



Note: This is a draft and is currently under review by the Huron Research Ethics Board

Letter of Information

Effects of Age, Personality, and Cognition on Learning

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You are invited to participate in a study being conducted by Mark Dunlop and Dr. Stephen Van Hedger. This study will examine how adults learn language and how age, cognition, and personality affect this process. You are being invited to participate because you fit the age range that is being examined and because you have clicked on a link expressing your interest in participating in the study.

About the Study:

The purpose of this study is to examine how cognitive, demographic, and personality factors affect how people learn language. If you agree to participate, you will first complete a short auditory calibration task to make sure that you will be able to hear the sounds in the study (~5 minutes). You will then be asked to answer a short fatigue assessment, followed by a cognitive processing task, in which you will make judgments about letters and numbers printed to the screen, and then complete another short fatigue assessment (~25 minutes). You will then listen carefully to streams of speech sounds, responding with a key press whenever you hear a syllable (e.g., “ga”) that has been designated as the *target syllable* for that stream. Each speech stream is approximately 14 seconds long, and you will listen to 36 streams in total. Thus, this syllable detection task is expected to last around 12 minutes. There will then be a simple memory test about the speech sounds you just heard (~12 minutes). The study will then end with a short personality assessment and a short demographics questionnaire, consisting of questions about gender, age, and some simple questions about your language and musical background (~8 minutes).

This study will take about 60 minutes and will take place online.

In order to complete this study, you must have no known hearing impairments and be fluent in English. You will also need access to a computer with a keyboard and some way to listen to its audio. Otherwise, you will not be able to take part in this study.



Important Information Related to Your Participation:

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may decide not to be in this study. Even if you consent to participate you have the right to not answer individual questions or to withdraw from the study at any time. If you decide to withdraw from the study prior to completion, the responses that you have provided will be discarded and will not be included in our data for analysis. Please note, however, that because your responses are anonymous, if you complete the study and decide later that you wish to withdraw your responses, we might be unable to do so because your responses will be unable to be linked to you.

You do not waive any legal right by signing the attached consent form. Your participation in this study does not require you in any way to participate in any future research at Huron University College or at Western University.

Confidentiality:

All information and data will be collected with no name and direct identifiers attached. Upon accessing the study, participants will be assigned an arbitrary alphanumeric identifier (e.g., f0ew9ujntg). Additionally, any indirect identifiers, such as age and gender, will not have any location data that could be used to potentially to identify the participants.

All retrieved data will be stored on a password-protected server and will only be accessible by the researchers. Additionally, published reports will only disclose overall data rather than individual scores. Upon publication, data will be made available to other researchers via Open Science Framework, as open data is becoming more common in the context of published psychological research. However, this would only contain anonymous data with arbitrary participant identifiers.

Risks, Costs and Benefits to You:

There are no known risks or costs to take part in the study.

You will be compensated \$8.00 USD for participating in the study, and following debriefing, you will be given a unique participation code, which will allow you to confirm your participation and be compensated by the researchers. The study will help shed light on the factors that influence language learning in adults, and you might gain an understanding of how people learn in general, and more specifically, how people learn language.

**Contact Information:**

If you have any questions about this research study or would like to learn more, please contact Mark Dunlop mdunlo25@uwo.ca or Dr. Stephen Van Hedger svanhedg@uwo.ca

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant or the conduct of this study you may contact the Chair of the Research Ethics Board at Huron University College by emailing huronreb@uwo.ca.

Thank you for your time and interest in this research project.

This letter is yours to keep for future reference.