My talk will address the processing of verb-gapping sentences, that is, conjoined sentences with omission of the – otherwise repeated – finite verb (and possibly adjoining material) in the second conjunct as in (1).

(1) John opens a juice bottle and Jim [ ] a lemonade bottle.

Processing a verb-gapping sentence requires detecting the gap and retrieving the missing verb information. Previous experimental studies that investigated the reactivation of gapped verb information employed probe recognition or inconsistency paradigms. The present approach was to employ a methodological paradigm from the embodied-simulations framework. According to the embodied-simulations view, language comprehension involves mental simulations that are grounded in perception and action. This view is supported by findings from experimental studies that indicate an interaction of language comprehension with the comprehender’s actions in the actual situation. In these kind of studies, participants read descriptions implying actions in a particular direction (e.g., closes / opens a juice bottle → clockwise / counter clockwise manual rotation) and have to advance through the descriptions by actually performing actions in a particular direction (e.g., clockwise / counter clockwise knob turning); the typical finding is an effect of compatibility between the direction of the linguistically conveyed action and the direction of the actually to be performed action on processing latencies. The goal of the present study was to explore whether an interaction between linguistically implied and actually performed motor actions would also occur for actions conveyed by gapped verbs. In my talk, I will report a pilot experiment on this issue. The results differ from the typical pattern but are promising in providing novel evidence for the on-line reactivation of gapped verb information.