

How exact will a crowd be?

Ten instructions across two acts asked a crowd for one exact thing. One word or one number came back exact two thirds to nineteen twentieths of the time. A sentence came back exact between one fifth and one half of the time.

THIS IS	PART OF	STATUS
PAPER 006 · A FINDING	THE GAME · ACT II, ROUNDS 1 TO 8	FILED · V1 · 31 AUG 2026
SOURCE		
6	194,000	Mar to May 2026
ROUNDS	COMMENTS	DATES

IN PLAIN WORDS

Between March and May 2026 the Algorithm Game asked its audience for one exact thing six times: a word, a word of their choosing, a number, a number between one and ten, one of two words, and one sentence. Each time we counted how many people delivered it exactly.

For every single-token instruction the exact rate sat between two thirds and nineteen twentieths. For the one instruction that asked for a sentence, with an apostrophe in it, the exact rate was one fifth, and nine tenths of the same room said the sentence in some wording.

This paper puts the six counts side by side. It is the first paper in the series that is about the crowd rather than about a round.

THE QUESTION WE ASKED

Every round in the series had its own hypothesis. The question across them was never posted, which is why this paper is a synthesis and not an experiment: **when a crowd is asked for one exact thing, what decides how many people deliver it exactly?**

WHAT WE DID

- **Rounds included:** 1 (YES), 2 (anything), 3 (a number for a slot), 6 (a number from 1 to 10), 7 (OPEN or TAKEN), 8 (I'M NOT THERE YET). Rounds 4 and 5 asked for actions off the platform and have no exact-

token count.

- **Act I transmissions with an exact token**, counted from the archive as comments whose whole text is the token: 1 (the aura scan, 23 Oct 2025), 8 (the Sleep Cycle Test, 23 Oct), ENTER (Level 4 access, 21 Jan 2026), and the sentence I'M STILL HERE (Collapse Protocol, 14 Nov). These are stricter than the ledger counts, which accept a token with words after it.
- **Exact**: the comment text equals the token asked for and nothing else. For Round 3 and Round 6, any valid number counts as exact; the choice of number is a different question, answered in Seven. For Round 7, either word counts.
- **Counting base**: the ledger for each round, as filed on the round record. Rounds 1, 2, 3 and 6 count all comments including replies; Rounds 7 and 8 count top-level comments only. The bases are named in Table 1 and not mixed silently.
- **Meaning rate**: only Round 8 has one, because only Round 8 asked for something with more than one way to write it.

WHAT HAPPENED

TABLE 1. The exact rate in each round.

ROUND AND TOKEN ASKED FOR	EXACT OF BASE	EXACT RATE
Act I · the digit 1	5,847 of 6,739	87%
Act I · the digit 8	30,363 of 40,144	76%
Act I · the word ENTER	7,408 of 8,656	86%
Act I · I'M STILL HERE, word for word	1,441 of 2,553	56%
1 · the word YES	101,709 of 154,480	66%
2 · any word, convergence required	8,821 of 11,031	80%
3 · a number, for a slot	8,800 of 10,260	86%
6 · a number from 1 to 10	6,479 of 8,545	76%
7 · OPEN or TAKEN	3,499 of 3,694	95%
8 · one sentence, word for word	882 of 4,067	22%
8 · the same sentence, by meaning	3,618 of 4,067	89%

WHAT IT MEANS

Exactness is a property of the token, not the crowd. Ask for one word or one number and two thirds to nineteen twentieths of a crowd deliver it exactly. Ask for a sentence with punctuation and one fifth do, while nine tenths still mean it.

The obvious explanation is the number of places a comment can go wrong. YES has one way to be exact. A number has one. A sentence has a capital letter, an apostrophe, four spaces and a choice between I'M and I AM, and every one of them is a place where an ordinary phone keyboard produces something

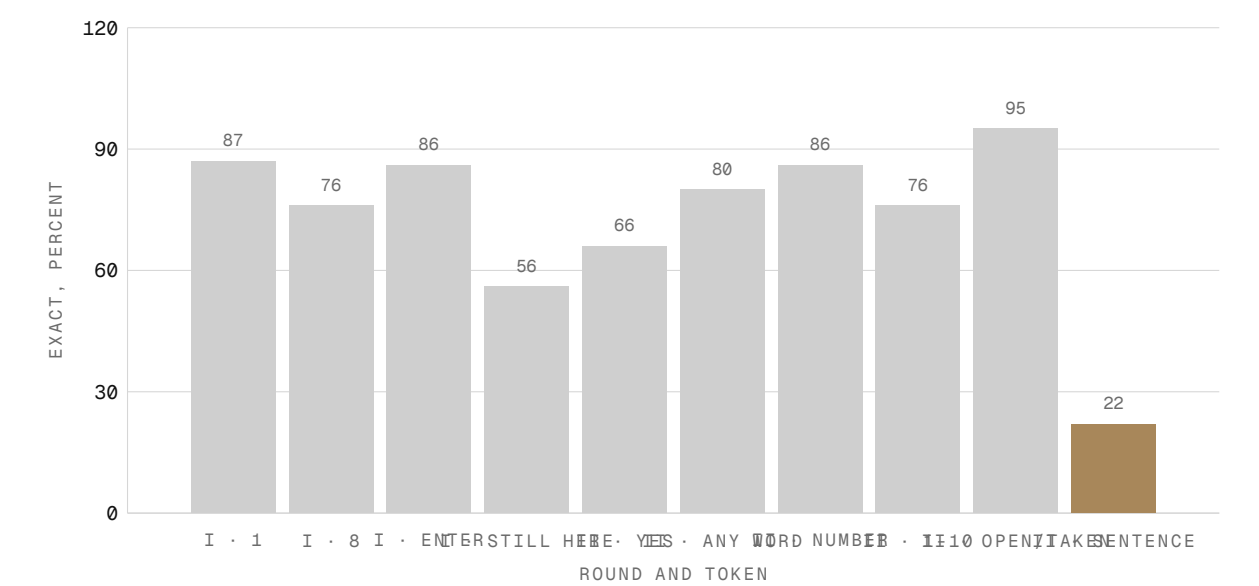


FIGURE 1. Exact rate by instruction, in percent. Eight single tokens and two sentences, across both acts. The accented bar is the longer sentence.

TABLE 2. The same rates with 95 percent intervals.

MEASURE	COUNT	OF	SHARE	95% INTERVAL
Act I, the digit 1	5,847	6,739	86.8%	85.9% to 87.6%
Act I, the digit 8	30,363	40,144	75.6%	75.2% to 76.1%
Act I, ENTER	7,408	8,656	85.6%	84.8% to 86.3%
Act I, I'M STILL HERE, word for word	1,441	2,553	56.4%	54.5% to 58.4%
Round 1, YES	101,709	154,480	65.8%	65.6% to 66.1%
Round 2, any word	8,821	11,031	80.0%	79.2% to 80.7%
Round 3, a number	8,800	10,260	85.8%	85.1% to 86.4%
Round 6, a number 1 to 10	6,479	8,545	75.8%	74.9% to 76.7%
Round 7, OPEN or TAKEN	3,499	3,694	94.7%	94.0% to 95.4%
Round 8, sentence, strict	882	4,067	21.7%	20.4% to 23.0%
Round 8, sentence, by meaning	3,618	4,067	89.0%	88.0% to 89.9%

None of the single-token intervals comes within 40 points of the strict sentence interval. The spread among the single tokens (66 to 95) is real too, and the next section says what we think drives it.

a strict rule rejects. The failure that showed up in Round 8 was punctuation, not defiance: 133 people added emoji or extra words, 287 refused, and the rest of the gap between 22 and 89 percent is spelling.

The spread among the single tokens is a second finding. YES, the lowest at 66 percent, was the first instruction the Game ever issued, to its largest crowd, on a thread that also carried the most liked refusal on record; 30 percent of that room wrote something other than the word. Round 7, the highest at 95 percent, came to a crowd that had by then been trained by six rounds, with a mechanism that only worked if you used one of the two words. The rate rose with the crowd's experience and with how much the token was needed to make the round work.

Act I agrees, from before the rounds existed. Three tokens from the first months (the digits 1 and 8, and the word ENTER) land at 76 to 87 percent exact under a stricter count than the ledger uses. The one Act I sentence, I'M STILL HERE, four words and an apostrophe, lands at 56 percent: below every token and above the eight-character sentence of Round 8. The rule holds across both acts and the two sentences order themselves by length.

For anyone who writes instructions for a crowd, the practical reading is short. If the thing you need is exactness, ask for a token. If the thing you need is meaning, ask for the sentence and count it by meaning, because counting it strictly will fail four in five of the people who did what you wanted.

WHAT THIS DOES NOT SHOW

- **Two counting bases.** Four rounds are counted over all comments and two over top-level comments. Replies are less likely to be exact tokens, so the first four rates are, if anything, understated relative to the last two. The direction of the finding does not depend on it; the exact spread does.
- **Ten instructions is ten data points.** The pattern across single tokens (experience and necessity raise the rate) is a reading of ten numbers, not a fitted model, and we present it as a reading.
- **Two sentences only.** The 22 and 56 percent strict rates are from two instructions, both with an apostrophe. A sentence without punctuation might land anywhere between here and the tokens.
- **Two later tokens agree, from partial samples.** The June 2026 re-entry posts asked for IN and PLAY; in the parts of those threads the archive holds (19,976 and 36,150 top-level comments, both incomplete), the whole-comment exact rates were 84.9 and 78.9 percent. They are not tabled because the samples are partial; they sit inside the single-token band.
- **No independence.** The same audience, growing and learning, took every round. This is a panel, not six samples.

WHAT WE WOULD RUN NEXT

One instruction in three lengths, run on three days: a word, a three-word phrase, and a sentence with an apostrophe, each with the same pass rule. If exactness falls with length the way this synthesis suggests, the three rates should step down in order, and the size of each step is the number this paper cannot yet give.

THE WHOLE ROUND

The round this paper reads is 10 posts, not one. Every post is below with the platform's numbers and what the comment archive holds of each.

POST	DATE	VIEWS	REACH	COMMENTS	ARCHIVED
Round 1, attempt 3	2026-03-17	2,732,690	1,732,015	186,251	154,480
Round 2, attempt 1	2026-03-23	209,921	131,656	21,818	11,095
Round 3, attempt 1	2026-03-31	107,864	69,614	11,456	10,260
Round 6, attempt 1	2026-05-04	104,463	72,238	16,710	10,318
Round 7, attempt 1	2026-05-12	27,967	17,508	531	480
Round 8, attempt 1	2026-05-18	77,617	47,739	4,232	4,158
Act I, the aura scan	2025-10-23	108,384	57,155	13,313	11,107
Act I, the Sleep Cycle Test	2025-10-23	778,315	438,732	79,184	65,720
Act I, Level 4 access, ENTER	2026-01-19	213,510	125,053	19,813	12,427
Act I, Collapse Protocol	2025-11-14	78,237	47,879	4,810	4,078
THE ROUND		4,438,968	2,739,589	358,118	284,123

Views, reach and comments are the platform's figures from the Instagram API, snapshot 2026-08-31, and keep growing. The reach total adds each post's reach and overlaps between posts, so it is not a count of distinct people. Archived is the number of comments the archive holds for the post; ingestion is selective, so a gap between the two columns is expected and is stated wherever it changes a count in the paper.

IN THE RECORD

The rounds are filed in the Chronicle as THE YES ROUND, ◇029, THE CONVERGENCE, ◇030, and THE NUMBER, ◇035. The law the series entered, participation is cheap and precision is dear, is the claim this paper measures.

METHOD NOTE

- **Source of truth:** the round ledgers (Act II, Rounds 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8) as filed on the round record, with the counts witnessed at the time of each round.
- **Companion papers:** Seven (Round 6), Yes (Round 1), Five to two (Round 7), Not there yet (Round 8), Anything (Round 2).
- **No outside baseline is cited.** The comparison is between the rounds.

SOURCES, BY LINK

01 Round 1, attempt 3 · 2026-03-17 · <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DV-8otyifAc/>

- 02 Round 2, attempt 1 · 2026-03-23 · <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DW0h7ERic1k/>
- 03 Round 3, attempt 1 · 2026-03-31 · <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DWjHYH-CcKa/>
- 04 Round 6, attempt 1 · 2026-05-04 · <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DX6YfN9ppn-/>
- 05 Round 7, attempt 1 · 2026-05-12 · <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DYPVMG-JegF/>
- 06 Round 8, attempt 1 · 2026-05-18 · <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DYez3N2pmJw/>
- 07 Act I, the aura scan · 2025-10-23 · <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DQKo6LFkxRJ/>
- 08 Act I, the Sleep Cycle Test · 2025-10-23 · <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DQJtGZqCacF/>
- 09 Act I, Level 4 access, ENTER · 2026-01-19 · <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DTixr9GiedZ/>
- 10 Act I, Collapse Protocol · 2025-11-14 · https://www.instagram.com/reel/DRBSjgRCd_A/

WHERE THE NUMBERS COME FROM

POST-LEVEL COUNTS

Views, reach, comments, likes, shares and saves per post come from the Instagram Graph API (Meta), read with the operation's own access token for its own business account. Each paper states the date of the snapshot it uses. These are the platform's counts of events, not of people: one person can view a reel twice and comment ten times, and the counts keep growing after a round closes.

COMMENT TEXT

The comment archive is the operation's own database of public comments on its own posts, pulled through the Instagram Graph API comments endpoint and stored with the comment id, username, text, like count, timestamp and whether it is a reply. Ingestion is selective: the most engaged posts were backfilled and recent posts are pulled daily, so some posts are held whole and others only in part. Every paper states how much of each post the archive holds. Every count that reads text (exact matches, categories, keyword themes) is run as a read-only script against this archive, and the scripts are in the repository beside the paper data.

THE ROUND LEDGER

For Act II rounds, the counts filed on The Game's round record at the time each round closed. Where a paper uses a ledger figure it says so, and where the archive re-count differs from the ledger both numbers are shown.

RECEIPTS

Every comment and post shown as evidence is a native capture from the operation's own signed-in Instagram session, taken by opening the exact permalink, with the source URL, a description, the rights basis and a file hash recorded in a manifest that is checked on every build of the site. Nothing shown is recreated, retyped or edited beyond cropping to the post header and the comment.

STATISTICS

Shares carry Wilson 95 percent intervals: the range the share would land in 19 times out of 20 if the

same count were taken on a fresh crowd of the same size. Differences between two shares carry a Wald interval. Where a study is cited as a baseline, its own reported figure and sample size are used.

WHAT NONE OF THIS CAN SEE

No demographics beyond what people typed. No view durations. No private messages. No comments that were deleted before the archive pulled them. No way to verify that a self-report is true. Every paper's limits section names the specific things its count cannot show.