Before you go, we would like to tell you about our research. Please note if you were discontinued due to failing of quality checks, some parts of the explanation below might refer to stages of the experiment that you did not see.

I am investigating human learning and memory, specifically how fast can humans learn new information and what influences that speed of learning.

Two versions of this experiment are released online: a “congruent” and an “incongruent” versions.

You were in the “congruent” condition.

You were in the “incongruent” condition.

In the “congruent” condition, the phase 1 bird that was associated with a certain toy (for example the sledge) had a similar ratio of neck:legs length as the ratio of beak:tail length of the phase 2 bird that was associated with the same toy. In the “incongruent” condition, no such relationship between the ratio of neck:legs and beak:tail existed between the two phases.

For the participants in the “congruent” condition, detecting a relationship between phase 1 and phase 2 should help complete phase 2 faster, compared to the participants in the “incongruent” condition. Such generalization of knowledge happens during “analogical thinking” and is known to be helpful in speeding up learning. For example, learning about the structure of an atom (heavy nucleus in the center orbited by lighter and smaller electrons) is much easier if one makes an analogy with the solar system (heavy sun in the center orbited by lighter and smaller planets).

We are running multiple people in the “congruent” and the “incongruent” condition. We hope to show a difference between these two conditions, which would be evidence that our “congruent” participants engage in some form of analogical thinking. We then plan to explore various interventions that might facilitate or inhibit such analogical thinking between phases of our experiment. We hope that this paradigm can become a quick and systematic method to study generalization of information in healthy adults, which will contribute to our understanding of how information and memories are organized in the human mind.

We hope that understanding what factors improve generalization and analogical thinking will eventually lead to development of practical strategies and methods for improving these skills in everyday life, whether with students in classrooms or professionals in their careers.

Thank you once again for completing the game and contributing to science!

If you have any questions about the experiment, please do not hesitate to contact me at [levan.bokeria@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk](mailto:levan.bokeria@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk)