# **Plain language summary**

## Melbourne School of Psychological Science

## **Project:** Finding the right words to describe scientific studies

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### Introduction

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project. The following pages will provide you with further information about the project, so that you can decide if you would like to take part in this research.

Please take the time to read this information carefully. You may ask questions about anything you don’t understand or want to know more about.

Your participation is voluntary. If you don’t wish to take part, you don’t have to. If you begin participating, you can also stop at any time.

### What is this research about?

We are studying how people perceive words used to describe scientific studies so we can improve communication of research to the general public.

### What will I be asked to do?

Should you agree to participate, you will be shown words or short paragraphs that describe scientific studies. You will then be asked to tell us about your perception of those studies, for example, how significant you think the findings are or how strong you think the findings are.

### What are the possible benefits?

The research may help to improve the communication of scientific research. In compensation for your time, you will receive £2.60 upon completion of the study.

### What are the possible risks?

There are no anticipated risks involved in this research.

### Do I have to take part?

No. Participation is completely voluntary. You can withdraw at any time. Note that if you decided to withdraw after completing the study, it will not be possible to delete the response data you have contributed. This is because we are not collecting any identifying information, so we cannot link individuals to the data they contributed.

### Will I hear about the results of this project?

Upon completion, a report describing this study will be released on a publicly accessible preprint server (<https://osf.io/preprints/metaarxiv/>) and submitted to a suitable academic journal for publication. Updates on the status of the project can be requested from Dr. Tom Hardwicke (tom.hardwicke@unimelb.edu.au).

### What will happen to information about me?

None of your personal data (such as name, address, or e-mail address) will be collected. To assess whether you are eligible to take part in the study, we will ask whether you speak fluent English, whether you are aged between 18–70 years, your highest completed level of education (for example, undergraduate degree, graduate degree, or doctoral degree) and general subject area of focus (for example, life sciences). We will also record your responses to the word perception task described above. After study completion, the anonymous data collected during this study will be made publicly available in a secure online data repository (the Open Science Framework) and stored in perpetuity in order to facilitate reuse and verification by other scientists.

### Who is funding this project?

The project is supported by internal funds ($AUD 1400) provided by the Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences.

### Where can I get further information?

If you would like more information about the project, please contact the researchers: Dr. Tom Hardwicke (tom.hardwicke@unimelb.edu.au) or Prof. Simine Vazire (simine.vazire@unimelb.edu.au).

### Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?

This project has human research ethics approval from The University of Melbourne (Ethics ID number 26411). If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Research Integrity Administrator, Office of Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 8344 1376 or Email: [research-integrity@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:research-integrity@unimelb.edu.au). All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team and/or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.