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# What's the matter with 'reasonable'?

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## Abstract

'Reasonable' is one of the central terms when it comes to negligence in Torts. Since lay jurors often decide what does and does not count as reasonable behavior, it is essential to understand their usage of the term for. In this study, we use machine-learning models to determine whether 'reasonable' is mainly used as a descriptive, evaluative, or value-associated term by laypeople. The results show that 'reasonable' is predicted to be an evaluative term, which supports prescriptive accounts. Other interchangeable terms in jury instructions are predicted to be descriptive, highlighting a potential discrepancy between intended usage and folk understanding.

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