

Music training and sentence comprehension

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This study examined the effect of music training on sentence comprehension, on the basis that music shares some common cortical representations with language in terms of pitch, syntactic and semantic processing. Thirteen undergraduates who had experience in formal music training were compared to 27 controls on various musical abilities and a sentence picture matching task that relied heavily on syntactic accuracy for comprehension. Results indicated no significant group differences in sentence comprehension and overall musical ability. The sensitivity of the test used and the use of undergraduates might explain the lack of significant findings. Music training seems to benefit language learning more at young age, especially when language skills can be improved using some other channels.