

# Moving back and forth between routines

**costar** #1 September 11, 2020, 8:07pm

Hi everyone,

I'm trying to build an experiment where participants will be shown some pictures in sequence, and then they have to answer some questions about those pictures. However, I want to make sure that they can go back to check the pictures before they answer the questions as many times as they want (when they go back to see the pictures, I want them to be able to check all the pictures in sequence again).

Right now, I have all the pictures in one routine (attached to a loop, the pictures are actually in excel) and the questions in different routines. I can see all the pictures and then the questions, but I can't move back to recheck the pictures. I would like them to use up and down on the keyboard to move back and forth.

I tried some codes that were available here from previous topics, but they did not work.

Does anyone know how I could fix that?

Thanks in advance!

**jderrfuss** #2 September 11, 2020, 10:24pm

Hi,

I've implemented something potentially of interest [here](#).

In the future, may I suggest that you list what previous solutions you've already tried (including links) and how exactly they failed (including error messages)? Just telling us that you tried something and it didn't work only provides us with very limited information on how we might be able to help you. 😊

Jan

**costar** #3 September 12, 2020, 12:31am

Hi,

thank you for your response.

Like I said previously, I have one routine with the pictures in one loop (excel) and four more routines with questions in each one of them. I think in some way, the outer loop keeps the first routine repeating (I had 200 nReps on it).

What I'm trying to have participants moving back and forth between these routines, always in the same sequence.

I also tried to work with the resources from this link [here](#) but I was only able to run the instructions, when it gets to the routine with the images it just stops.

Again, thank you for your help!

**jderrfuss** #4 September 12, 2020, 9:36am

Hi again,

Without having seen your actual implementation, it's very difficult to work out what exactly is going wrong. If you could upload your experiment (or perhaps a minimal version of your experiment illustrating the issue), that would help us to help you.

Jan

**costar** #5 September 12, 2020, 12:21pm

Hi,

I'm sorry if I'm not being very clear on what is going on. I'm very new to all that...

I created a sample that is exactly similar to the experiment so you can have an idea of what I mean. Not sure if you will be able to see everything but in trial1\_fruit1\_loop is where the pics should be in excel. I want to be able to move back and forth from this routine, to the other routines(Question1,Question2...), but when they move back to the pics(trial\_fruit1) I want them to always see the pics in sequence.

Very thankful for your help,

I hope I was a little more helpful explaining this time.

 **Sample1.psyexp** (33.9 KB)

**jderrfuss** #6 September 12, 2020, 2:03pm

A couple of questions for clarification:

- Do they need to see all the pictures before they move on to the questions? (Or could they say that they would like to move on to the questions after they've seen, say, only half of the pictures again?)
- Once they have decided to move on to the questions, I assume they cannot return to the pictures. Is this correct?

**costar** #7 September 12, 2020, 2:17pm

Hi,

Yes, they need to see all the pictures and then move to the questions.

If they move to the questions, I want to allow them to still go back and check the pictures.

They are basically allowed to check the pictures as many times as they want to be able to

answer the questions.

For instance, someone checked the pics, and is answering the first questions. If that person wants to go back to the pictures, I want them to be able to do it. However, I want the pictures to be always in the same sequence, never random.

**jderrfuss** #8 September 12, 2020, 3:02pm

Ah, OK. So, let's assume someone answers questions 1 and 2, and then indicates that they would like to see the pictures again. After seeing the pictures, would they be asked question 1 and 2 again?

**costar** #9 September 12, 2020, 3:17pm

They would have to pass through question 1 and 2 again. I basically just want them to be able to move up and down like we do on a PPT, for instance. Not that they would have to change their answers to question 1 and 2, but they should pass through the questions again if they want to go back to check the pics.

**jderrfuss** #10 September 12, 2020, 3:38pm

OK. Are all questions similar (in the sense that they differ only in what is being displayed on the screen)? If yes, you could read the question text from an input file as well and would need only one routine for the questions (this would potentially make going back to the pictures a bit more straightforward).

**costar** #11 September 12, 2020, 3:56pm

I actually tried to put the questions in different routines because I want people to give the answer on the routine itself(I will do that on the textboxes in each routine). Could I still be able to do that if I put everything on an input file?

**jderrfuss** #12 September 12, 2020, 4:23pm

I'm not sure what you mean by "give the answer on the routine itself". Could you explain why you think you need a separate routine for each question in another way? Or upload an example that includes the actual questions you would like to ask.

**costar** #13 September 13, 2020, 2:03am

I' m trying to have the participants typing their answers on the experiment. Like I said, I don' t know if a need a routine for each question to allow them to do that or if I can have all the question in a input file, still allowing the responses to be typed. I thought the best way to allow typed responses was having the questions in different routines.

**jderrfuss** #14 September 29, 2020, 2:36am

Hi,

Please find a minimal working example attached. Please note:

- Images are not actually images, but text. For your experiment, you would need to replace the text component with an image component.
- Typed answers to the questions are not displayed.
- To move on to the next question, press Enter.
- To return to the images, press the left arrow key.
- Pressing Enter in response to the final question will end the outer loop (the one that takes you back to the images).

Hope this helps.

Jan

 [repeatImages.psyexp](#) (16.3 KB)

 [images.xlsx](#) (8.5 KB)

 [questions.xlsx](#) (8.5 KB)

1 Like

**costar** #15 September 13, 2020, 2:42pm

Hi,

Thank you so much for your example!

I tried adapting what you sent me to my experiment. However, after I see all the pictures, they experiments suddenly ends. I can' t even see the questions. Not sure why this is happening.

**jderrfuss** #16 September 13, 2020, 2:53pm

- Are you using the most recent PsychoPy version?
- Did you make sure to put the Excel file with the questions in the same folder as the other files?
- Are there any error messages?

Jan

**costar** #17 September 13, 2020, 3:15pm

Hi,  
the problem was with the code, but I was able to find and fix it.  
Now it is working perfectly! Thank you so much for your help!  
Best!

**jderrfuss** #18 September 13, 2020, 8:37pm

Glad it works now! Feel free to describe the issue you had with the code. It worked fine on my system, but I can't exclude the possibility that I accidentally uploaded the wrong version of the experiment.

Jan

**costar** #19 September 14, 2020, 12:16am

The problem with the code was actually my mistake, I forgot one letter so it was not reading. I fixed it and now it is running. The only problem that I'm having now is that when I want to move to the next routine, outside of the loop, it does not let me. It goes back to the pics again, and then the questions again.

**jderrfuss** #20 September 14, 2020, 8:08am

Sorry, do you mean that the version I posted has this issue or this issue appears after you've made changes to the experiment?

Jan

**costar** #21 September 14, 2020, 11:35am

The problem appeared when I adapted your example to my experiment. I added a end page that is not part of the loop, but when I get to the last question, it goes back to the first image. It is like the loop is not ending. I can go back to the pics when I'm in the questions but I can't move to the end page.

**costar** #22 October 3, 2020, 11:37pm

Hi Jan,

Your demo helped me a lot while doing my experiment and I was able to use it for both my image and text condition. However, right now, the order is Image -> Text. Is there any way I can randomize this order and make it Text -> Image for some participants. I saw similar topics here saying that we should try to minimize routines and put both conditions in one routine, however I also have questions and the repetition of pictures in my experiment so I'm not sure how should I proceed.

Thank you in advance for any tips you might share.

**jderrfuss** #23 September 27, 2020, 10:43pm

Sorry, could you explain this in a bit more detail? Would the idea be that some participants simply skip the first set of pictures (so, the order is questions → pictures → questions etc.), but everything else basically stays the same?

Or would this be a complete reversal? That is, participants can go back to questions while they look at the pictures and if they don't decide to go back to the questions, the loop ends after they have seen all the pictures?

**costar** #24 September 27, 2020, 11:14pm

Sorry, I should have explained better.

The images are actually only one of the conditions for this experiment. The other condition are sentences that are presented just like the pictures, in sequence and have specific questions that the participants need to answer. I used the demo you sent me for both the pictures and the sentences. What I want to do now is to counterbalance the order of the two conditions so that for some participants, they see pictures(answer the questions) -> sentences(answer the questions) and other participants see sentences(answer the questions) -> pictures(answer the questions).

I searched for some ways to do that and they all talked about blocks but I'm not sure if it would be possible because of the different questions that are attached to each condition and the repeated conditions(participants going back to check the conditions when they are answering the questions -your demo).

**jderrfuss** #25 September 29, 2020, 7:17am

Ah, I see. So, how do you currently switch from pictures to sentences? (Perhaps add a screenshot of your flow. Or upload a simplified version of your experiment.) Also, how are your input files set up?

**costar** #26 September 29, 2020, 11:51am

Hi Jan,

I'm uploading a simplified version so you can see what I mean.

Basically, I created another loop with routines just for the text, exactly like the demo you sent me for the images.

Like I said, what I'm trying to do is to counterbalance the order image/text are presented to participants. I read from the forum many people saying I should keep everything in one block, but I have different instructions and questions for image and text. Furthermore, in the text condition I'm trying to add another variable(Text2). That is, the sentences that would be used in the text conditions would vary according to participants. Participant 1 would get text and participant 2 would get Text2, for instance. I created a topic for this part [here](#), but I'm still trying to fix it.

I know it is a lot, but I would appreciate any insight on this because I'm really lost on how to do it.

[↓ repeatexp.psyexp](#) (32.1 KB) [↓ images.xlsx](#) (8.5 KB) [↓ questions.xlsx](#) (8.5 KB) [↓ questions2.xlsx](#) (8.5 KB) [↓ text.xlsx](#) (8.4 KB) [↓ Text2.xlsx](#) (8.4 KB)

**jderrfuss** #27 October 3, 2020, 11:37pm

Hi,

Please find a minimal solution attached. It uses an outer loop for counterbalancing. The startup dialogue asks which order you would like to run. If you enter `ti`, the order will be text→image; it will give you image→text. The counterbalancing loop has two repetitions. Say, you go for it, then:

- First iteration of the counterbalancing loop (i.e., `counterbalLoop.thisN == 0`):
  - `nReps` for `textLoop` will be 0 (i.e., element 0 in list `textRep`)
  - `nReps` for `imageLoop` will be 1 (i.e., element 0 in list `imRep`)
- Second iteration of the counterbalancing loop (i.e., `counterbalLoop.thisN == 1`):
  - `nReps` for `textLoop` will be 1 (i.e., element 1 in list `textRep`)
  - `nReps` for `imageLoop` will be 0 (i.e., element 1 in list `imRep`)

Jan

[↓ counterbalance.psyexp](#) (10.3 KB)

1 Like

**costar** #28 October 3, 2020, 11:37pm

That is amazing Jan.

Thank you so much, you're always really helpful!

Wishing you the best!

