

References

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Language and Math

Items such as 'Language may give Chinese an edge in math' (Random Samples, 29 Oct., p. 651) lend respectability to linguistically and scientifically unsound speculation. Chinese children, it is hypothesized are better at math because the words for the numerals are shorter than they are in English. Language has nothing to do with it. As a psycholinguist who specializes in Chinese, I must point out that Russian and Japanese children's math scores knock the socks off those of U.S. children. Yet their numerals are much longer than in English ("one, two, three, four, five, six" in Russian are pronounced "odin, dva, tri, chyetiri, pyat, shest" and in Japanese, "iti, ni, san, si, go, roku"). In addition,

Chinese has no grammar for singular or plural; one says the equivalent of "Mimi have three pen." If language affected arithmetic, Chinese children should do worse, not better.

Mary S. Erbaugh

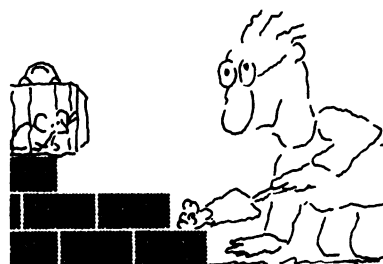
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Corrections and Clarifications

Note 29 on page 1175 of the report "Lack of N regions in antigen receptor variable region genes of TdT-deficient lymphocytes" by T. Komori *et al.* (27 Aug., p. 1171) should have included the information that the murine TdT clone used in that study was obtained from N. R. Landau, as described in a 1987 paper by N. R. Landau, D. G. Schatz, M. Rosa, and D. Baltimore [*Mol. Cell. Biol.* **7**, 3237 (1987)] (reference 13 of the report by Komori *et al.*).

Note 21 on page 1178 of the report "Mice lacking TdT: Mature animals with an immature lymphocyte repertoire" by S. Gilfillan *et al.* (27 Aug., p. 1175) should have included the information that the cDNA sequence of mouse TdT was initially obtained by the authors from the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (accession number X04123), given in a 1986 paper by O. Koiwai, T. Yokota, T. Kageyama, T. Hirose, S. Yoshida, and K. Arai [*Nucleic Acids Res.* **14**, 5777 (1986)].

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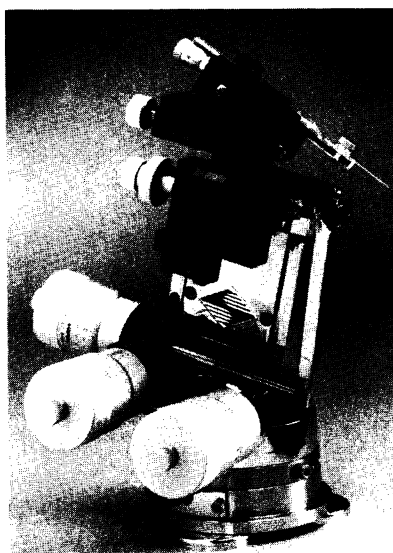
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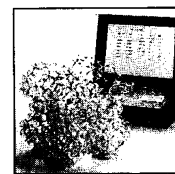
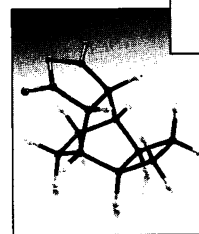
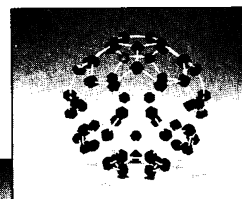
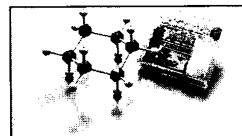
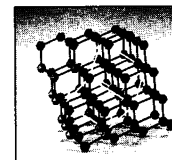
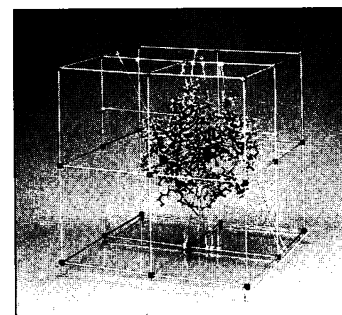
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