

# Fragebogen

## 1 General\_Instruction

---

Dear participant,

thank you very much for your participation in this psychological experiment.

We guarantee that your data will be treated anonymously and used exclusively for scientific purposes. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact Simon Stephan ([simon.stephan@psych.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:simon.stephan@psych.uni-goettingen.de)).

**Please note:** In this study, we investigate how people think. In particular, we want to find out how people think about a fundamental thing, *causality*. So, we really want you to *think* about the things we will show you and we would like to ask you not to hastily rush through the study.

It is very important for us that you *read all the instructions thoroughly* and that you *fully understand the scenario* that we will introduce on the next screens. The scenario you will see is fictitious and was constructed such that you can intuitively understand the relevant aspects. Please assume that everything is exactly as described in the scenario, irrespective of how plausible it sounds to you.

Again, thank you very much for your help in this research project.

---

*This research is conducted under the scientific direction of:  
Dr. Simon Stephan  
Department of Cognitive Psychology and Decision Making,  
University of Göttingen, Germany.*

**Before you start, please:**

- maximize your browser window;
- switch off phone/e-mail/music & anything else distracting
- and please enter your Prolific ID:

**This study works properly only on Desktop PCs and Laptops, and not on Smartphones or Tablets. Please confirm that you take part via Desktop PC or Laptop.**

- ☐ I confirm that I take part via Desktop PC or Laptop.
- ☐ I do not confirm that I take part via Desktop PC or Laptop.

**For the scientific utility of the results, it is very important that you provide complete and careful responses.**

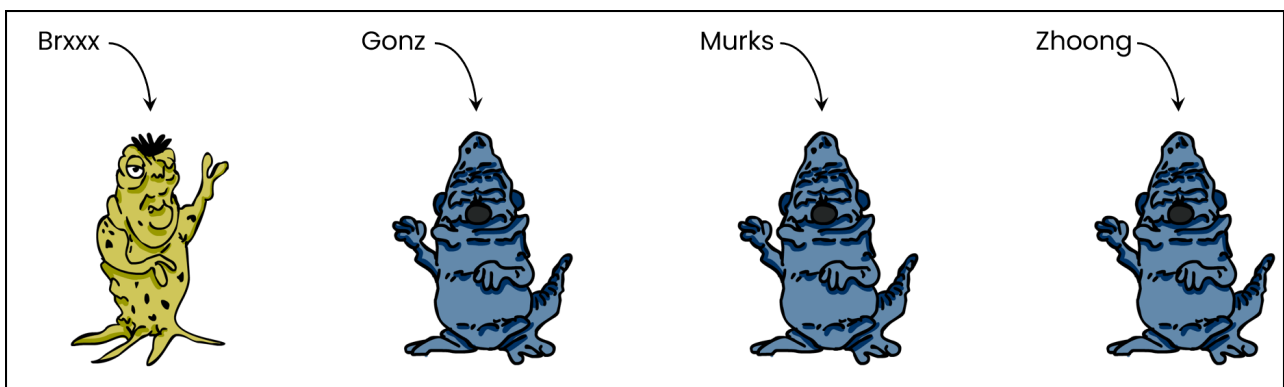
### How seriously will you take your participation in the study?

- ☐ I confirm that I will take my participation in this study seriously.
- ☐ I confirm that I will not take my participation in this study seriously.

#### 2.1.1 Instruction\_part1

*Please read the following scenario:*

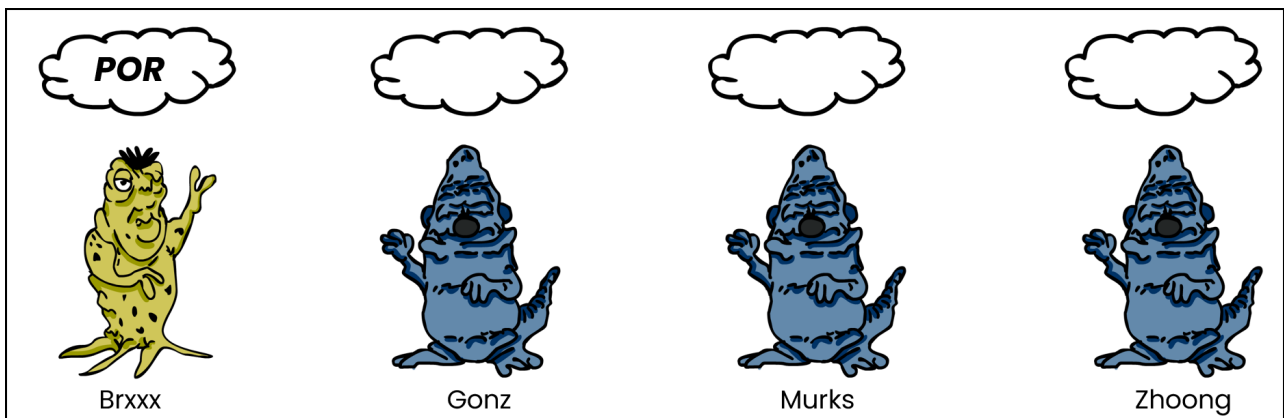
A remote planet of our galaxy is inhabited by four tiny Aliens, which can be grouped into two categories, yellow and blue. There is one yellow alien, called Brxxx, and three blue aliens, called Gonz, Murks, and Zhoong.



Please click "Continue" to learn more.

#### 2.1.2 Instruction\_part2

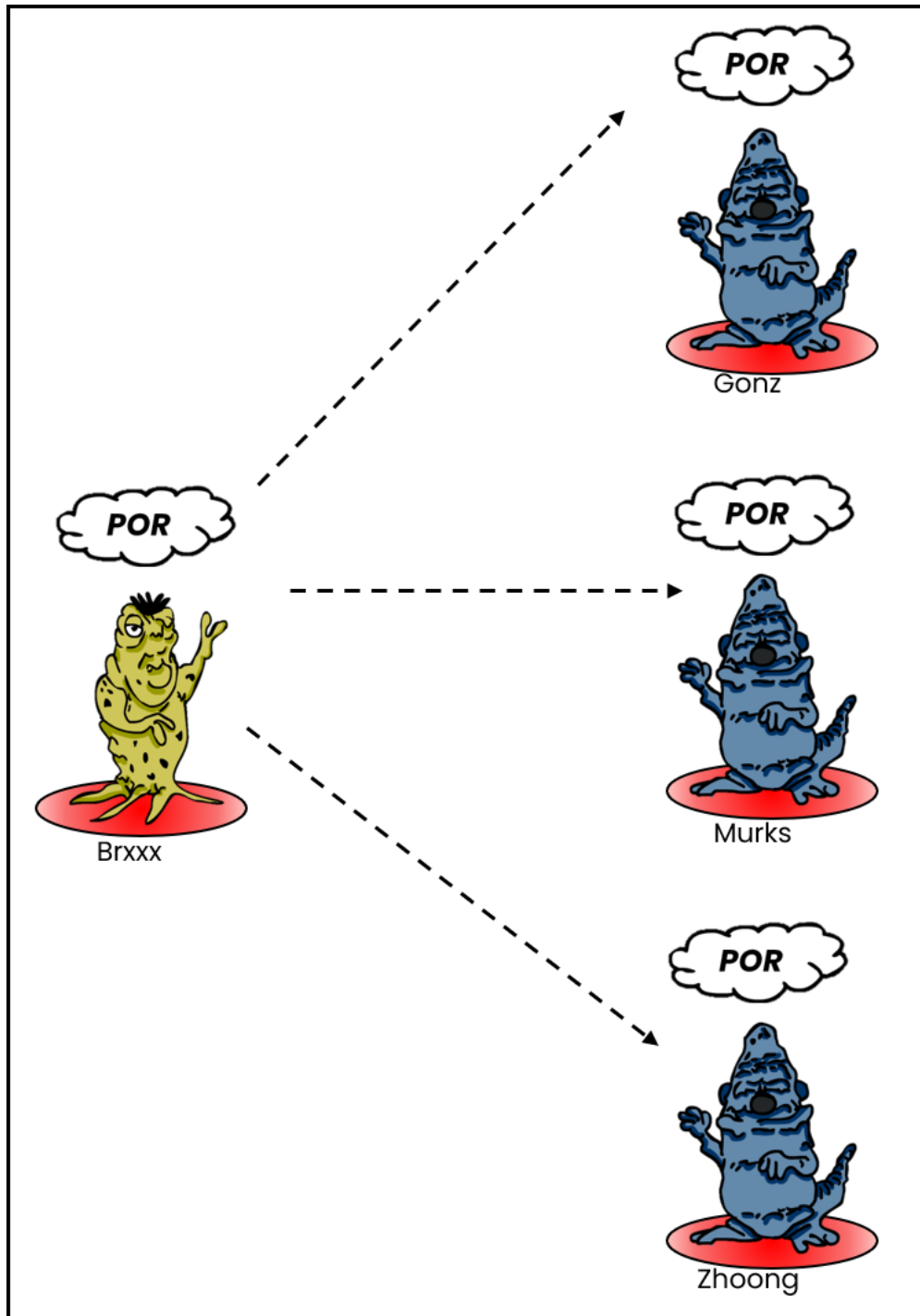
The four aliens are relatively simple-minded, as they can either think of "POR" (which means "Food" in the alien language) or they can think of "nothing". The illustration below shows a situation in which Brxxx is thinking of "POR" and the other aliens are thinking of "nothing".



Please click "Continue" to learn more.

### 2.1.3 Instruction\_part3

Yellow aliens have a special ability. They are **telepathic** aliens who can **send their POR thoughts** to the heads of the blue aliens (illustrated by the dashed arrows in the picture below). In fact, the blue aliens cannot think of "POR" on their own. They can think of "POR" only if a yellow alien has sent a "POR" thought to their head.

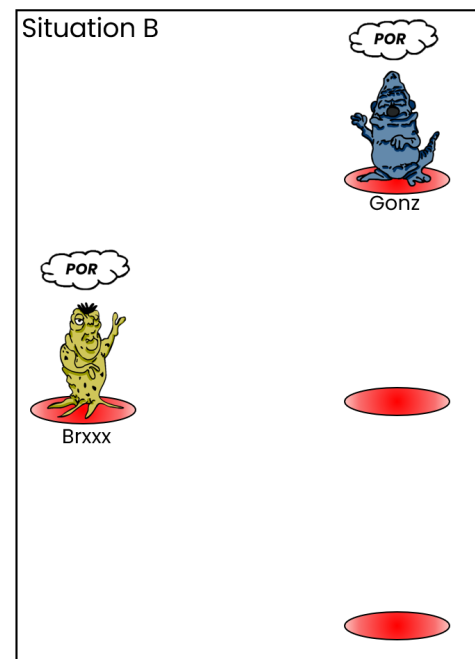
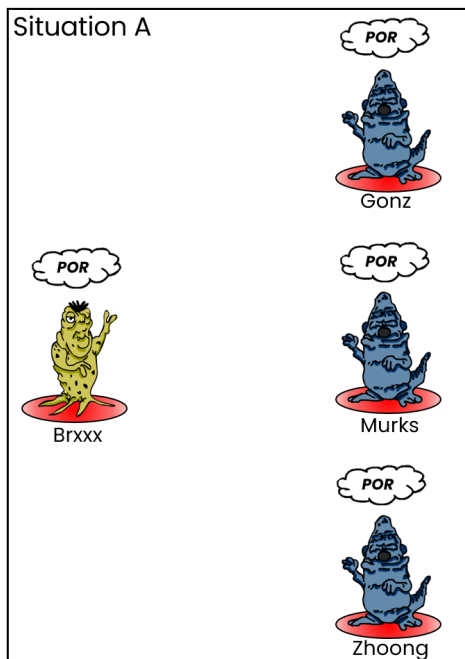


#### 2.1.4.1 target

Below you see two separate situations that happened on different days:

In situation A, Brxxx, Gonz, Murks, and Zhoong are all there. Brxxx is thinking of "POR" and sending his "POR" thought to the heads of Gonz, Murks, and Zhoong.

In situation B, Brxxx and Gonz are there, but Murks and Zhoong are not there. Brxxx is thinking of "POR" and sending his "POR" thought to the head of Gonz.



**According to your intuition, how intensely is the blue alien Gonz thinking of "POR" in situation A?**

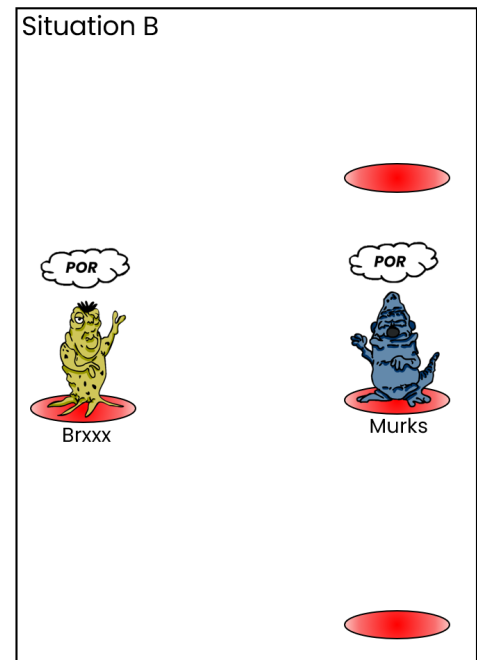
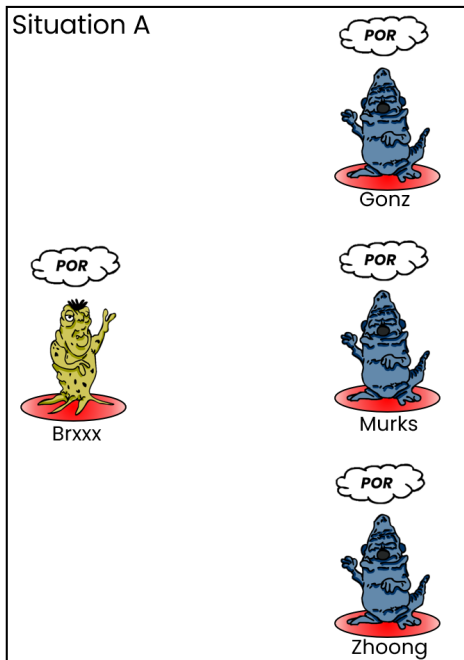
**According to your intuition, how intensely is the blue alien Gonz thinking of "POR" in situation B?**

### 2.1.5.1 target

Below you see two separate situations that happened on different days:

In situation A, Brxxx, Gonz, Murks, and Zhoong are all there. Brxxx is thinking of "POR" and sending his "POR" thought to the heads of Gonz, Murks, and Zhoong.

In situation B, Brxxx and Murks are there, but Gonz and Zhoong are not there. Brxxx is thinking of "POR" and sending his "POR" thought to the head of Murks.



**According to your intuition, how intensely is the blue alien Murks thinking of "POR" in situation A?**

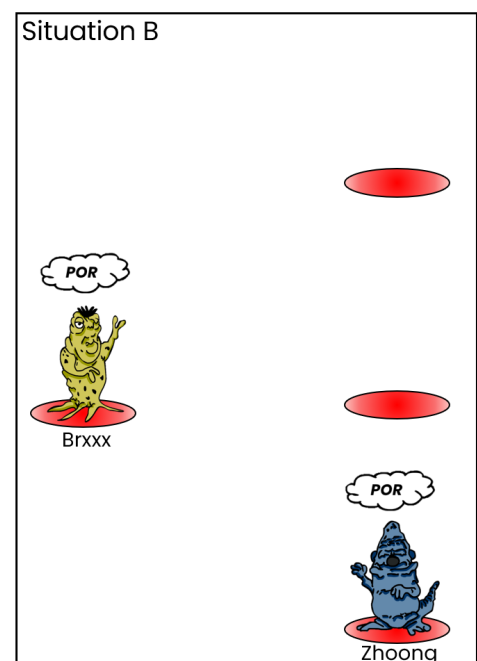
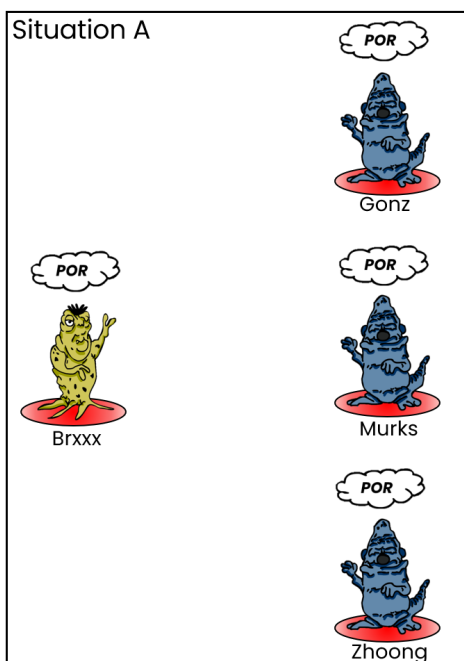
**According to your intuition, how intensely is the blue alien Murks thinking of "POR" in situation B?**

### 2.1.6.1 target

Below you see two separate situations that happened on different days:

In situation A, Brxxx, Gonz, Murks, and Zhoong are all there. Brxxx is thinking of "POR" and sending his "POR" thought to the heads of Gonz, Murks, and Zhoong.

In situation B, Brxxx and Zhoong are there, but Gonz and Murks are not there. Brxxx is thinking of "POR" and sending his "POR" thought to the head of Zhoong.



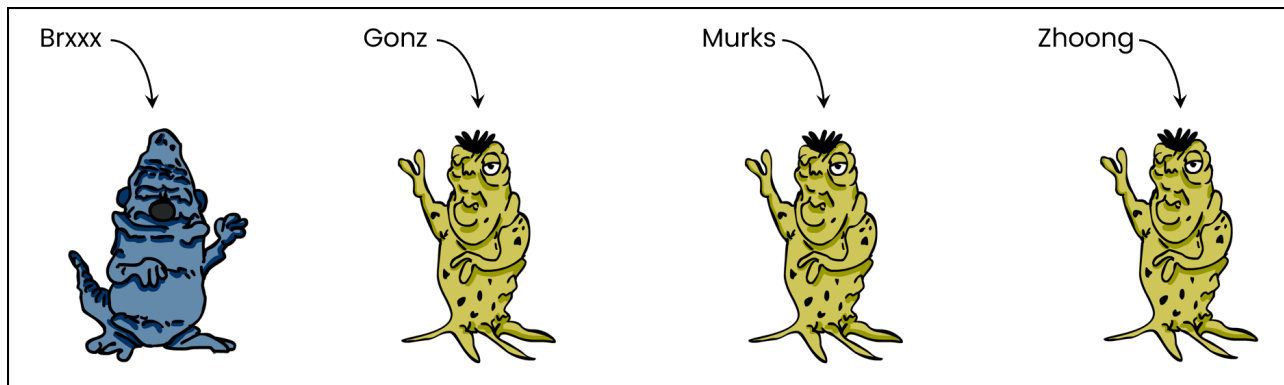
**According to your intuition, how intensely is the blue alien Brxxx thinking of "POR" in situation A?**

**According to your intuition, how intensely is the blue alien Brxxx thinking of "POR" in situation B?**

### 2.2.1 Instruction\_part1

*Please read the following scenario:*

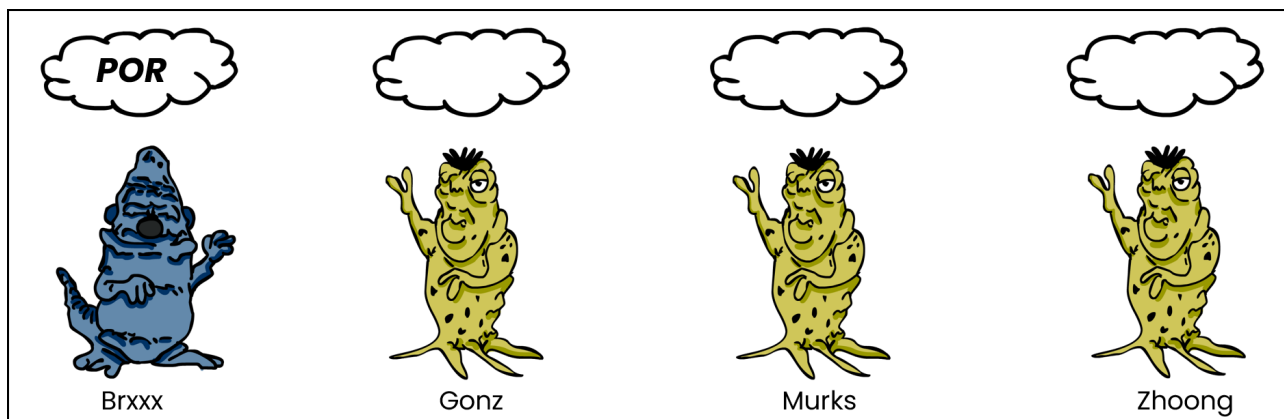
A remote planet of our galaxy is inhabited by four tiny Aliens, which can be grouped into two categories, blue and yellow. There is one blue alien, called Brxxx, and three yellow aliens, called Gonz, Murks, and Zhoong.



Please click "Continue" to learn more.

### 2.2.2 Instruction\_part2

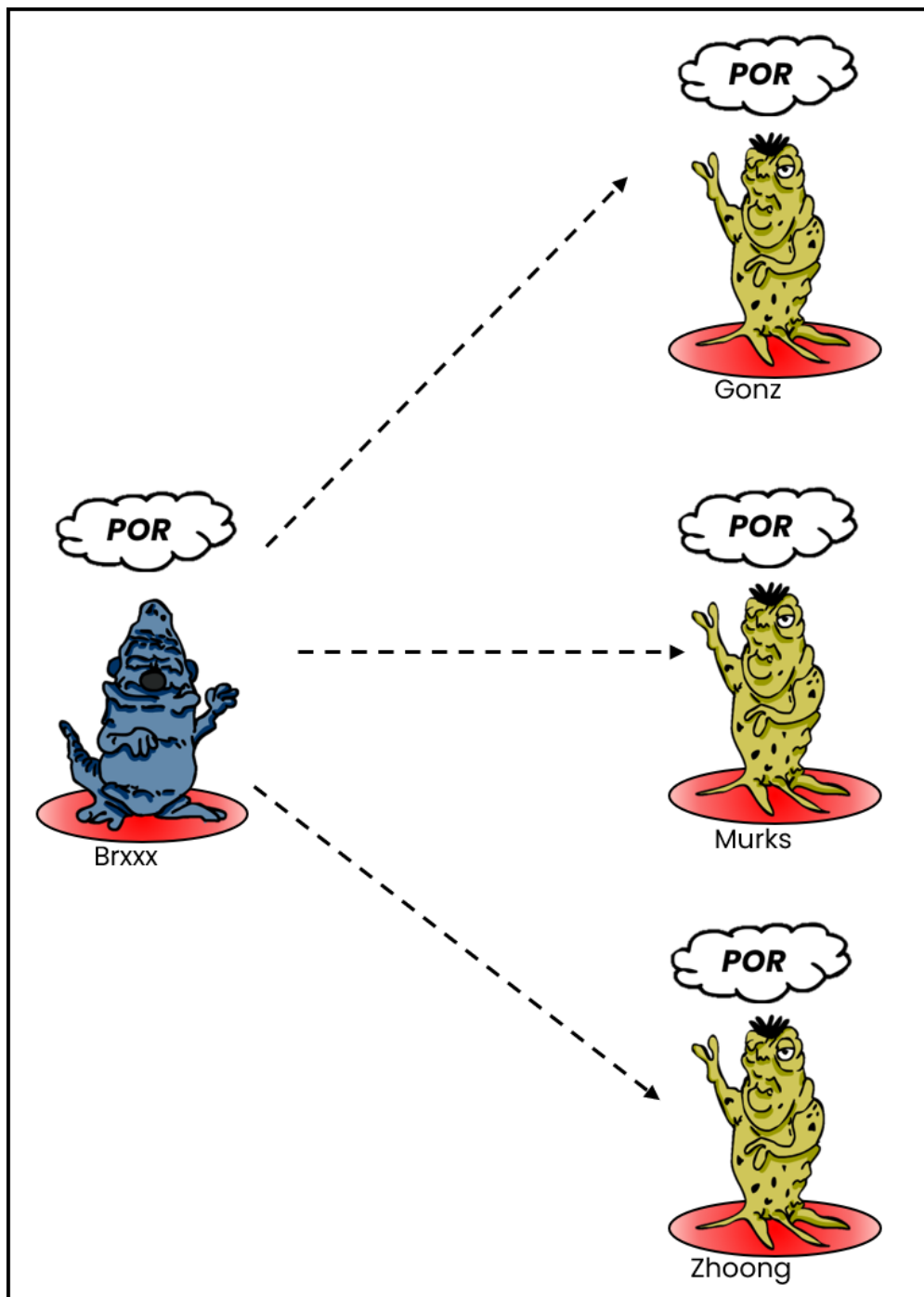
The four aliens are relatively simple-minded, as they can either think of "POR" (which means "Food" in the alien language) or they can think of "nothing". The illustration below shows a situation in which Brxxx is thinking of "POR" and the other aliens are thinking of "nothing".



Please click "Continue" to learn more.

### 2.2.3 Instruction\_part3

Blue aliens have a special ability. They are **telepathic** aliens who can **send their POR thoughts** to the heads of the yellow aliens (illustrated by the dashed arrows in the picture below). In fact, the yellow aliens cannot think of "POR" on their own. They can think of "POR" only if a blue alien has sent a "POR" thought to their head.



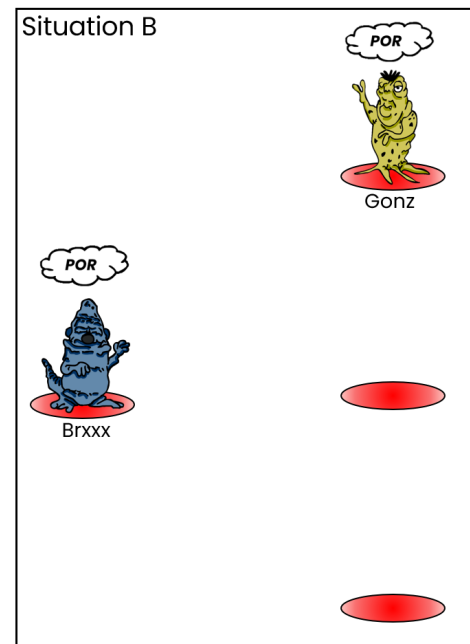
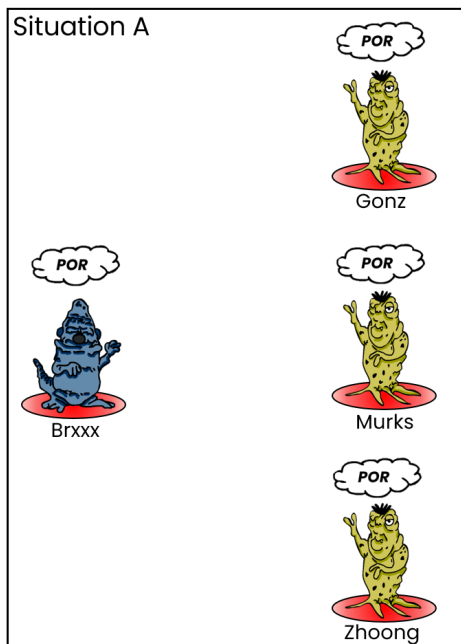
#### 2.2.4.1 target

Below you see two separate situations that happened on different days:

In situation A, Brxxx, Gonz, Murks, and Zhoong are all there. Brxxx is thinking of "POR" and sending his "POR" thought to the heads of Gonz, Murks, and Zhoong.

In situation B, Brxxx and Gonz are there, but Murks and Zhoong are not there. Brxxx is thinking

of "POR" and sending his "POR" thought to the head of Gonz.



**According to your intuition, how intensely is the yellow alien Gonz thinking of "POR" in situation A?**

**According to your intuition, how intensely is the yellow alien Gonz thinking of "POR" in situation B?**

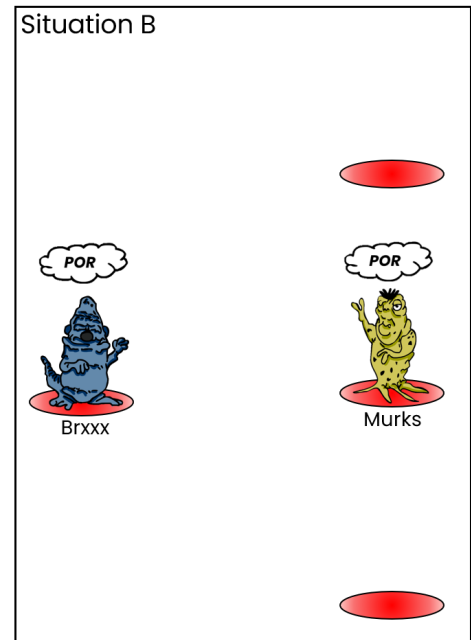
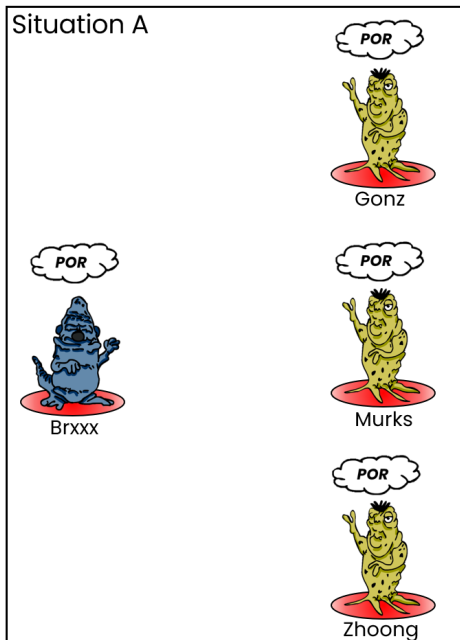
### 2.2.5.1 target

Below you see two separate situations that happened on different days:

In situation A, Brxxx, Gonz, Murks, and Zhoong are all there. Brxxx is thinking of "POR" and sending his "POR" thought to the heads of Gonz, Murks, and Zhoong.

In situation B, Brxxx and Murks are there, but Gonz and Zhoong are not there. Brxxx is thinking of "POR" and sending his "POR" thought to the head of Murks.





**According to your intuition, how intensely is the yellow alien Murks thinking of "POR" in situation A?**

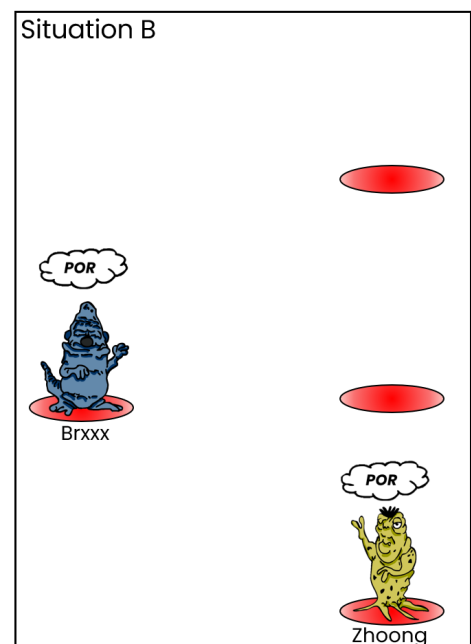
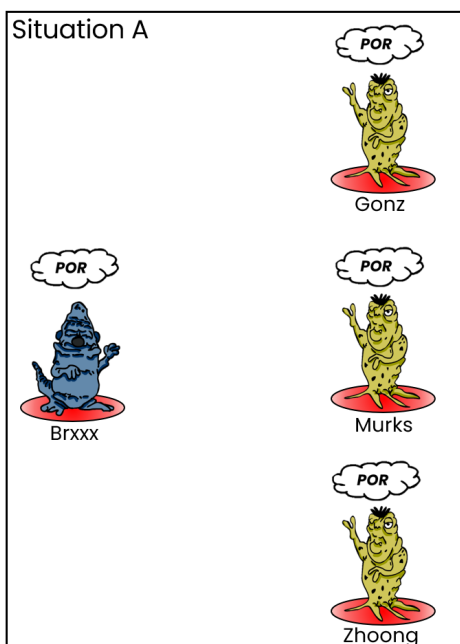
**According to your intuition, how intensely is the yellow alien Murks thinking of "POR" in situation B?**

### 2.2.6.1 target

Below you see two separate situations that happened on different days:

In situation A, Brxxx, Gonz, Murks, and Zhoong are all there. Brxxx is thinking of "POR" and sending his "POR" thought to the heads of Gonz, Murks, and Zhoong.

In situation B, Brxxx and Zhoong are there, but Gonz and Murks are not there. Brxxx is thinking of "POR" and sending his "POR" thought to the head of Zhoong.



**According to your intuition, how intensely is the yellow alien Zhoong thinking of "POR" in situation A?**

**According to your intuition, how intensely is the yellow alien Zhoong thinking of "POR" in situation B?**

---

### 3 Demographie

---

Thank you very much for your effort, you are almost done with the survey. Please provide the following additional information:

**Please indicate which gender you feel you belong to.**

- ☐ male
- ☐ female
- ☐ other
- ☐ prefer not to say

**How old are you?**

**If any technical issues occurred in the course of the study, please give a short description.**

---

### 4 Endseite

---

Thank you for taking part in this study!

The aim of this experiment is to find out more about how people reason about preventive causality. If you are interested in further details or if you have any questions or comments concerning the experiment, feel free to contact me (Simon Stephan) under [sstepha1@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:sstepha1@uni-goettingen.de)

**To ensure you receive your reward**, please click on the following link to return to the Prolific website:

[Link to Prolific](#)

---