



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Department of Linguistics

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PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Study title: Neural correlates of reading

You are being invited to take part in an EEG and eye-tracking study. Before you decide whether to participate it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. The researcher will be able to answer any questions you may have.

What is the purpose of this study?

The purpose of this study is to investigate how native English speakers read and judge specific sentences. Working memory and cognitive tasks will also be applied to investigate possible relations between the processing of the sentences and the cognitive abilities of participants.

Do I have to take part?

Please note that participation is **voluntary**, and refusal or withdrawal will involve no penalty or loss, now or in the future. You are free to withdraw from the experiment at any time without explaining why. Please notify the researcher if you are no longer willing to participate.

Can I participate?

For this study, we are looking for individuals who:

- Are native speakers of English from the UK
- Didn't grow up speaking any other language than English until the age of 7
- Are between 18-30 years old
- Are right-handed
- Have a normal vision and do not wear glasses (using contact lenses is allowed)
- Have normal colour vision (i.e. are not colour blind)
- Have no record of neurological/psychiatric disorders or reading deficits

What will the study involve?

In the main task, participants will be asked to read and judge sentences. Additionally, we will record participants' demographic information and language background. Finally, working memory and cognitive tasks will be applied. The complete test battery is expected to take approximately 2 hours and participants will be paid £10/hr for their time. All in-person tasks will be performed in the Cambridge Processing and Acquisition of Language Lab.

Are there any possible disadvantages or risks in taking part?

The study will not induce psychological stress or anxiety or cause harm or negative consequences beyond the risks encountered in normal life. Some participants may experience a mild discomfort during the attachment of the electrodes.

Confidentiality – who will have access to my personal data?

Personally identifiable data will not be made available outside of the research team. We will be using any personal information you give us to undertake this study, and the University of Cambridge will act as the data controller for this purpose. The legal basis for using your personal information is to carry out a task (i.e. academic research) in the public interest. We will keep identifiable information about you for as long as necessary for the study. Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will

keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will do our best only to use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible.

For further general information about the University of Cambridge's use of your personal data as a participant in a research study, please see <https://www.information-compliance.admin.cam.ac.uk/data-protection/research-participant-data>.

What will happen to the study results?

All personally identifying information (e.g. your name and date of birth) will be kept confidential and processed securely by the immediate research team according to the Data Protection Act. All such personally identifying information will be removed or changed (i.e. de-identified, meaning we will replace your identifying information with a code that does not directly identify you) before files are shared with other researchers or results are made public. Non-identifiable data (e.g. your responses or EEG measures) may be shared with other researchers or the public as part of collaborations, joint projects or open access provisions. In line with University policy, all data will be kept securely for a minimum of 10 years in the Department of Linguistics under good research practice. After this, it may be destroyed or sent to the University's digital Institutional Repository.

Who is organising the research?

The study is organised in the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, University of Cambridge, by **Dr Margreet Vogelzang**. Questions or concerns can be directed to them at **mv498@cam.ac.uk**. If you have questions now, you can ask the researcher directly.

Ethics Committee Approval

This project has undergone the review procedure of the Ethics committee of the Department of Modern and Medieval Languages at the University of Cambridge.