

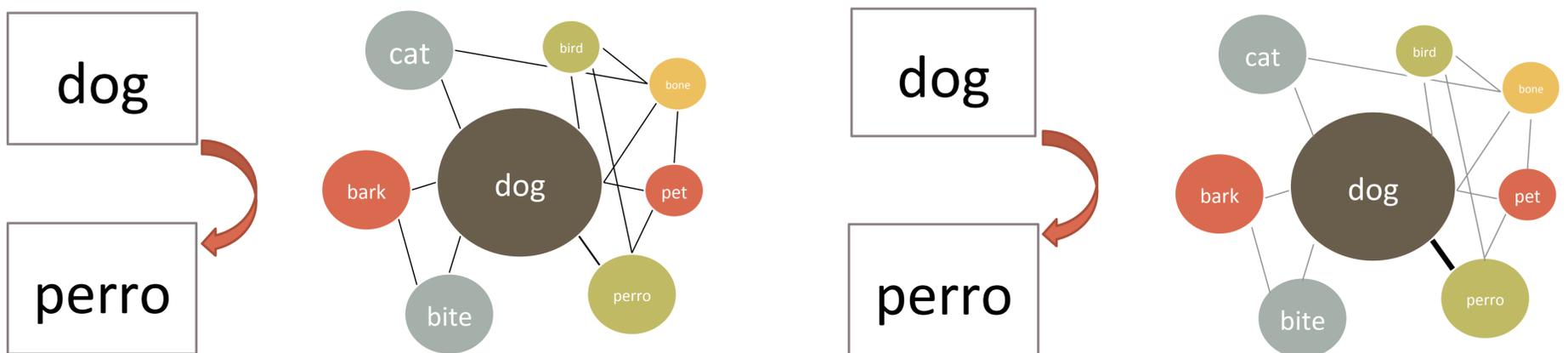
Putting Tests to the Test

Use quick quizzes to get the most out of retrieval practice

Our memories are networks of complex associations between cues in our environment and target information in our brains. Cues cause the *retrieval* of target information



Tests can be used as a tool to improve learning...



...because they provide an opportunity to practice retrieval.

How to use Testing in the Classroom

Test Early, Test Often

- Provide multiple opportunities for retrieval practice
- Daily quizzes
- Review games
- Discussion/debates

Practice Makes Perfect

- Retrieval practice is practice. Students should practice for a test/assessment in the manner that they expect to be assessed.
- Retrieval practice opportunities should reflect the learning goals you hope to achieve

Manage Anxiety

- When students take more frequent, lower stakes tests they:
 - Are less anxious on final exams/assessments
 - Perform better on tests
- When students take infrequent, high stakes tests they:
 - Are more anxious on final exams/assessments
 - Perform worse on tests



The more times a *cue* is associated with a *target* the faster and easier retrieval becomes