Task Instructions

# General Overview

In this experiment, you will make a series of choices. Each choice will be between two options represented by a star and pentagon. Either option may yield 1 to 100 points, and the payout will drift slowly over time. Your goal is to collect as many points as possible—the more points you collect, the more money you walk away with today (up to $25)!

# Collecting Points to Win Money

To win money today, you need to figure out whether you get more points when you choose one the star or the pentagon. **Sometimes the star will be more valuable, and sometimes the pentagon will be more valuable. This will change slowly over time.** So, if you make random choices or if you don’t pay attention to the outcomes of your choices, you won’t collect many points*.* Your best strategy is to choose the option that you think will give you the most points at that time.

Each trial of the task is broken into distinct phases. You start by making a choice, and then you wait for a few seconds before the points are shown to you. But wait, the trial isn’t over yet, and you haven’t won those points!

# Playing with Your Partner

You’ve already met your partner in this experiment. Your partner is playing a different game where they simply have to guess whether the number on a card is higher or lower than the number 5. If they guess correctly, you win the points. You’ll know you’re playing with your partner when you see a picture of their face on the decision screens.

On some trials, you’ll play with a computer instead of your partner (here you’ll see a picture of a computer). The computer is playing the same game as your partner (i.e., guess whether the number on a card is higher or lower than the number 5). As with your partner, if the computer guesses correctly, you win the points. After your partner decides, you have to press any button to see if you win the points:

* If you win the points, the number of points will be shown with a green “check mark” below it.
* If you don’t win the points, you’ll see the number of points in with a red “X” below it.

**Whether you see the green “check mark” or the red “X” should not influence your decision between the star and pentagon.** You still should choose the option that you think will give you the most points at that time.

# Emotion Ratings

Occasionally, you will see the outcome of your choice (i.e., the number of points you could receive), but you won’t immediately see your partner’s choice. Instead, you’ll be shown an emotion (e.g., “excited”) and asked to report how well that word describes you at that specific moment in time. For this, you will use a slider where you move left for “not at all” and move right for “extremely”. There are no right or wrong answers. Please give us your honest answer of how the displayed word characterizes you in that moment.

There will also be trials that go straight to the partner choice and you may get points. On some of these trials, you will be asked to use the slider to report how the displayed word characterizes you in that moment. You’ll have 5 seconds to move the slider to your desired location.

*Please ask the experimenter if you have any questions! And please remember to keep your legs and head very still throughout the scanning session! Even a little bit of movement will degrade the images of your brain.*