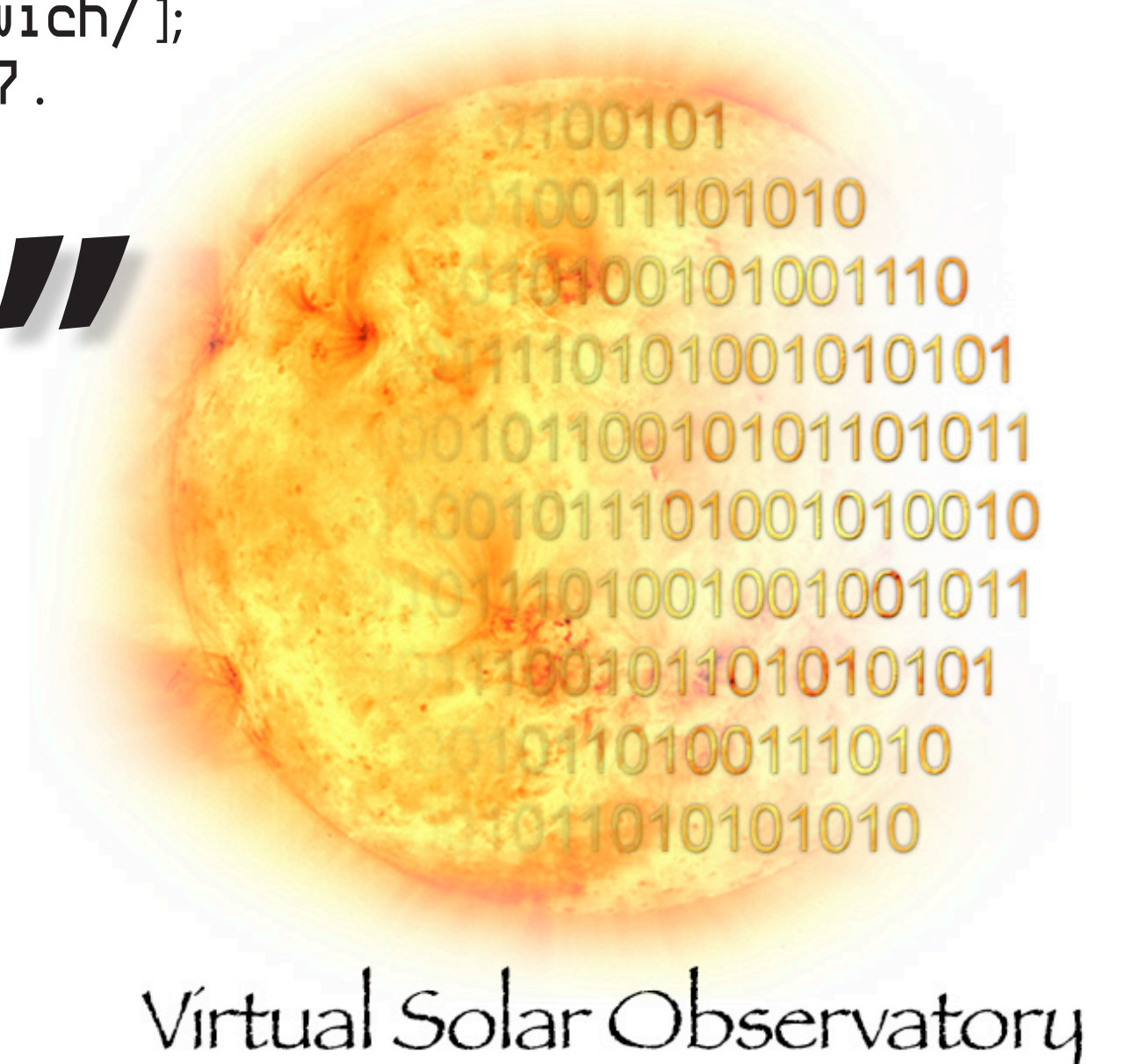


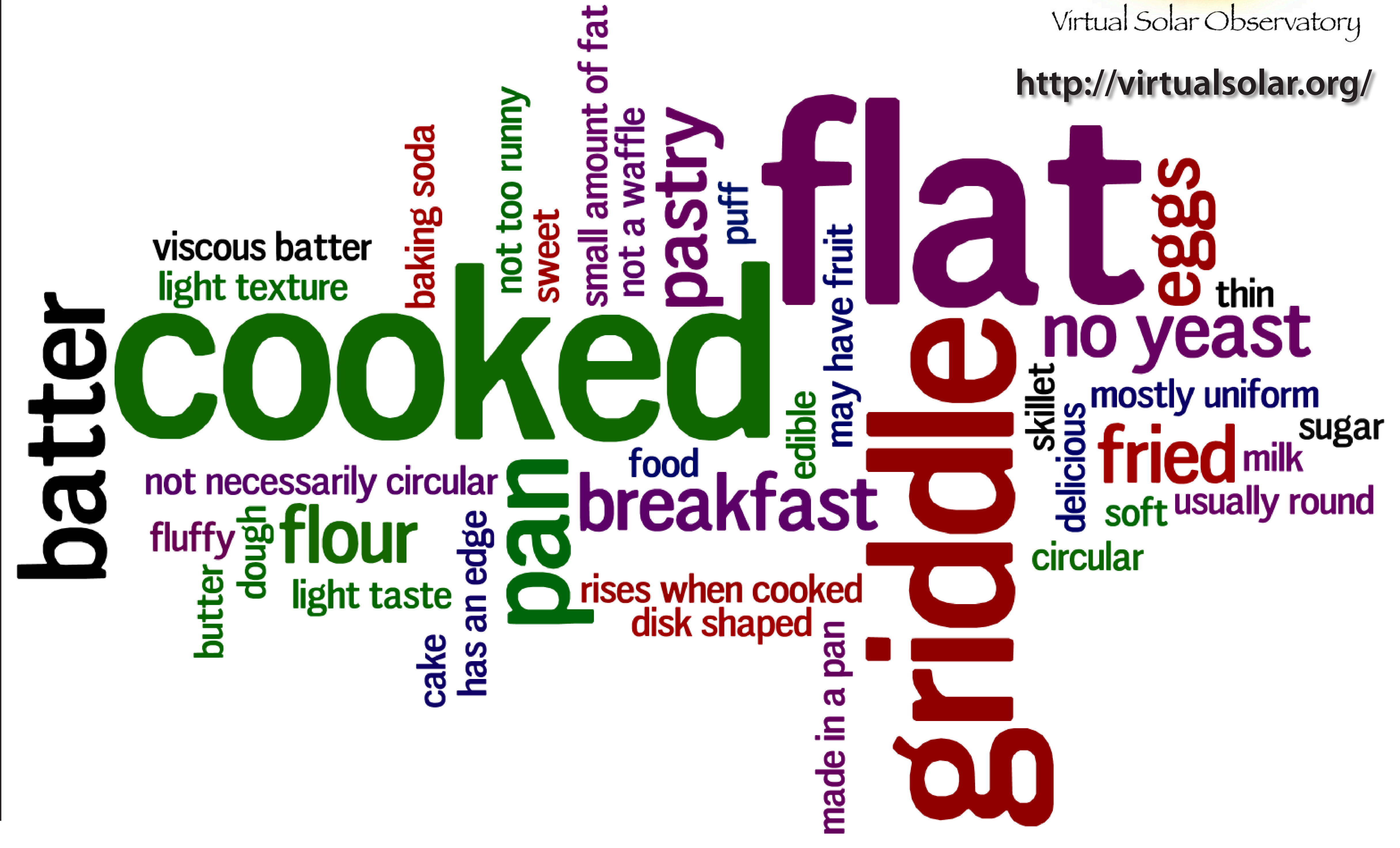
Results from "Is it a Pancake?"



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At the 2012 Code 600 Poster Party, the author presented a number of pancake and pancake-like items in the *Science as Food* competition. The goal was to show how different experience affects how we interpret words and phrases, and a seemingly simple word can't always be used in conversation without misunderstanding. This example of *polysemy* (multiple related meanings) is especially insidious as we don't stop to ask for clarification as the word or phrase makes sense in context with our different definition. This was an allegory to explain the need for shared meaning and the importance of knowing when a term may be problematic as it has different meaning to different communities. Although we did not perform a fully valid survey, as that was not our original intent, we found the responses as to what attributes defined a pancake to be surprising. As such, we present our combined results with some additional analysis.



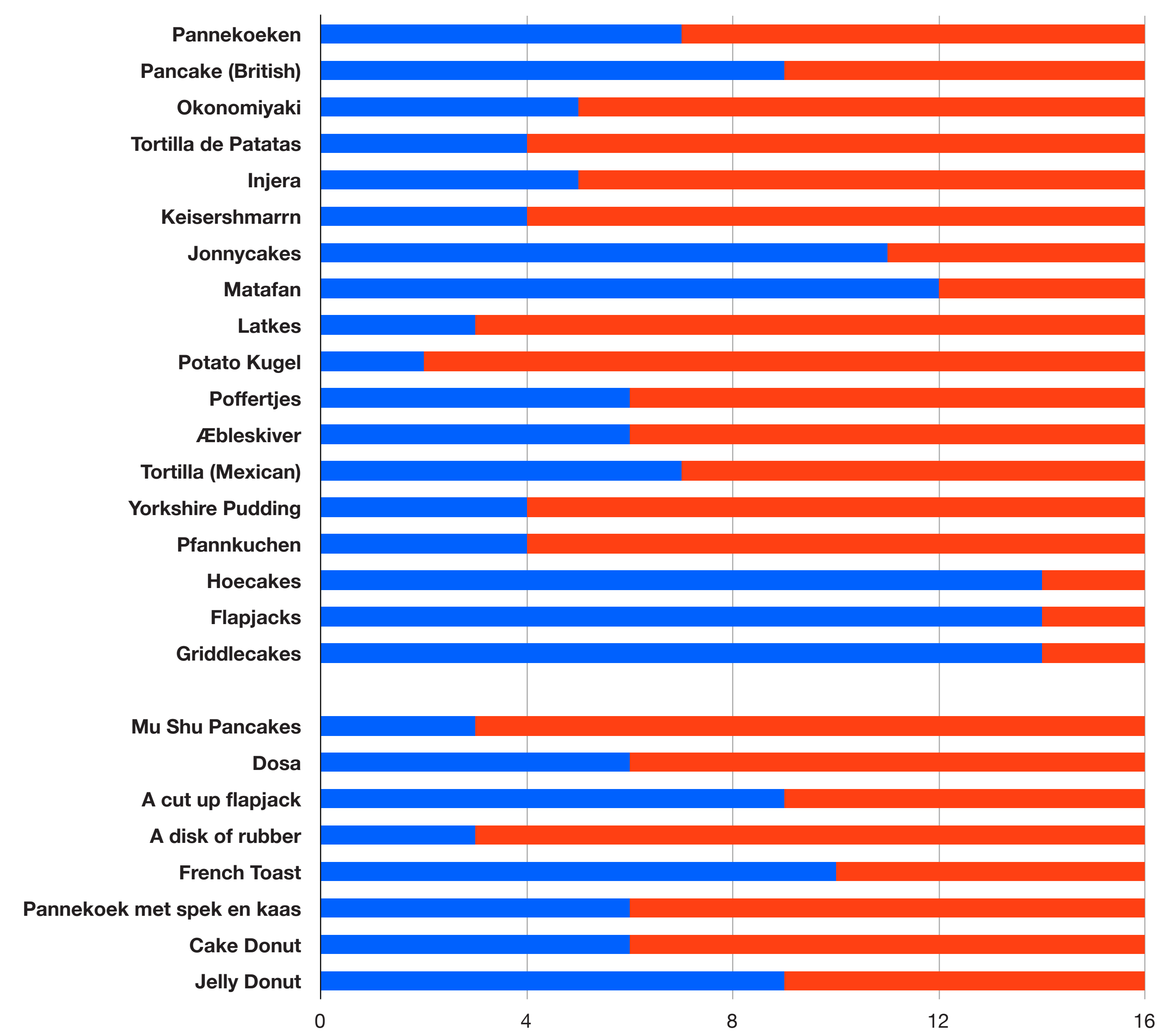
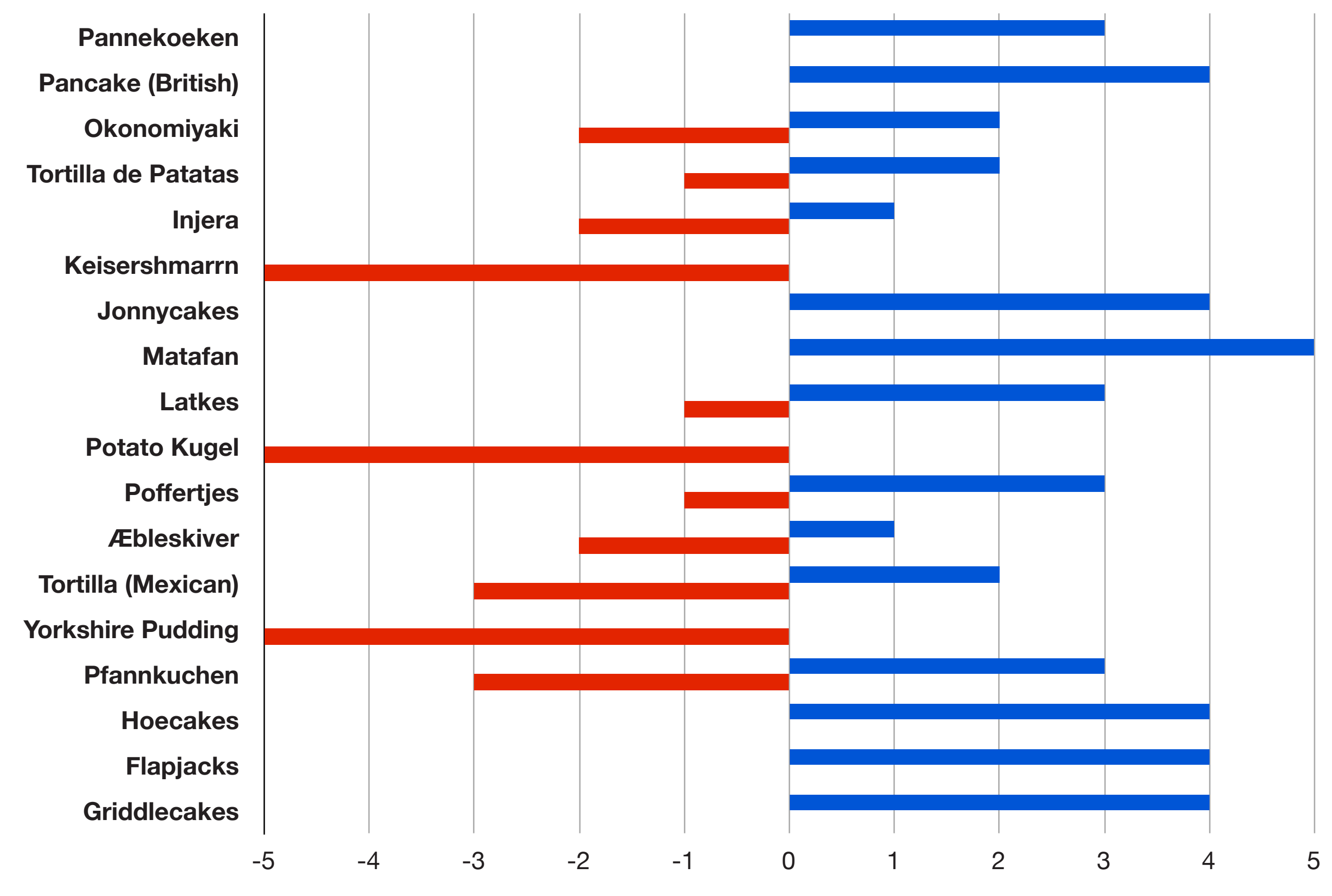
Items Presented

Label	Origin	Represent
16, 17 & 18	American	Chemically leavened pancakes, in a variety of sizes
2	British	Unleavened pancakes; fill the pan; more crêpe-like
1	Dutch	Same as British pancakes, but not breakfast. Not necessarily sweet.
11	Dutch	Yeast leavened; buckwheat, not wheat flour. A snack / street food (not breakfast). Not cooked on a flat surface.
12	Danish	Close to an American pancake in composition, but cooked in a special pan; not even close to flat (spherical).
7	American	Made from corn (not wheat). Don't necessarily have eggs or dairy.
13	Mexican	Same ingredients as Jonnycakes, but a dough not a batter.
9	Jewish	Shredded vegetables; shallow fried
10	Jewish	Same ingredients as Latke, but baked in a pan. Savory (not sweet).
8	Savoyard (Franco Provençal)	Egg white foam leavened; made with mashed potatoes but not a classic 'potato pancake'. Looks like an American pancake.
4	Spanish	Similar ingredients to Latkes, but a much different preparation. Not breakfast.
3	Japanese	Another 'shredded vegetable' pancake, but not fried, and not primarily starch. Looks like a pizza.
15	German	Translates to 'pancake'; baked in a pan; more popover-like.
14	British	Similar to Pfannkuchen, but not sweet. Was intentionally not round.
6	Austrian	Egg white foam leavened; dessert, not breakfast. Cooked, shredded, then cooked again.
5	Ethiopia	Fermented leavening; no eggs, dairy or wheat flour. Only cooked on one side. Not a main dish, more a utensil.

Categories of Attributes Used in Definitions

Ingredients	Leavening	Equipment	Processes	Shape	Taste	Texture	Usage	Exclusion
X	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
			X	X	X	X	X	X
				X	X	X	X	X
X							X	X

Responses When Asked if a Specific Item was a "Pancake"



Interpreted Inclusion, Based on Definitions