The Attentional Blink (AB)

An impairment in the identification accuracy for the second of two targets (T1 and T2) presented in a rapid sequence of distractors.

Processing of endogenous spatial cues is NOT impaired during the AB, depending on whether or not they need "ventral" processing.

The Attentional Blink (AB)

The results were explained with reference to the two separate visual pathways: endogenous spatial cues are processed along the dorsal pathway, while identification (and, therefore, the AB) is carried out along the ventral pathway.

Experiment 1

In Experiment 1 a red number-cue preceded the target display. This number indicated the clock position at which the target would appear in the following frame.

When both the spatial cue and the target need to be identified, processing of the spatial cue is impaired only at shorter inter-target lag when the system is busy processing the first target. Therefore, an interaction is in evidence.

The number-cue requires two steps of processing: identification of the number, and then re-orienting of attention to the indicated location. To determine which step interferes with identification of the target (leading to the interaction), in Experiment 2 we eliminated the requirement for identification, while keeping the need for re-orientation.

Conclusion

Processing of endogenous spatial cues may or may not be impaired during the AB, depending on whether or not they need "ventral" processing.