CATEGORICAL LOUDNESS SCALING INSTRUCTIONS

qCLS study 2023

In this experiment, you will be hearing sounds and judging how loud you think they are. You will do that by touching the colored bars that you see on the screen. After you hear each sound, you will touch the bar that best matches how loud you thought the sound was. You can choose the bars that have labels, "Extremely Loud," "Very Loud," "Loud," "Medium," "Soft," "Very Soft" and "Not Heard", and you can also choose the bars in between that do not have labels.

First you will hear a sound. After it plays, the "Respond" box will turn green. At that time, touch the bar that best describes how loud you thought the sound was. If you thought the sound was loud, you would touch the word "Loud." If you thought the sound was medium you would touch the word "Medium." If you thought the sound was in between loud and medium, you would touch the bar in between those two bars. Please also use the bars that don't have labels on them. If the "Respond" box lights up and you have not heard anything, touch "Not Heard." You should choose "Extremely Loud" when you think a sound is loud enough that you would not want to listen to it for very long.

The pitch of the sounds will be changing throughout the experiment. Remember, you are judging the loudness of the sound, not the pitch. Try to make each choice based on that sound alone. Try not to let the sound you heard before it influence your choice. You may also hear the same sound more than once, so it is okay to make the same choice, such as choosing "Loud" twice in a row.

As soon as you touch one of the bars, the "Respond" box will turn white and you will hear the next sound. The sounds will be played 100 times in each set. There are no right or wrong answers. What matters is how you perceived the sound.

Do you have any questions?

Instructions adapted from:
Brand, Thomas, and Volker Hohmann. "An adaptive procedure for categorical loudness scaling." Journal of the Acoustical Society of America 112(2002): 1597-1604.