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**Title: An investigation of the impact of competing noise on following aural instructions (Pro00105017)**

**Principal Research Investigator:**

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**Background:** Thank you for responding to our advertisement and your interest in our study. There are many variables that facilitate, or obstruct, speech understanding. Listening in noise or in the presence of a competing signal is particularly challenging for all individuals. Any parameter that can be adjusted to improve listening accuracy requires further investigation. This study will investigate the abilities of listeners to follow instructions aurally (i.e., through speakers or headphones) while a competing signal is delivered.

**Purpose:** You are being asked to participate in a research study to examine the impact of competing noise and other variables on listening accuracy. This information will hopefully assist clinicians and researchers in offering improved treatment and counselling strategies.

**Procedures:** This experiment will take no more than 30 minutes.

- 1) Reading this information sheet and completing the online consent form.
- 2) Answering questions about yourself (e.g., age, sex and residence) and your hearing (e.g., how well do you hear in quiet situations?). This will take less than three minutes to complete.
- 3) You will then take part in an experimental task while seated at a computer. You will hear instructions delivered in the presence of noise. You will be asked to make a selection on the computer screen based on the instructions you hear. For example, 'Baron, go to red three'. You would select the number 3 in red on the computer screen. **Ignore the other call signs and only follow the instructions for Baron.** This will take less than twenty minutes to complete.
- 4) You will then be asked to complete a short questionnaire about the experiment. This questionnaire will take you less than one minute to complete.

**Participation:** If you wish to participate, please complete the following online experiment. We are interested in anyone 18 or older for this survey.

**Benefits:** You will not benefit from being in this study. We hope that the information we get from doing this study will help us better understand the impact of noise on listening.

**Risks:** This study does not present any risk or inconvenience to you, other than the time spent to complete the experiment.

**Confidentiality and Anonymity:** The information that you share will remain strictly confidential and will be used solely for the purposes of this research. The only people who will have access to the research data are the research team. In order to minimize the risk of security breaches and to help ensure your confidentiality, we recommend that you use standard safety measures such as signing out of your account, closing your browser and locking your screen or device when you are no longer using them / when you have completed the study. Results will be published in pooled (aggregate) format. Anonymity is guaranteed since you are not being asked to provide your name or any personal information. We may use the data we get from this study in future research, but if we do this, it will have to be approved by a Research Ethics Board.

**Data Storage:** The data and electronic copies of the survey will be encrypted and stored on a password protected computer in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Alberta for a minimum of five years.

**Voluntary Participation:** You are under no obligation to participate. Should you choose to withdraw midway through the experiment, simply close the link and no responses will be included. You can choose to have your data withdrawn from the study up to one week after the end of the testing session. At the beginning of the testing session, you will be given your participant number. If you wish to withdraw your data, contact one of the listed study investigators with the study identifier (Pro000105017) and your participant number and request to have your data withdrawn no more than seven days after you participated. If the study is not undertaken or if it is discontinued at any time, all information/data collected will be destroyed. If appropriate, the researcher may choose to discontinue a participant's involvement in the study in which case their data will be deleted and destroyed (e.g., if there was an equipment failure during the experiment).

**Contact Information:** If you have any questions or require more information about the study itself, you may contact the primary investigator, Dr. Bill Hodgetts, at the number or email listed above.

The plan for this study has been reviewed by a Research Ethics Board at the University of Alberta. If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research participant or how the research is being conducted you may contact the Research Ethics Office at (780) 492-2615.

Please keep this form for your records.

Completion and submission of the experiment means your consent to participate.