Legend: Active-Only instructions

Passive-Only instructions

Instructions present in all conditions.

**Pre-Easy session instructions ­– basic explanation of the task:**

With each trial, an image will appear on the screen. All images will appear as white noise. However, there will be a target shape hidden in half of the images. Your task is to identify whether the image in each trial contains the target. We expect these targets to be hard to see, but do the best you can.

At the beginning of each trial, an image will appear and remain on the screen until you respond. Once you have decided whether the target is present in the image, click the “no” button ( ‘ z ‘ ) if you do not see the target, and click the “yes” button ( ‘ / ‘ ) if you do see the target. You will be timed throughout the task, so please make a selection as soon as you have come to a decision.

Press the SPACEBAR to continue

––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––– New Screen ––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––––

To make sure that you understand this task, you will complete two brief practice sessions. The first practice phase is easy. The targets will be relatively easy to identify. This is to get you familiar with the task and for you to learn to identify the target you will be looking for. Once you have completed the easy phase, the hard practice phase will begin. The hard practice phase will be very difficult. Finally, the experimental phase will be even harder.

The best strategy for this task, and the one that we want you to use in this study, is to be as active as possible and to ‘‘search’’ for the target in the image as you look at the screen. The idea is to deliberately direct your attention to determine your response. Sometimes people find it difficult or strange to ‘‘direct their attention’’ – but we would like you to try your best. Try to respond as quickly and accurately as you can while using this strategy. Remember, it is very critical for this experiment that you actively search for the target in the image. If you cannot find any reason to suspect that the target is present, respond that the target is not present.

The best strategy for this task, and the one that we want you to use in this study, is to be as receptive as possible and see if the target ‘‘pops’’ into your mind as you look at the image. The idea is to let the display and your intuition determine your response. Sometimes people find it difficult or strange to tune into their ‘‘gut feelings’’ – but we would like you to try your best. Try to respond as quickly and accurately as you can while using this strategy. Remember, it is very critical for this experiment that you allow the target to just ‘‘pop’’ into your mind. If this does not happen, respond that the target is not present.

If you have any questions, please ask the experimenter now.

Press the Spacebar to begin the easy practice phase.

**Post-easy session- Instruction reminder:**

You have now completed the easy practice phase. Once again, your task is to identify the presence of a target in each image as it is presented to you. You will now be completing the hard practice phase. This will be quite difficult.

Remember, it is very critical for this experiment that you actively search for the target in the image. If you cannot find any reason to suspect that the target is present, respond that the target is not present.

Remember, it is very critical for this experiment that you allow the target to just ‘‘pop’’ into your mind. If this does not happen, respond that the target is not present.

If you have any questions, please ask the experimenter now.

Press the Spacebar to begin the hard practice phase.

**Post-hard session – Just about to begin the full task:**

You have now completed the practice sessions. Once again, your task is to identify the presence of a target in each image as it is presented to you. You will now be completing the testing phase. This will even more difficult than the last phase.

Once again, it is very critical for this experiment that you actively search for the target in the image. If you cannot find any reason to suspect that the target is present, respond that the target is not present.

Once again, it is very critical for this experiment that you allow the target to just ‘‘pop’’ into your mind. If this does not happen, respond that the target is not present.

If anything is still unclear, please ask the researcher for clarification now.

When you are ready, please ask the researcher to begin the hard practice session.