

Here are the anagrams we used in our study. Please reference Aspinwall and Richter (1999) if you use our materials or methods.

Unsolvable:

oneci
amoos
acelo
rtean
ocesh*
filru
pecit

*We need to double check this one -- even though no participants in our study successfully solved this anagram, it has been brought to our attention that it has a solution (chose), and it is possible that this is a typo. Please do not use this particular anagram until we have had a chance to review our records. Please see the list below for additional unsolvable anagrams that you may wish to use as a replacement.

Solvable:

trypa (party)
ijnot (joint)
tlanp (plant)
cijue (juice)
torms (storm)
innou (union)
ryors (sorry)

mahes (shame)
divvi (vivid)
sveot (stove)
aordi (radio)
refma (frame)
etryn (entry)
aeelg (eagle)

We also pre-tested three more unsolvable and six more solvable that we didn't end up using because we wanted to keep the number down, but these should work, too:

Unsolvable:

lelmo
afnac
haacl

Solvable:

eisus (issue)
ceipr (price)
aaflt (fatal)
rolgy (glory)
knela (ankle)
wreat (water)

Aspinwall, L.G., & Richter, L. (1999). Optimism and self-mastery predict more rapid disengagement from unsolvable tasks in the presence of alternatives. Motivation and Emotion, 23, 221-245.