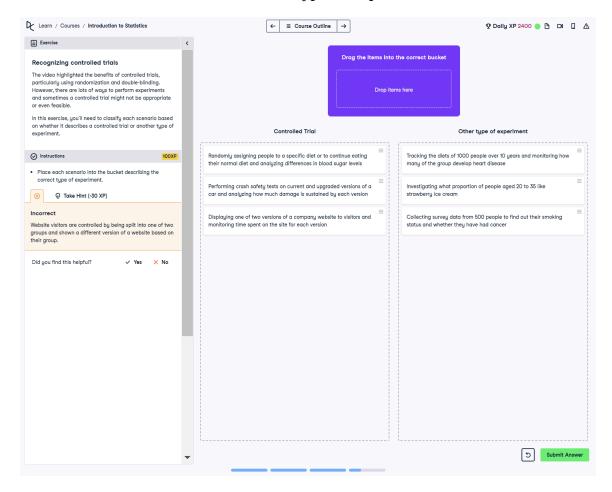# Recognizing Controlled Trials

The video highlighted the benefits of controlled trials, particularly using randomization and double-blinding. However, there are lots of ways to perform experiments, and sometimes a controlled trial might not be appropriate or even feasible.

In this exercise, you'll need to classify each scenario based on whether it describes a controlled trial or another type of experiment.

Answer

Controlled Trial:
- Randomly assigning people to a specific diet or to continue eating their normal diet and analyzing differences in blood sugar levels.
- Performing crash safety tests on current and upgraded versions of a car and analyzing how much damage is sustained by each version.
- Displaying one of two versions of a company website to visitors and monitoring time spent on the site for each version.

Other Type of Experiment:
- Tracking the diets of 1,000 people over 10 years and monitoring how many of the group develop heart disease.
- Investigating what proportion of people aged 20 to 35 like strawberry ice cream.
- Collecting survey data from 500 people to find out their smoking status and whether they have had cancer.

Explanation of the Answer

1. **Controlled Trials:**
- Controlled trials involve manipulating one or more variables and observing the outcomes in a controlled environment.
- Examples include randomization (e.g., assigning diets), experimental comparisons (e.g., crash safety tests), or controlled experiments (e.g., website version tests).

2. **Other Types of Experiments:**
- Observational studies involve tracking or collecting data without manipulation (e.g., diet tracking, surveys).
- Such studies do not involve controlled environments or experimental setups, as they focus on observing real-world behaviors or trends.