

Search sheets: how to run the activity



The pages after this one are 15 **search sheets**, dealt from *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr Seuss. Print them one-sided and hand out **one sheet per person**; every sheet is different, and nothing needs cutting out. Each holds 65–66 **token pairs**: a **next token** with the **previous token** that came before it in the text.

Match the room to the sheets, not the other way round. More people than sheets: print the whole set again, once per extra roomful. Every count multiplies equally, so the proportions — which is all the model is — hold. Fewer: hand the spares out anyway, two or three to a person. A sheet nobody holds is a hole in the model.

In **in** **a**, the boxed token is the context and **a** is the next token. A token keeps its colour wherever it appears, so say the colour as you call one out — “who has **a**? it’s a blue one” — and the room can scan by colour before reading. With 8 colours and far more tokens, a colour narrows the search rather than settling it.

black **grey** **red** **brown** **green** **blue** **purple** **magenta**

Running a round

Seed the board: someone reads out any token pair from their sheet, boxed token first, and both go up — the room supplies the beginning too. Then, each round:

1. **Call out the last token** on the board.
2. **Hands up** from everyone holding a matching token pair — one hand each.
3. **Pick a raised hand at random** — whoever shouts first is the fastest reader, not a sample of the text — and ask for its next token.
4. The scribe writes that token up. It is part of the next context. Repeat.

What to watch for

The hands are the probability distribution. Every token pair sits with exactly one person, so a common continuation puts more hands in the air than a rare one. Nobody has to explain weighted sampling; the room performs it.

Nobody holds the model. No single sheet can continue the text on its own. One hand is not a stall — but no hands at all means an empty seat, so reseed from any token pair and say why.

983 tokens, 54 unique · 1.77 bits/token · perplexity 3.4 · branching factor 3.5

Worked example

Start anywhere. Someone reads out a token pair — say this one — and both its tokens go on the board.

Round 1. Call out **a** — the last token on the board. A sheet across the room matches it, and that person reads out *fox*.

Round 2. Call out **fox** — the last token on the board. A sheet across the room matches it, and that person reads out ..

Keep going for as long as you like. What the room writes will sound like *Green Eggs and Ham* without ever repeating it — that is the model generating, not the corpus being read out.

the token pair that answers

in **a**

a **fox**

fox .

on the board

in a

in a fox

in a fox .

in a	like them	you ,	do not
and I	I say	may like	like them
not like	with a	goat .	a goat
I do	. would	. could	, in
fox .	in a	them anywhere	not eat
am .	try them	not eat	in the
a mouse	the dark	not in	car .
them anywhere	a train	rain .	. not
, Sam	them .	could you	mouse .
will eat	dark .	or there	Sam I
! a	If you	them ,	? I
I do	green eggs	. I	not in
. I	! Thank	. and	would you
you like	do not	I am	a tree
I will	not ,	like them	you say
with a	eggs and	eat them	I do
house .	would you		

in the	I will	not ,	. not
like them	not like	you may	me be
you on	do not	a fox	eggs and
rain .	be .	, Sam	like them
a boat	do so	in a	mouse .
and ham	them ,	them here	fox .
not ,	the rain	like them	I do
Sam I	not ,	, in	would eat
do not	box ?	! not	am !
you like	will try	try them	. I
eat them	could not	. I	. Sam
with a	in a	a house	I will
car ?	dark .	or there	them in
a goat	I am	. I	would you
I do	with a	, in	. I
I do	! Thank	not ,	them here
ham ?	? could		

could not

? I

would not

I am

I do

a fox

you do

fox .

in a

not eat

in a

or there

with a

in a

not like

I am

them ,

dark !

mouse .

would you

not with

! I

Sam I

, could

eat them

. say

you eat

, would

be !

I do

them with

. I

a fox

like green

will eat

I would

you ,

, could

! so

car !

try them

a fox

I am

me be

. and

do not

eggs and

with a

and I

like them

. I

the rain

them anywhere

a train

ham !

like them

am .

. I

do not

. I

them with

not like

not like

do not

box .

are .

a tree	I do	would you	. that
a tree	with a	eggs and	them with
. I	you do	a mouse	the dark
! would	would you	not with	not eat
them here	like them	not eat	! and
do not	I will	they are	. a
in the	or there	you ,	I do
not in	I would	box .	? I
like them	you eat	in a	in a
do not	do not	am .	with a
will see	ham .	I do	. I
, could	I do	try them	them here
me be	, Sam	eat them	are so
not in	Sam I	, I	be !
like them	and ham	a mouse	car .
fox .	eat them	. I	here they
them in	. I		

you may	a car	I do	in the
. I	will not	that Sam	do not
do not	I do	me be	anywhere .
. I	a car	eggs and	. would
a train	! I	eat them	will not
I like	ham .	do not	, Sam
fox .	not in	they are	you ,
I do	not in	I will	box .
eat green	a house	, would	. and
in a	like them	am .	! you
them ,	Thank you	or there	Sam !
? I	not ,	there ?	could you
and ham	be ,	. not	boat .
in the	them ,	I am	would you
here or	not like	with a	like them
not like	, could	? in	them ,
. I	them with		

? would	in a	a train	you see
, with	, Sam	them with	will not
. I	! eat	like them	boat .
in a	not with	do not	them in
ham .	like them	that Sam	eat them
not ,	would not	I will	fox .
! let	box .	like them	! could
. say	green eggs	not like	eggs and
am Sam	say .	in the	I will
do not	with a	eat them	not on
I am	do not	could you	Sam I
will not	you like	. I	there .
not like	here or	and ham	train .
a house	. try	them in	them in
and I	, would	anywhere .	I am
. would	Thank you	a box	I like
I am	Sam I		

you may	eggs and	not like	in a
do not	like them	! that	in a
here or	you ,	Sam !	. I
and ham	box .	I would	I am
? I	them anywhere	ham .	them anywhere
like them	am .	not ,	eat them
a box	I do	! I	train !
fox ?	. not	, could	like them
! I	, so	do not	a train
I am	anywhere .	am !	would not
them anywhere	that Sam	not like	I do
them in	with a	in a	there .
will not	say .	. and	not eat
I am	and I	not ,	will see
. I	could not	do not	eat them
green eggs	Sam ,	. I	, could
a mouse	boat ?		

I do	them !	could you	not in
. and	. would	there .	not like
say !	I am	eat them	a mouse
will eat	would not	am !	! I
here or	you ,	and in	not with
like them	I do	eat them	with a
will not	Sam I	Sam I	ham ?
like them	a house	, could	and I
on a	eggs and	in a	I do
a train	I do	I do	them here
? here	not like	do not	. you
not eat	in a	, could	! and
anywhere !	would not	see .	you see
green eggs	do not	them !	like green
. I	in the	them ,	a train
, you	. I	train !	box .
! I			

them here	! would	am .	a house
there .	and you	. you	like them
say !	. I	not in	. I
house .	I will	and in	do not
! not	! If	anywhere .	see .
? I	them anywhere	will eat	the dark
not eat	Sam I	do not	ham .
would not	I will	not like	them with
. you	here or	eggs and	you ,
a box	Sam I	I will	not like
not ,	in a	. not	I would
I do	could not	on a	like them
a tree	, Sam	like them	with a
, will	train !	green eggs	a car
would you	not like	eat green	, on
them in	you ,	in a	tree !
eat them			

I do	like them	anywhere .	? would
would not	like them	could not	do not
there .	not like	. so	. not
them in	a boat	green eggs	a mouse
. and	you may	not eat	, with
house .	a tree	them in	not on
I would	tree .	here or	. not
! not	eat them	ham !	, you
. I	them !	not in	! in
Sam I	do not	eggs and	say !
see .	I will	not like	on a
would not	, Sam	the rain	with a
will not	train !	. they	and in
you ?	I would	in a	a car
I do	not ,	like them	! you
them here	eat them	in a	am .
and you			

them anywhere	would not	ham .	, Sam
green eggs	and ham	them in	not in
would not	the dark	on a	not like
with a	. and	in a	them in
! you	not like	a house	tree .
? I	not like	! I	train ?
do not	and I	. not	there .
a tree	eat them	you will	you ?
I could	see !	like them	! a
. I	not like	like green	I do
, Sam	I am	do not	not like
am .	in a	could not	Sam .
a goat	house ?	a boat	. I
I would	here or	eat them	so like
. you	. and	anywhere .	like green
I do	mouse .	, in	will not
them .			

you let	let me	. I	in a
the dark	you let	I will	do not
mouse .	tree .	I would	house .
dark ?	? I	them with	with a
. I	train !	and ham	I am
on a	am .	like green	. I
. not	a car	there .	anywhere !
I will	. not	, on	them ,
in a	! I	could not	so you
not eat	would you	a fox	like green
not in	. I	a box	eat them
them here	not ,	I would	them !
! not	eat them	, Sam	not like
not ,	like them	do not	would not
a fox	will eat	here or	Sam .
green eggs	and on	ham !	not like
! would			

and there	, in	. I	and I
let me	I would	not like	! I
house .	, could	green eggs	I do
eat them	you ,	a mouse	? eat
mouse ?	the dark	I am	. try
like green	would eat	like green	I do
you ,	may .	so good	with a
do not	them in	them with	not like
not like	here in	not like	am !
. and	on a	a house	them with
could you	would you	. I	Sam I
tree !	I do	them .	a fox
goat !	. not	like that	in a
or there	. I	dark !	in a
there .	not like	! I	do !
not eat	car !	will eat	train .
a mouse			

them ,	and ham	or there	in a
like them	in the	green eggs	may ,
you !	dark .	not in	do not
. I	I will	mouse .	I will
them in	could not	will not	. I
? not	a train	I do	not in
a car	a box	, Sam	. not
them in	car !	like them	let me
them ,	house .	, could	so I
do not	am .	! try	rain ?
in the	. say	. and	Sam I
and ham	I would	would you	a box
. I	not like	! here	eat them
not in	not like	goat ?	you let
here and	not with	with a	tree !
good ,	I would	would not	the rain
like them			

a car	would you	in a	Sam I
or there	will eat	not ,	like them
a goat	. I	them with	! Sam
a box	am Sam	car .	, I
dark ?	. I	green eggs	could you
good ,	, with	like green	you like
I would	would not	let me	goat .
them and	do not	not ,	so good
them here	not like	rain .	I do
mouse .	eggs and	not in	you will
a house	. would	in the	I will
the dark	I do	. Sam	not like
. you	I do	? not	house .
and ham	and ham	them with	like them
! a	not like	do not	with a
I would	may like	. not	in the
eat them			