inferior frontal sulcus; SFS, superior frontal sulcus; SyF, sylvian fissure; CSI, circular sulcus of the insula; aarSyF, anterior ascending ramus of the sylvian fissure; ahrSyF, anterior horizontal ramus of the sylvian fissure.

6. Story synopses. This experiment used ten stories for voxel-wise model estimation and one story for model validation. All stories were taken from recordings produced by *The Moth Radio Hour*, and are true, autobiographical stories told in front of a live audience. The ten estimation stories were: "Alternate Ithaca Tom" by Tom Weiser, a story about a man who is plagued by visions of what his life would have been like if he had become a university professor instead of a database engineer; "Targeted" by Jen Lee, a story about a woman questioning and then losing her faith both in evangelical Christianity and in Mary Kay cosmetics; "My Avatar and Me" by Laura Albert (aka J.T. LeRoy), a story about an author who published under a pen name, and the backlash that was directed at her when she was exposed; "My Unhurried Legacy" by Kyp Malone, a story about a man who recovers repressed childhood memories when he sees his daughter struggling in grade school; "Ode to Stepfather" by Ethan Hawke, a story about a boy growing up with and then losing a tough and macho stepfather; "Under the Influence" by Jeffery Rudell, a story about a man's struggle with hope and forgiveness after being completely disowned by his family when he came out to them as gay; "How to Draw a Nekkid Man" by Tricia Rose Burt, a story about a woman who leaves the business world and becomes an artist; "My First Day at the Yankees" by Matt McGough, a story about becoming a batboy for the New York Yankees and the target of a prank; "Naked" by Catherine Burns, a story about a woman who briefly becomes an exotic dancer after overcoming self-esteem issues; and "Life Flight" by Kimberly Reed, a story about a trans woman who returns to her hometown and reveals her transgender status after her father's death. The validation story was "Where There's Smoke" by Jenifer Hixson, a story about a woman who makes a new friend while struggling with an abusive relationship.

7. Word rate and phoneme rate model construction. To account for the highly variable speech rate both within and across stories, we constructed two single-feature models that simply count the number of words and number of phonemes that occurred during the acquisition of each fMRI volume (2.0045s).

8. Phoneme model construction. To account for response variance caused by the low-level phonemic content of the stories, we constructed a 39-parameter model that captures how often each of the 39

phonemes in English was spoken over time. This model was constructed from the phoneme representation of the stories: the lists of phoneme-time pairs (P, t) were re-arranged into 39 lists, each of which contains only the times of a single phoneme. These lists of times were then downsampled to the fMRI acquisition rate.

9. Noise-ceiling correction. While the correlation between predicted response and actual mean response is an appropriate metric for assessing significance, it is biased downward due to noise in the validation data (David & Gallant, 2005; Hsu, Borst, & Theunissen, 2004; Sahani & Linden, 2003). This is because the actual mean response is calculated using a finite number of repetitions (in this case 2) and thus it contains residual noise in addition to signal. This noise level is likely to vary across voxels due to vascularization and magnetic field inhomogeneity. For the corrected correlation flatmaps shown in Extended Data Figure 1, we accounted for noise in the validation data using the method developed in (Hsu et al., 2004). In this method the raw correlation is divided by the expected maximum possible model correlation (called the *noise ceiling*) for each voxel. For very noisy voxels, however, this method led to divergent correlation estimates. To correct this issue we limited voxel noise ceilings to be above some value *k*. For *k*=1, the estimated actual correlation is the observed correlation between response and prediction, and for *k*=0 the estimated actual correlation is the original divergent estimate. We used k=0.0966, which is the *p*<0.05 significance threshold for the correlation of two gaussian variables with the same length as our validation story.

10. Significance testing of semantic principal components. If there is no structured semantic space underlying the true model weights (i.e. the weights for each voxel are independent from the other voxels) then the PCs of the estimated model weights will be identical to the PCs of the stimulus matrix, which contains the semantic feature representations of each 2-second segment of the stories. This bias in the estimated weight PCs is due to the regularized regression procedure used here, which trades a small increase in bias for a large decrease in error (Hoerl & Kennard, 2012). Thus in order to appropriately evaluate statistical significance of the estimated model weight PCs we compared them to the PCs of the stories. This significance criterion helps ensure that the semantic structure that we observe in the PCs is due primarily to the fMRI data and not the statistics of the stories. We first tested whether each individual-subject model weight PC accounted for more variance than would be expected by chance. To find confidence intervals on the variance accounted for by each PC we bootstrapped the model weight PCA by sampling with replacement from the voxel population 1000 times. Similarly, confidence intervals on the variance in model weights accounted for by each story PC were obtained by bootstrapping the story PCA 1000 times. One potential issue with directly comparing the variance accounted for by an individual-subject PC and the correspondingly numbered story PC (i.e. comparing the first subject PC with the first story PC) is that the same PCs might appear in both analyses but in a different order. To account for this issue we re-ordered the first 20 story PCs to maximize their correspondence to the first 20 subject PCs using the Gale-Shapley stable marriage algorithm.

The amount of variance accounted for in the model weights by each of the model weight PCs (orange lines) and story PCs (gray lines) is shown in Extended Data Figure 2, along with error bars denoting 99% confidence intervals. To test the hypothesis that a model weight PC accounts for more variance than the corresponding story PC we counted the number of times in the 1000 bootstrap samples that the story PC accounted for more variance than the model weight PC. The null hypothesis for this analysis is that the story PC and the model weight PC account for the same amount of variance. We rejected the null hypothesis if the story PC never accounted for more variance than the voxel weight PC across the 1000 bootstrap samples (corresponding to p < 0.001).

Because lower-variance PCs are more sensitive to noise and thus more likely to yield false positives, we tested the PCs sequentially and stopped testing after encountering the first non-significant PC. This procedure revealed that subject S1 has 6 significant individual-subject PCs, S2 has 8 significant PCs, S3 has 4 significant PCs, S4 has 6 significant PCs, S5 has 7 significant PCs, S6 has 6 significant PCs, and S7 has 4 significant PCs.

Next we tested PCs constructed using combined data from many subjects. For each subject we constructed a set of group PCs using combined data from the other six subjects, leaving out the selected subject. For example, to test subject S1 we performed PCA on combined model weights from subjects S2-S7. We then computed the amount of variance accounted for in the model weights for the left out subject by each of the group PCs. As with the individual subject PCs and story PCs, confidence intervals on the variance explained by the group PCs were found using the bootstrap. The amount of variance accounted for in the model weights in the model weights by each of the group PCs were found using the bootstrap. The amount of variance accounted for in the model weights by each of the group PCs (blue lines) is shown in Extended Data Figure 2, along with error bars denoting 99% confidence intervals.

We then tested whether each group PC explained more variance than the corresponding story PC (again re-ordered using the Gale-Shapley stable marriage algorithm) using the statistical procedure described above. We found that subject S5 was significantly explained by 6 group PCs, subjects S1 and S3 were significantly explained by 5 group PCs, subjects S4, S6, and S7 were significantly explained by 4 group PCs, and subject S3 was significantly explained by 3 group PCs (Extended Data Figure 2).

11. Semantic word cluster analysis. Cluster analysis was used to create interpretable features in the semantic space. First all 10,470 words in the semantic feature space were projected into the 4dimensional common semantic PC space. Then an iterative, robust convex hull estimation procedure was used to find the most important words in this space. At each iteration, 80% of the 10,470 words were selected at random, and then their convex hull was found in the 4-D semantic space. This was repeated 100 times. The set of all words that appeared on the convex hull in at least one iteration was then found. These 458 words were then clustered in the 4-D space using the k-means implementation in scikit-learn (Pedregosa et al., 2011). To select the number of clusters we computed the fraction of variance that the clusters collectively explained in the mean semantic model for each of the significant semantic areas identified by the PrAGMATiC atlas. Then we selected the smallest number of clusters that would account for at least 10% of the variance in each PrAGMATiC area, which was 12. To maximize cluster stability we repeated the k-means clustering 100 times and selected the model with the highest average variance explained across the PrAGMATiC areas. Within each k-means repetition the clustering model was initialized 100 times using k-means++. Labels were assigned to the clusters manually by inspecting the words that appeared in each cluster (Supplementary Table 2). For alternate label assignment methods see Supplementary Data 5.

12. PrAGMATiC details. The PrAGMATiC algorithm assumes that the cortex of each subject is tiled with convex functional areas, and that all locations within each area have the same tuning within the 4-dimensional semantic space. The location of each area is determined by the location of its centroid, which is a single point on the cortical surface. The location of each centroid depends on the locations of a few neighboring centroids and the locations of some known landmarks, which are identified separately in each subject. The functional selectivity of each area is determined by its mean functional value. The mean functional value for area i is called M_i .

This model is instantiated for each subject as a two-layer Bayesian network, with one visible layer and

one hidden layer. The visible layer units are vertices on the cortical surface mesh. Each vertex is associated with a *D*-vector of observed functional values. The vector of observed values for visible unit l in subject s is called $v_{ls}^{obs} \in \mathcal{R}^D$, and the collection of all visible units in a subject is called V_s^{obs} . We assume that all visible units are independent of each other, given the hidden layer units.

The hidden layer units are the locations of the area centroids. The location of centroid i in subject s is called h_{is} , and the collection of all hidden units in subject s is called H_s .

As a generative model, PrAGMATiC must be able to generate samples from the distribution of visible unit vectors. To sample v_{ls} we first find the index of the nearest area centroid on the cortical surface, c(H, l, s). Then we look up the mean associated with that centroid, $M_{c(H,l,s)}$. Finally we draw a sample from a multivariate Gaussian distribution with spherical variance: $v_{ls} \sim \mathcal{N}(M_{c(H,l,s)}, \sigma_V^2 I_D)$

The probability distribution over locations of the hidden units is modeled using a physical analogy to a system of springs. The ideal length of the spring connecting units i and j is called L_{ij} .

The full probability distribution for PrAGMATiC is written:

$$P(V, H; M, L) = P(H; L)P(V|H; M) = \left[Z_H(L)^{-1} e^{-E(H;L)} \right] \left[Z_V^{-1} e^{-E(V|H;M)} \right]$$

The distribution over arrangements of the hidden layer units, H, is modeled using a Boltzmann distribution with the following energy function:

$$E(H;L) = \frac{\beta}{2} \sum_{i,j,s} \left(d_{ijs} - L_{ij} \right)^2$$

Here d_{ijs} is the geodesic distance across the cortical surface between hidden layer units *i* and *j* in subject *s*. This distance is computed using a heat-based approximation to the exact geodesic distance (Crane et al. 2012). This energy function is exactly the sum over the spring potential energy for all spring connections in the model. The constant β determines the temperature of the spring system. The normalizing constant for P(H; L) depends on the value of *L*, and is written here as $Z_H(L)$.

The distribution over visible unit values is multivariate Gaussian with equal variance in all dimensions and zero covariance, but for consistency we write it as an energy-based model. The energy function for the visible units is:

$$E(V|H;M) = \frac{\sigma_V^{-2}}{2} \sum_{l,s} \left(v_{ls} - M_{H(s,l)} \right)^2$$

Here $M_{H(s,l)}$ is the mean functional value for the closest hidden layer unit (by geodesic distance across the cortical surface) in the arrangement H to visible layer unit l in subject s. The constant σ_V is the standard deviation of the Gaussian. The normalizing constant for P(V|H; M) depends on σ_V , but not on any of the learned parameters (because this is a Gaussian distribution its normalizing constant is known).

We use maximum likelihood estimation (MLE) to learn L and M based on observed visible unit data, V^{obs}

 V^{obs} . For the spring lengths, the average log likelihood given the observed data is written:

$$\mathscr{L}(L; V^{obs}) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{s} \log P(V_s^{obs}; L)$$

Here N is the number of subjects and s is an index across subjects.

Then we differentiate with respect to L to find:

$$\frac{\partial \mathscr{L}(L; V^{obs})}{\partial L} = \left(\frac{\partial Z_H(L)}{\partial L}\right)^{-1} Z_H(L) \\ -\frac{1}{N} \sum_s \frac{\sum_h P(V_s^{obs}|h; M) P(h; L) \frac{\partial E(h; L)}{\partial L}}{P(V_s^{obs}; L, M)}$$

Where the total probability of the observed data given the parameters, $P(V_s^{obs}; L, M)$ is equal to the expectation over H:

$$P(V_s^{obs}; L, M) = \sum_h P(V_s^{obs} | h; M) P(h; L)$$

The first part of the gradient, which involves the normalization constant Z_H , can be written as:

$$\left(\frac{\partial Z_H(L)}{\partial L}\right)^{-1} Z_H(L) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{s,h} P(h;L) \frac{\partial E(h;L)}{\partial L}$$

or simply as the expectation of the gradient over H:

$$\left(\frac{\partial Z_H(L)}{\partial L}\right)^{-1} Z_H(L) = \left\langle \frac{\partial E(H;L)}{\partial L} \right\rangle_H$$

Note that the entire gradient could be written more simply as the Boltzmann learning rule from Ackley, Hinton, & Sejnowski, 1985:

$$\frac{\partial \mathscr{L}(L; V^{obs})}{\partial L} = \left\langle \frac{\partial E(H; L)}{\partial L} \right\rangle_{H} - \left\langle \frac{\partial E(H; L)}{\partial L} \right\rangle_{H|V^{obs}}$$

However, to make an essential approximation we retain the earlier formulation. This gradient is impossible to compute exactly because it requires integrating over all possible H. Therefore we approximate the gradient using only a small number of samples from P(H; L). These samples are obtained using Gibbs sampling, wherein the location of each hidden unit is update sequentially according to the conditional distribution $P(h_{is}|H_{/is}; L)$. This procedure is used to obtain J samples of H, which are denoted \tilde{H}^j with j = 1...J. We then use these samples to approximate the integral and expectation over H. The gradient function is then rewritten as:

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$$\frac{\partial \mathscr{L}(L; V^{obs})}{\partial L} \quad = \quad \frac{1}{NJ} \sum_{j,s} \frac{\partial E(\tilde{H}_s^j; L)}{\partial L} - \frac{1}{N} \sum_s \frac{\sum_j P(V_s^{obs} | \tilde{H}_s^j; M) \frac{\partial E(\tilde{H}_s^j; L)}{\partial L}}{\sum_j P(V_s^{obs} | \tilde{H}_s^j; M)}$$

This function shows that the likelihood gradient is equal to the difference between the average energy gradient across all J samples (the first term) and a weighted average energy gradient (the second term), where the weights are proportional to the probability of the observed data V^{obs} given the sampled H.

To compute the energy gradient for each sample we differentiate the energy function with respect to each element of L, giving:

$$\frac{\partial E(H;L)}{\partial L_{ij}} = \frac{\beta}{2} \sum_{s} \left(L_{ij} - d_{ijs} \right)$$

The gradient for M is slightly different because the normalization constant Z_V does not depend on M (as the normalization constant of a Gaussian does not depend on the mean). Thus it has a simpler expression:

$$\frac{\partial \mathscr{L}(M; V^{obs})}{\partial M} = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{s} \frac{\sum_{j} P(V_s^{obs} | \tilde{H}_s^j; M) \frac{\partial E(V^{obs} | \tilde{H}_s^j; M)}{\partial M}}{\sum_{j} P(V_s^{obs} | \tilde{H}_s^j; M)}$$

And the energy gradient for the mean of area i, $\partial E_V / \partial M_i$ is:

$$\frac{\partial E(V|H; M_i)}{\partial M_i} = \sigma_V^{-2} \sum_{l,s; H(s,l)=i} (V_{ls} - M_i)$$

Where the sum is taken only over the visible units l, s for which the closest hidden unit in the arrangement, c(H, l, s) is i.

To obtain high quality, independent samples of H we maintain J parallel Markov chains for each of the N subjects. At each learning step we perform one Gibbs sweep through each of the Markov chains. That is, at step t in chain j and subject s we draw the sample:

$$\tilde{H}_s^{j,t} \sim P(H_s | \tilde{H}_s^{j,t-1}; L^t)$$

For each of the J samples we compute the energy gradients for L and M, as well as the likelihood of the observed data $P(V_s^{obs}|\tilde{H}_s^{j,t}; M^t)$. Then we compute the average gradients and the weighted average gradient according to the data likelihoods. Finally we update L and M by taking a small step down these gradients:

$$L^{t+1} = L^{t} - \epsilon \frac{\partial \mathscr{L}(L^{t}; V^{obs})}{\partial L^{t}}$$
$$M^{t+1} = M^{t} - \epsilon \frac{\partial \mathscr{L}(M^{t}; V^{obs})}{\partial M^{t}}$$

The learning rate, ϵ , is set on each step so that the largest change in any spring length is no more than

2mm and the largest change in any mean functional value is no more than 0.025 standard deviations.

The hyperparameters β and σ_V affect learning speed, but they do not directly affect the learned parameters (except by virtue of poor approximation). The inverse spring temperature, β , determines how stiff or floppy the springs are. If the inverse temperature is very high then the springs will be very stiff, samples of H will be highly correlated across iterations, and the quality of the gradient steps will suffer. If it is very low then the springs will be very floppy, samples of H will be highly random, and the quality of the gradient steps will also suffer.

If σ_V is very low, then one sample from H will always yield much higher likelihood of V^{obs} than the others, and the weighted average of the gradients across samples will become the difference between the best sample and the other samples. If σ_V is very high, then the likelihood of V^{obs} will be very similar for all samples, and the weighted average of the gradients will be almost identical to the simple average across gradients.

Note further that these hyperparameters interact with each other. If β is very high, then almost all samples from H will be close to the H that minimizes the total spring energy. Because the samples will be more similar, the likelihoods will also be more similar, and the weighted average of the gradients will again be similar to the simple average. The hyperparameters also interact with the number of areas in the model.

Rather than tuning these parameters directly, we select desired levels of entropy for $P_h = P(h_{is}|H_{/is};L)$ and $P_V = P(V_s^{obs}|\tilde{H}_s^j;M)$. If the average entropy of P_h is lower than the target value then we lower β to make the springs more floppy; if it is higher than the target value then we raise β to make the springs stiffer. Similarly, if the entropy of P_V is lower than the target value then we raise σ_V ; if it is higher than the target value then we lower σ_V .

High entropy keeps the model from falling into local minima, but also keeps the model from finding very high likelihood solutions. Conversely, low entropy allows the model to find high likelihood solutions, but also makes it more likely to fall into local minima. To take advantage of both low and high entropy states we use an annealing approach, where the entropy target for P_h is high at the beginning of learning, but then is gradually lowered throughout the learning process. This makes the Markov chain take larger, more uncorrelated steps at the beginning of learning, but smaller steps at the end.

In practice the algorithm as written above tends to converge when the numbers of areas and subjects are both small. If these numbers become large, however, (e.g. 128+ clusters and 5+ subjects) the algorithm becomes less stable. When this occurs, the model tends to prioritize minimum energy solutions over maximum probability solutions. That is, the model tries to minimize the total spring energy across all the subjects at the cost of poorly explaining the data. This often causes all the areas to bunch up as far as possible from any known landmarks. These effects are exacerbated when β is high.

We believe that this problem is caused by bias in drawing samples of H. When the spring temperature is low, all samples from P(H; L) will be very close to the minimum spring energy state (i.e. the arrangement that minimizes E(H; L)). If the minimum spring energy state is far from the maximum probability state (i.e. the arrangement that maximizes $P(V^{obs}|H)$), then this could bias the gradient

steps such that the likelihood decreases over time.

One solution to this problem is to increase J, the number of samples that are drawn for each subject at each step of the learning algorithm. However, this is expensive, as run time is linear in J. An alternative solution that incurs almost no additional cost is to add a small perturbation to the ideal spring lengths that is specifically tailored to each subject. That is, we replace the global spring length parameters L with $L + \Lambda_s$. Now the domain of possible minimum spring energy states is much larger, and thus it is much more likely that the maximum probability state also has low or minimum spring energy. To ensure that Λ_s stays small and does not capture differences that are common across subjects we set the learning rate for Λ_s to 1/10 of the learning rate for L.

With this new term, the full probability distribution becomes:

$$P(V, H; M, L, \Lambda) = P(H; L, \Lambda) P(V|H; M)$$

= $\left[Z_H(L, \Lambda)^{-1} e^{-E(H; L, \Lambda)} \right] \left[Z_V^{-1} e^{-E(V|H; M)} \right]$

And the spring energy function becomes:

$$E(H;L,\Lambda) = \frac{\beta}{2} \sum_{i,j,s} \left(d_{ijs} - L_{ij} - \Lambda_{ijs} \right)^2$$

The energy gradient for Λ is very similar to that for *L*:

$$\frac{\partial E(H;L,\Lambda)}{\partial \Lambda_{ijs}} = \frac{\beta}{2} \left(L_{ij} + \Lambda_{ijs} - d_{ijs} \right)$$

PrAGMATiC optimizes a non-convex objective function and so can find many potential locally optimal solutions. (This is a common problem in clustering algorithms.) This also means that the resulting model is sensitive to initial conditions and to the random seed that is used while sampling new model states during learning. Here we use two methods to maximize the chance of finding the optimal global solution. First, we use an annealing process, lowering the temperature parameter slowly over the course of learning. Second, we re-estimate the model for each hemisphere 10 times, using a different random initialization and random seed each time. From these various estimates we take the model that has the highest likelihood to be the canonical model. Extended Data Figure 5 shows the model with the highest likelihood, and the model with the second-highest likelihood. The most likely and second-most likely functional parcellations are quite similar, though there are some small local differences that reflect statistical thresholding and the influence of initial conditions. Thus, our implementation of the PrAGMATiC algorithm seems to produce reliable and stable estimates of functional parcellation.

13. PrAGMATIC atlas. To determine how many total areas should be used in the PrAGMATIC atlas we used a cross-validation procedure. We estimated PrAGMATIC models with different numbers of areas (ranging from 8 to 384) and data from six of the seven subjects. We computed the average semantic voxel-wise model weight vector (including all four delays) in each area for each of the six subjects included in the PrAGMATIC model. This was done by projecting the weight vectors into

vertex space using the *line-nearest* scheme in pycortex and then averaging across all the vertices within each area. Then those vectors were averaged together across subjects to obtain a single estimated weight vector for each area.

Next we used the estimated PrAGMATiC model to parcellate cortex in the seventh subject, generating a predicted parcellation based only on the locations of the functional landmarks. This was done by loading the spring lengths from the estimated PrAGMATiC model and then resampling the area centroid locations in the seventh subject for 100 iterations, during which the inverse temperature (beta) was gradually increased from 0.05 to 37. At this point each vertex in the seventh subject is assigned to a single area in the PrAGMATiC parcellation.

Next we tested how well the average weight vector for each PrAGMATiC area from the other six subjects could predict responses in the seventh subject. We projected BOLD responses to the validation story (which was not used for voxel-wise model estimation) for the seventh subject into vertex space using the *line-nearest* scheme in pycortex. Then for each vertex we used the average weight vector assigned to its area based on the other six subjects to predict BOLD responses to the validation story in the seventh subject. Finally we computed the correlation between the predicted and actual BOLD responses to obtain a measure of model prediction performance. These correlation values were averaged across all vertices in each hemisphere in each subject to obtain the PrAGMATiC prediction values shown in Figure 3B. This procedure was repeated three times while holding out each of the seven subjects separately.

To select the best number of areas for each hemisphere based on these correlation values, we performed a linear mixed-effects ANOVA using the lmer package in R with each number of areas as a factor level in a fixed effect and subjects as random effects. This showed that correlation was significantly different for different numbers of areas. Next we performed pairwise post hoc tests comparing mean correlations across numbers of areas using the multcomp package in R. Resulting *p*-values were corrected for multiple comparisons using FDR. Finally, we selected the smallest number of areas for which the mean correlation was not significantly different (q(FDR)>0.01) from the mean correlation for any larger number of areas. For the left hemisphere, this required 192 areas. For the right, this required 128 areas.

The final PrAGMATIC atlas was based on data from all seven subjects, unlike the cross-validated models described above. To identify semantically selective areas in the atlas we tested whether the average semantic model in each area performed significantly better than the average low-level model. This was done using a similar procedure to that outlined above. The average semantic model was computed for each area (including data from all seven subjects), as was the average low-level model for each area. Predictions for each vertex in each area were computed, as above, for both semantic and low-level models. Then a bootstrap procedure was used to estimate a distribution of correlation values for each vertex under each model by resampling the 290 time points that were used to compute the correlation, with replacement, 1000 times. These bootstrap correlations were averaged across each area and across subjects. Finally the average correlations for the semantic and low-level models were compared for each bootstrap sample. The *p*-value for the significance test was computed as the fraction of samples where the average semantic model correlation for an area was less than the average lowlevel model correlation. This p-value is 1.0 for areas where the low-level model is always better, 0.5 for areas where both models are about the same, and 0.0 for areas where the semantic model is always better. These *p*-values were corrected for multiple comparisons using FDR. Corrected *p*-value thresholds were chosen based on the total number of areas. For example, in the left hemisphere the

threshold p < 1/192 should limit the number of non-semantic areas that are considered semantic to fewer than one. Only areas where the semantic model performed significantly better than the low-level model according to this test are shown in Figure 3 and Extended Data Figures 6-12.

To describe the semantic selectivity of areas in the PrAGMATiC atlas we predicted the average response of each area to each of the 12 semantic categories identified earlier (Figure 2A). This was done by computing the average semantic model weights for each area (as described above, but here averaging across delays) and then projecting those weights onto the average semantic vector for each of the 12 categories. These values are shown in Extended Data Figures 6-12. To determine whether each area was selective for a category we used a *t*-test to determine whether the estimated response to the category was consistently greater than zero across subjects (q(FDR) < 0.05, FDR correction applied across areas within each region and across the 12 categories).

To order the 12 categories for display purposes (Extended Data Figures 6-12) we projected the category vectors onto semantic model weights for all areas in the left hemisphere, and then computed the correlation between these projections for each pair of categories. Then we used a traveling salesman solver to find a path through the 12 categories that maximized correlations between adjacent categories.

One issue with using the 12 semantic categories to describe semantic selectivity is that many semantic concepts or categories that might be represented in the brain will fall outside of those categories. This would lead the 12 category interpretation to be incomplete. To assess how completely the 12 category interpretation describes each area in the PrAGMATiC atlas we fit linear models that attempted to recreate the average semantic model weights for each area from a weighted combination of the semantic vectors for the 12 categories. Then we computed the fraction of variance in the average semantic model weights that was explained by this linear model. In the best-explained areas the 12 categories account for 40-50% of the variance in the average semantic model weights, while for poorly explained areas they can account for less than 15% of the variance. Areas with very low variance explained are incompletely described by the 12 categories, while areas with higher variance explained are well described by the 12 categories. The variance explained for each area is shown in bar plots in Extended Data Figures 6-12.

To determine whether left hemisphere or right hemisphere areas within any given region (such as the medial parietal cortex) were significantly more selective for any of the 12 semantic categories we used a *t*-test to compare predicted responses in all left hemisphere areas to all right hemisphere areas.

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Supplementary Tables

1. Semantic categories that are over- or under-sampled in the story stimuli. To determine which semantic categories are over- or under-sampled in the stories used in this experiment we compared the stories to a large text corpus (see Supplementary Data 1 for details). Semantic categories were found using Ward agglomerative clustering. For each category that was significantly over- or under-sampled in the stories, this table shows the frequency of that category in the corpus, the frequency of that category in the story stimuli, the ratio of those frequencies, the *p*-value of the difference in frequency, and a few sample words from that category.

Under-sampled categories

Corpus frequency	Stimulus frequency	Stimulus frequency Ratio ↓		Sample words				
47.33/100k	0.00/100k	inf:1	0.000029	sinking stern boat diving sank				
38.08/100k	0.00/100k	inf:1	0.000284	mademoiselle dorrit mrs winkle squeers				
301.35/100k	8.57/100k	35.2:1	0.000000	unit laboratory foundation project extend				
83.50/100k	4.29/100k	19.5:1	0.000000	sailed boarded arriving aboard patrol				
184.44/100k	12.86/100k	14.3:1	0.000000	admiral military artillery survivors disaster				
167.77/100k	17.14/100k	9.8:1	0.000000	succession british crowned kingdom rebellion				
569.27/100k	60.00/100k	9.5:1	0.000000	adapted originally major currently expanded				
85.37/100k	12.86/100k	6.6:1	0.000008	entering temporarily reserve guidance aid				
240.43/100k	38.57/100k	6.2:1	0.000000	organized nations affairs nation dispute				
102.32/100k	17.14/100k	6.0:1	0.000002	pulse channels tracking via radios				
310.61/100k	55.72/100k	5.6:1	0.000000	machine effectively devices thereby equipped				
465.40/100k	90.00/100k	5.2:1	0.000000	woods meadows grove canyon eastern				
215.87/100k	42.86/100k	5.0:1	0.000000	union commerce cities occupation towns				
244.63/100k	51.43/100k	4.8:1	0.000000	instrument introduction purposes instruments traced				
135.24/100k	30.00/100k	4.5:1	0.000000	threatened enemies destroy brutal threatening				
647.01/100k	154.29/100k	4.2:1	0.000000	circumstances responsible altogether privilege citizens				
141.41/100k	34.29/100k	4.1:1	0.000000	elegant elaborate females likeness mature				
508.09/100k	132.86/100k	3.8:1	0.000000	headquarters halls stables city boulevard				
80.55/100k	21.43/100k	3.8:1	0.000311	lord highness privy constable priest				
218.99/100k	60.00/100k	3.6:1	0.000000	peril disguise spared summoned siege				
136.92/100k	38.57/100k	3.5:1	0.000003	collapse reactor atomic shifting observe				
181.23/100k	51.43/100k	3.5:1	0.000000	miller owens barton maxwell marshall				
686.19/100k	197.15/100k	3.5:1	0.000000	o w d span h				
118.42/100k	34.29/100k	3.5:1	0.000023	cops prison unaware suspicion pleaded				
250.62/100k	72.86/100k	3.4:1	0.000000	resigned rival representative presidential alliance				
73.45/100k	21.43/100k	3.4:1	0.001454	possum elephant wolves turtle butterfly				
219.92/100k	64.29/100k	3.4:1	0.000000	estimate similarly object y scale				
251.57/100k	77.14/100k	3.3:1	0.000000	increase increasing absorbed owing million				
264.71/100k	81.43/100k	3.3:1	0.000000	fail logic argue opinions suspect				
188.16/100k	60.00/100k	3.1:1	0.000000	preserve suitable ideal unique lacked				
303.19/100k	98.57/100k	3.1:1	0.000000	represents borne contained representing refer				
774.81/100k	257.15/100k	3.0:1	0.000000	tree pavement feet rolling ground				
153.38/100k	51.43/100k	3.0:1	0.000008	lethal survival beings power fatal				
126.54/100k	42.86/100k	3.0:1	0.000064	trade proprietor owned owner co				
113.65/100k	38.57/100k	2.9:1	0.000190	metallic patch uneven spot canvas				

RESEARCH SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

88.84/100k 9.00/100k 2.8:1 0.001181 dyng melt container freezing temps 95.51/100k 38.37/100k 2.8:1 0.000052 spider herd snakes spider insects 105.91/100k 64.29/100k 2.7:1 0.000050 wells detached divided remainder pror 175.83/100k 64.29/100k 2.7:1 0.000050 tells detached divided remainder pror 75.84/100k 64.29/100k 2.6:1 0.000050 theory example currency absolute universally 98.94/100k 28.51/100k 2.6:1 0.000152 dells near an horrow 97.34/100k 38.57/100k 2.5:1 0.000152 delensive offnase fighter target forces 113.93/100k 65.72/100k 2.5:1 0.000000 effective result employ currulative ase 26.32/100k 42.9/100k 2.5:1 0.000000 successitul significance scholar considered accomp 28.32/100k 18.57/100k 2.4:1 0.000000 solassitant former hopkins 21.85/100k 14.24/100k 2.4:1 0.000000 solassitant former hopkins 22.38/100k 16.15/100k 2.2:1	imulus
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276.55/100k 167.15/100k 1.7:1 0.000915 pursue destined rewarded encourage foremost	
362.76/100k 231.43/100k 1.6:1 0.000478 music onstage singer release violin	
494.22/100k 321.43/100k 1.5:1 0.000085 passport paperwork ups debt credit	
991.36/100k 677.15/100k 1.5:1 0.000000 wrong possible possibly agree sense	
34285.9/100k 28898.9/100k 1.2:1 0.000000 brought had has for when	

Over-sampled categories

Corpus freq.	Stim. freq.	Ratio	p-value	Sample words
127.32/100k	1860.03/100k	14.6:1	0.000000	doin lookin hah suck dunno
73.82/100k	415.72/100k	5.6:1	0.000000	sixteen twenty-three eighteen seventy fifteen
79.53/100k	325.72/100k	4.1:1	0.000009	blouse skirts hat t-shirts apron
27.27/100k	98.57/100k	3.6:1	0.000001	sanchez merrill hal wharton neville
116.92/100k	381.43/100k	3.3:1	0.000000	hanging railing crawl doors chair
34.25/100k	107.14/100k	3.1:1	0.003617	gabrielle alice jane naomi bianca
53.46/100k	162.86/100k	3.0:1	0.000190	laundry upstairs bedroom drawers carpet
25.76/100k	72.86/100k	2.8:1	0.000000	nigh wasn idly heartily emphatically
48.18/100k	132.86/100k	2.8:1	0.000764	arrow claws pits dart claw
263.90/100k	608.58/100k	2.3:1	0.000915	screaming listen scream shouted wink
332.17/100k	732.87/100k	2.2:1	0.000928	friend's hers kids relax tomorrow
144.10/100k	291.43/100k	2.0:1	0.002268	beauty men fro spectacles boy's
143.49/100k	278.58/100k	1.9:1	0.000000	tired hurt tempted remembering remind
126.86/100k	240.00/100k	1.9:1	0.000000	foul herb cigarettes wash smelled
251.57/100k	467.15/100k	1.9:1	0.000003	son son's funeral grace death
1994.22/100k	3612.91/100k	1.8:1	0.000000	i'd i'm feeling absolutely sigh
134.98/100k	231.43/100k	1.7:1	0.000280	ronnie nigel dave bobby ted
223.16/100k	381.43/100k	1.7:1	0.000047	waits open opens motioned gestured
269.01/100k	428.58/100k	1.6:1	0.000000	exclaimed asked call wondering imagined
322.88/100k	510.01/100k	1.6:1	0.000000	hold blew rolled smashed roll
2170.54/100k	3390.05/100k	1.6:1	0.000000	until came old time
173.72/100k	270.00/100k	1.6:1	0.000000	dreamer best marvelous favorite marvellous
4828.25/100k	7418.68/100k	1.5:1	0.000009	want how saying things people
205.97/100k	312.86/100k	1.5:1	0.000085	fingernails shaving fingers mouth eyelids
18745.95/100k	27128.9/100k	1.4:1	0.000000	here keeps than much right
607.73/100k	865.73/100k	1.4:1	0.000000	knows nice pity wish happy

2. All words in each semantic cluster. To interpret the semantic dimensions found using PCA, we clustered the words that had large projections on these dimensions into twelve clusters using k-means. This table lists all the words in each cluster and the label that was assigned to that cluster by the authors. Alternative methods for labeling the clusters are discussed and evaluated in Supplementary Data 5.

Cluster Label	Cluster Words
temporal	travel minute leave date clock hours week rumbling next schedule months month immediately heading waited weeks weekend arrive seconds starting destination hour minutes twice parking trip halfway nights pm promptly
abstract	natural roots delicate exaggerated diverse gentle stronger atmosphere flesh soothing qualities muscular distorted describe strong powerful artificial deeper ecology stem pure sound spreading deep particularly intricate subtle masses expressive weak focus environment influenced hip creating intense sensation folk surroundings
professional	meetings owner worker office rented year business meet home decided visit staying paid bank students house members visiting meeting private staff school estate classroom college apartment hotel attend
visual	yellow fur silver badge garment large gold suit steel colour variety brown uniform cap clothing leather breeches coloured colored skull cotton wig bone wears fielder ribbons skin green stockings black seal breast glove stripes striped feathers jackets colors shafts white wide medium color style blazer shaped cloth tan
violent	lethal instantly breath kill bat painful pause repeat tongue stab trigger sentence breathe die accidentally poison accidental swallow explode bullet reaction kills hit swallowed repeatedly loses
tactile	fingers blade metallic fog melt slow vertical dome edges waves drifting absorb barrel inches flowing thin swirling smooth pinch diameter tops sliding thick gravity breeze depth drops lightly blades hits slowly surface thinner sheets heavier portable pressing needle solid cut thicker soft slight finger melting meters cloudy slowed lighter flow faster layers screens lighting inch clouds slower reach shapes stream layer upwards
communal	schools male community church young society interests bred banker family respected american culture catholic adopted whose teaching african among educated founded children public youth politician protect reputation sons wealthy
mental	asleep knew memories overwhelmed awake anxious uneasy studying moments hadn't learning sadness talked experiences soundec confess senses calm fascinating thoughts answered emptiness reading wake dreaming listening tense hearing experience awe reply exploring replies quiet solitude comforting wished explore happened realised discuss
numeric	four quarter pairs set pound pair five maximum extra half drop card pounds cent overhead deck floors three two per stock each top tie shillings purse ten twenty double sold intervals tables smaller six
emotional	alive nature innocent despised disgrace religion spiritual believes troubled emotion illness influence truth tortured compassion fear deeply speak perceived anger embrace religious emotions weakness human feelings harsh vile profoundly openly remark profound evil admiration believing peaceful christian convinced hatred man's cruel fearful betrayed
social	child son situation pleaded marriage parents arrest daughter victim husband informed charges charged suicide relatives sheriff widow accused met arrested confronted eldest father custody robbery pregnant murder mother guilty confessed calls wife court whom stolen refused married murderer murdered convicted
locational	stadium visitors halls company shops golf scenery architecture rooms gardens athletic lounge spacious space evenings building houses art landscape fields sporting shopping arts purchased annual national center stores pools campus facilities sports activities design uniforms clubhouse teams local

3. MNI coordinates for each identified semantic area. The PrAGMATiC analysis found 77

significant semantic areas in the left hemisphere and 63 in the right. Each area was identified in the native anatomical space for each subject. This table lists the average MNI coordinates and the standard deviation for each area across subjects.

Area	X (± std)	Y (± std)	Z (± std)	Area	X (± std)	Y (± std)	Z (± std)	Area	X (± std)	Y (± std)	Z (± std)
LPC L6	-43±3.5	-67±4.1	24±4.8	LTC L4	-56±3.2	-45±4.9	3±3.8	MPC R9	6±1.1	-37±2.5	36±2.4
LPC L9	-51±5.1	-57±4.4	23±5.2	LTC L7	-59±2.5	-8±6.1	-23±6.4	MPC R1	21±3.4	-74±5.5	41±2.0
LPC L7	-47±3.5	-63±3.7	34±3.9	LTC L5	-61±3.5	-35±7.0	-7±2.9	SPFC R9	38±4.1	16±6.8	38±3.1
LPC L11	-53±1.8	-54±3.7	36±6.3	LTC L3	-57±3.3	-56±6.3	-1±4.1	SPFC R11	37±2.8	27±5.1	36±4.4
LPC L12	-54±4.9	-48±5.4	30±4.6	LTC L1	-48±4.4	-64±4.8	1±4.8	SPFC R17	28±1.5	58±2.4	7±4.9
LPC L3	-36±5.9	-78±4.9	32±4.3	LTC L2	-54±4.8	-59±5.2	-9±4.4	SPFC R15	20±2.0	52±2.8	31±3.5
LPC L13	-52±2.9	-49±4.7	45±4.3	VTC L6	-33±4.1	-23±1.6	-22±1.3	SPFC R8	12±3.3	25±3.7	57±3.2
LPC L14	-57±1.9	-41±2.7	31±4.6	VTC L5	-29±1.1	-39±1.5	-13±0.9	SPFC R16	9±1.2	57±2.7	17±1.7
LPC L8	-31±2.5	-53±5.2	49±5.9	VTC L1	-47±5.1	-66±4.1	-9±5.3	SPFC R14	7±0.7	45±4.4	40±2.4
LPC L5	-31±3.1	-65±3.2	45±4.2	VTC L4	-43±2.1	-48±4.6	-14±2.6	SPFC R12	17±2.5	40±5.1	47±2.8
LPC L4	-30±2.4	-75±4.6	37±4.3	VTC L3	-50±3.6	-55±5.4	-14±4.9	SPFC R6	39±2.9	18±5.8	48±5.1
LPC L1	-37±3.2	-81±2.6	21±4.1	VTC L2	-45±3.9	-59±4.3	-11±2.4	SPFC R19	9±2.4	66±2.9	-6±5.6
LPC L15	-51±4.1	-38±3.3	42±4.2	IPFC L9	-34±5.0	57±5.6	3±6.5	SPFC R2	10±3.1	8±4.8	65±4.4
LPC L10	-38±5.0	-50±5.9	44±3.9	IPFC L8	-45±2.9	37±2.2	-7±2.3	SPFC R18	8±0.6	48±2.0	-4±1.8
LPC L2	-25±3.0	-72±5.5	34±3.7	IPFC L11	-38±2.0	53±2.2	-10±3.1	SPFC R4	41±1.9	2±4.4	46±6.2
MPC L10	-5±1.5	-55±3.2	26±2.9	IPFC L12	-22±3.0	51±2.9	-17±1.2	SPFC R10	24±3.5	29±3.4	44±4.9
MPC L8	-9±2.8	-47±2.7	34±3.9	IPFC L1	-42±3.1	3±4.9	40±5.3	SPFC R3	19±3.0	14±4.9	62±3.3
MPC L6	-5±1.1	-59±1.6	37±4.3	IPFC L10	-35±1.9	39±2.6	-14±2.1	SPFC R5	33±3.3	8±5.5	52±2.7
MPC L7	-10±1.4	-69±4.2	31±4.1	IPFC L5	-41±4.0	35±5.8	26±3.8	SPFC R1	23±1.3	3±4.6	59±3.4
MPC L5	-8±2.1	-49±3.4	44±3.0	IPFC L7	-41±4.2	42±4.7	4±3.3	SPFC R13	28±4.1	35±3.9	38±5.0
MPC L11	-9±3.1	-62±2.4	20±3.3	IPFC L3	-46±4.1	7±4.5	22±5.4	SPFC R7	23±2.6	18±4.0	50±3.6
MPC L14	-6±3.8	-45±3.3	9±5.3	IPFC L2	-43±5.2	8±6.2	31±2.7	LTC R5	57±3.9	-23±4.9	-6±3.8
MPC L13	-16±2.0	-60±2.8	5±3.2	IPFC L4	-45±3.5	28±7.4	19±6.1	LTC R7	51±2.3	11±6.1	-21±4.8
MPC L12	-8±2.7	-55±2.2	12±3.7	IPFC L6	-44±2.5	38±7.9	14±2.3	LTC R4	53±5.1	-27±6.4	1±3.7
MPC L9	-4±1.1	-36±3.8	37±2.7	OIC L1	-42±1.8	-15±4.1	47±4.8	LTC R3	57±3.5	-41±4.3	5±4.0
MPC L1	-8±2.4	-57±4.6	58±3.0	OIC L2	-54±2.6	0±3.3	7±3.8	LTC R8	47±1.9	7±4.0	-35±2.1
MPC L4	-11±2.7	-77±3.4	44±3.6	OIC L3	-35±1.5	14±5.4	6±3.1	LTC R6	63±4.4	-25±5.3	-13±4.4
MPC L3	-5±2.5	-66±2.8	49±4.2	OIC L4	-39±1.0	-2±4.5	-6±2.3	LTC R2	57±3.1	-51±6.0	-1±4.4
MPC L2	-16±2.6	-71±3.2	52±3.0	LPC R7	52±4.7	-53±3.6	28±4.7	LTC R1	55±3.7	-57±5.7	-6±4.5
SPFC L13	-17±2.3	53±6.3	29±6.9	LPC R5	48±5.3	-58±3.7	25±4.8	VTC R2	42±1.2	-14±5.1	-31±2.5
SPFC L6	-37±3.3	20±5.0	42±3.9	LPC R8	43±4.1	-61±4.2	45±4.2	VTC R1	30±1.2	-25±3.7	-21±2.0
SPFC L12	-5±0.8	54±4.7	33±4.5	LPC R9	50±5.4	-52±3.7	42±5.1	IPFC R7	49±2.4	35±3.2	-1±2.2
SPFC L15	-6±1.1	56±6.1	18±3.2	LPC R10	54±5.3	-46±2.8	32±2.8	IPFC R4	52±3.2	25±3.2	13±3.0
SPFC L4	-34±5.0	19±5.4	48±6.9	LPC R3	45±4.0	-68±2.7	26±4.9	IPFC R8	41±2.3	54±2.3	-3±4.1
SPFC L10	-6±1.5	40±3.8	46±5.5	LPC R2	50±2.8	-61±4.1	7±5.9	IPFC R3	46±2.5	29±3.5	28±4.0
SPFC L5	-9±2.4	26±3.4	57±2.8	LPC R12	55±4.7	-41±3.2	42±4.9	IPFC R9	31±1.9	41±3.3	-14±1.5
SPFC L14	-8±2.6	47±4.1	18±7.5	LPC R4	36±3.7	-70±4.2	39±4.3	IPFC R2	51±3.2	11±3.3	16±2.7
SPFC L1	-8±2.9	10±2.1	65±1.5	LPC R1	41±3.9	-76±3.8	20±2.9	IPFC R6	43±3.1	46±2.8	11±5.4
SPFC L18	-6±1.8	60±2.3	-8±3.3	LPC R13	55±2.6	-33±5.2	44±4.5	IPFC R1	42±3.6	11±3.1	31±2.6
SPFC L17	-7±1.3	51±4.4	0±2.7	LPC R11	41±5.5	-45±2.8	42±3.7	IPFC R5	45±4.0	36±4.5	15±3.6
SPFC L11	-23±2.7	43±3.9	35±3.6	LPC R6	31±3.9	-64±3.4	44±5.9	OIC R3	55±4.9	4±3.7	16±5.4
SPFC L9	-16±3.6	37±3.3	45±4.1	MPC R7	9±1.0	-52±3.7	33±2.8	OIC R2	38±0.9	15±4.1	5±1.7
SPFC L16	-15±3.4	67±2.8	11±5.2	MPC R6	5±0.8	-60±3.5	27±2.5	OIC R1	40±0.4	-3±3.1	-3±2.3
SPFC L7	-22±2.0	23±2.5	46±3.6	MPC R3	12±1.8	-69±4.9	36±5.9				
SPFC L2	-19±2.4	12±3.9	61±4.0	MPC R10	4±0.2	-29±2.3	26±1.2				
SPFC L8	-33±1.7	32±3.6	35±4.3	MPC R8	11±1.5	-57±2.4	17±3.3				
SPFC L3	-27±1.9	8±4.4	52±1.4	MPC R4	7±0.8	-55±3.2	45±2.8				
LTC L6	-53±5.4	-29±6.1	-3±2.4	MPC R5	10±3.0	-45±4.7	54±5.4				
LTC L8	-51±3.6	3±6.6	-21±6.0	MPC R2	11±1.3	-58±4.0	61±2.6				