

INFORMATION & CONSENT SHEET

INVITATION TO TAKE PART

You are being invited to take part in a research study to further our understanding of language comprehension. Thank you for carefully reading this information sheet, a copy of which you can keep for your records. This study is being conducted by student researcher Wren Carver and project supervisor Dr Sam Berens from the School of Psychology, University of Sussex, who are happy to be contacted (sc2077@sussex.ac.uk or S.Berens@sussex.ac.uk) if you have any questions.

WHY HAVE I BEEN INVITED TO TAKE PART AND WHAT WILL I DO?

We are testing 40 people, aged 18-40 years old, who speak fluent English. The experiment will take around 40 minutes. You will be asked to complete three different tasks. In one of the tasks, two kaleidoscopic images will be paired together and shown side-by-side. The aim of the task is to select the image that appeared most recently in a previous trial. A second task will look very similar: two kaleidoscopic images will be shown side-by-side. However, this time you will have to learn which of the images is more valuable than the other, learning through trial-and-error. In the third task, two short stories will be read through the computer speakers. After each story, you will be asked a set question that tests your understanding of the story. You will have to record your answers to these questions using a computer microphone.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RESULTS AND MY PERSONAL INFORMATION?

The results of this research will be written into a scientific report for a psychology dissertation. We anticipate being able to provide a summary of our findings on request from 01/09/26. Please contact Wren or Sam in case you want a copy of this. Your anonymity will be ensured in the way described in the consent information below. Please read this information carefully and then, if you wish to take part, please sign to show you have fully understood this sheet, and that you consent to take part in the study as it is described here.

CONSENT

- I understand that by signing below I am agreeing to take part in the University of Sussex research described here, and that I have read and understood this information sheet.
- I understand that my participation is entirely voluntary, that I can choose not to participate in part or all of the study, and that I can withdraw at any stage without having to give a reason and without being penalised in any way (e.g., if I am a student, my decision whether or not to take part will not affect my grades).
- I understand I can request without penalty that my data be withdrawn and deleted even after the data collection is complete, any time up until the results are analysed (19/04/26).
- I understand that my personal data will be used for the purposes of this research study and will be handled in accordance with [Data Protection legislation](#). I understand that the University's [Privacy Notice](#) provides further information on how the University uses personal data in its research.
- I understand that my data including my personal information (i.e. any information that could identify me) will be stored safely. Electronic data will be stored securely on a University managed system, and hard-copies will be stored behind a locked door. De-identified data may be made publicly available through (Open Science Framework, <https://osf.io>) online data repositories or at the request of other researchers.

For further information about this research please contact Wren Carver OR the project supervisor Dr Sam Berens (sc2077@sussex.ac.uk, S.Berens@sussex.ac.uk). This research has been approved (488) by the School of Psychology. If you have any ethical concerns, please contact the project supervisor Dr Sam Berens (S.Berens@sussex.ac.uk). The University of Sussex has insurance in place to cover its legal liabilities in respect of this study.

- I understand that my identity will remain confidential in any written reports of this research, and that no information I disclose will lead to the identification in those reports of any individual either by the researchers or by any other party, without first obtaining my written permission.
- I understand that my name and data will not be shared with any third party outside the research group, unless I later provide written permission.

Name of Participant

Date

Signature

Independent Witness*

I believe the above-named participant understands the information given and consents voluntarily.

Name of Witness

Date

Signature

*Witness required only where there is some relationship between participant and researcher which might be deemed to unduly influence participant's voluntary consent.

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