A Stimuli and fillers of the experiment

Continuations A, B_{with} and C are displayed to the subjects under the *with competitor* condition, as well as in the fillers. Continuations A, B_{no} and C are displayed under the *no competitor* condition. Continuation A is set as the target in the stimulus questions, while continuations B_{with} or C are the targets in the fillers. The connective options are in the order: ambiguous / unambiguous / unrelated.

1. Hard work is the key to success... [and / also / unless]
   A. patience is important.
   B_{with}. honesty is the key to friendship.
   B_{no}. you are always lucky.
   C. you are a genius.

2. Harry was born in Scotland... [and / and then / but]
   A. he lived in Glasgow for 20 years.
   B_{with}. his ancestors had origined from Scotland.
   B_{no}. both his parents are not Scottish.
   C. he would not have said so.

3. I listened to music on my mobile phone... [while / when / because]
   A. I was walking back home from work.
   B_{with}. I knew there are more important things I should do instead.
   B_{no}. it helped me to concentrate.
   C. I was bored waiting for you for half an hour.

4. I will buy a bag for my son as promised... [or / otherwise / because]
   A. he will be very disappointed.
   B_{with}. I will buy him a watch instead.
   B_{no}. he did well in his exams.
   C. it is his birthday tomorrow.

5. You must have been studying this afternoon... [since / as / but]
   A. I did not hear music from your room.
   B_{with}. you came back from school.
   B_{no}. it doesn’t mean you will certainly get good marks in the exam.
   C. John has been playing video games all the time.

6. I had been longing for a cup of coffee... [since / as / so]
   A. you woke me up at five this morning.
   B_{with}. the teacher of the first class came in.
   B_{no}. I rushed to the cafeteria as soon as the bell rang.
   C. please do me a favour and buy me an espresso.

7. I will finish this homework now... [then / after that / although]
   A. I will go to chill with my friends.
   B_{with}. I can have something to hand in tomorrow.
   B_{no}. I don’t know the answers for half of the questions.
   C. it is not interesting at all.

8. Big cities are fun to visit ... [and / therefore / but]
   A. I visit at least one of those every year.
   B_{with}. they are usually easier to access as well.
   B_{no}. surprisingly my sister prefers small towns.
   C. unfortunately those places are often packed with tourists.
9 Your joints will feel better... [ when / if / but ]
A. you do these stretches regularly.
B. with the summer comes.
C. still you should not start running yet.

10 The older children stopped talking at once... [ as / since / but ]
A. they understood that it was not a joke.
B. with the train approached the station.
C. that lasted for a minute only.

11 Jane finished the obstacle course the fastest... [ and / so / but ]
A. she ended up winning the first prize overall.
B. with Mary finished it very quickly, too.
C. she was disqualified.

12 I started to watch over my calorie intake... [ since / as / so ]
A. you said I ate too much.
B. with I moved back to my parents’.
C. you’d better not offer me chocolates and chips.

13 Let’s just follow Peter’s idea... [ or / otherwise / because ]
A. we will never finish the project on time.
B. with we can adopt Tom’s alternative instead.
C. I think his idea is simple but great.

14 Maggie grabbed her coat and sweater... [ as / while / but ]
A. she followed the crowd into the playground.
B. with it was snowing outside.
C. she did not take her hat.

15 Mark was almost an hour late to the station last evening... [ while / but / and ]
A. Harry was even two hours late.
B. with he even said he was going to quit.
C. he was late again this morning.

16 Dave ordered a tall glass of fine scotch... [ as / since / but ]
A. we could order what ever we want.
B. with he could not finish half of it.
C. Mary just ordered a soft drink.

17 Mary always wore a fancy dress to a ball... [ when / if / whereas ]
A. her boyfriend was going as well.
B. with she was at her 20s.
C. she dressed casually to work.
18 That pizzaria has always been my favourite... [ since / as / but ]
   A. I like Italian food a lot.
   With. I had dinner with Jill there two years ago.
   No. my boyfriend doesn’t really like it.
   C. I think this restaurant is not bad, too.

19 My parents will visit Canada again in December... [ and / and then / although ]
   A. they will visit South America in spring.
   With. it will be their third visit in two years.
   No. the air tickets are expensive in that season.
   C. they hate cold weather.

20 I am sure David will burst into tears... [ when / if / but ]
   A. his children come to visit one day.
   With. he comes home tonight.
   No. Kathy probably will not react much.
   C. that will be tears of happiness.

21 Leo is taking orders from the guests... [ while / at the same time / so ]
   A. George is serving the food.
   With. there are too many tables for him to serve alone.
   No. he is not able to pick up the call right now.
   C. have patience, he will come to our table sooner or later.

22 Peter was watching the baseball match on TV this morning... [ while / at the same time / because ]
   A. his wife was making breakfast for him in the kitchen.
   With. he didn’t understand the rules at all.
   No. there were not any other good shows on TV.
   C. he recently became a fan of the team that was playing.

23 Please buy some fruits for me... [ and / and then / if ]
   A. come home immediately afterwards.
   With. don’t forget the milk.
   No. you still have money left.
   C. you pass by a supermarket.

24 Sam is going on a business trip to Seoul.... [ while / at the same time / and ]
   A. his children are going to a summer camp.
   With. he is not very optimistic about the Korean market.
   No. he will come back with signed contracts.
   C. later he will travel to Japan for an exhibition.

25 That task took me a lot of time... [ and / so / but ]
   A. I expected a higher reward.
   With. it was so boring.
   No. it was not the worst.
   C. I enjoyed doing it.

26 The carnival was held on the main street for a week... [ while / at the meantime / because ]
   A. a film festival was being held in the same period.
   With. it was held in the park for only one day.
   No. the central park was not big enough.
   C. people complained that three days were too short.
27 The cat always behaves weird at night... [ when / if / but ]
   A. we have a visitor at home.
   B. with dad comes back from work early.
   B. no. she was normal last night.
   C. she will be fine the next morning.
28 The cleaning lady will come to clean our house in the morning... [ and / also / otherwise ]
   A. she will wash the cars.
   B. with we can just leave the dishes in the kitchen.
   B. no. we will have to do it ourselves.
   C. I think the house will just be in a mess forever.
29 The current situation is likely to change... [ while / however / before ]
   A. our standard of living is unlikely to improve.
   B. with the management is planning the next move.
   B. no. the summer holiday starts.
   C. you even notice it.
30 The talk will be delayed for an hour... [ meanwhile / however / because ]
   A. the conference room is already full of people.
   B. with people are having a coffee break.
   B. no. there is a technical problem.
   C. the speaker is coming late.
31 The teddy bear dropped from the baby’s hand... [ and / and then / as ]
   A. he cried aloud.
   B. with he has dropped it twice in a minute.
   B. no. he fell asleep.
   C. the stroller entered the elevator.
32 That tennis player has been losing his matches... [ since / as / but ]
   A. we know he is still recovering from the injury.
   B. with the season started.
   B. no. he was close in every match.
   C. his coach believes that he still has chance.
33 The next concert will be held this summer here in this city... [ and / so / but ]
   A. we are definitely going.
   B. with I heard that it will be an outdoor concert.
   B. no. unfortunately I cannot go this time.
   C. the dates are not yet confirmed.
34 We fell asleep immediately... [ as / whilst / but ]
   A. the moon rose higher in the sky.
   B. with we had been working the whole day.
   B. no. we woke up shortly in the middle of the night.
   C. the kids stayed up until early in the morning..
35 We should not walk but take the bus... [ or / alternatively / although ]
   A. we can take a taxi instead.
   B. with we will not arrive on time.
   B. no. it would have been nice to walk through the forest.
   C. it is still not the fastest way to get there.
36 You should bring something to eat... [ or / otherwise / although ]
   A. you will starve yourself.
   B. with alternatively, you can bring some drinks.
   B. no. it is not compulsory.
   C. some snacks will be served there.