Eyes on Code Smells: Analyzing Developers' Responses During Code Snippet Analysis

We invite you to voluntarily participate in this research that aims to analyze how developers comprehend code snippets with or without code smells while using an eye tracker to collect data.

This survey was divided into three stages: the first to be answered before the analysis of the code snippets, the second during the analysis of the code snippets and the third after the analysis of the code snippets.

The code smells were taken from the dataset created by the researchers of the following article:

 [Lech Madeyski and Tomasz Lewowski. 2020. MLCQ: Industry-Relevant Code Smell Data Set. In Proceedings of the Evaluation and Assessment in Software Engineering (EASE '20). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 342–347. https://doi.org/10.1145/3383219.3383264

The **target audience** of this survey is Java or similar language <u>developers</u>.

13 Java code snippets will be presented where the developer should analyze and explain how this code snippet works, if it was difficult to comprehend, if there is a code smell and what its type is. If it has a code smell, the developer should classify it according to severity (minor, major or critical) and classify how he/she felt during the analysis on a scale of 1 for very uncomfortable to 5 for very comfortable.

During the analysis, the developer will use a Tobii TX300 eye tracker will be positioned underneath the monitor to collect biometric data. A camera will also be used to record the developer during the research.

Participation is voluntary, anonymous, and you can withdraw at any time. The results of this study will be published by the researchers in the form of a scientific article. This questionnaire takes around **60 minutes** to be answered.

Throughout the process, respect for privacy and ethical standards will be ensured, as advocated by the General Data Protection Law (Law No. 13.709/2018), guaranteeing that participants' information is treated confidentially. Initially, data collected through the unidentified online questionnaire will be anonymized, removing any information that could directly identify participants, following the guidelines of the mentioned legislation. The data will then be organized and coded to facilitate analysis. The results will be presented in an aggregated and individually non-identifiable form, thus preserving the privacy of the participants in accordance with applicable legal provisions.

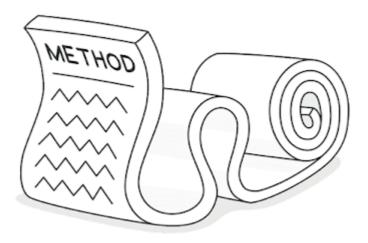
The study is part of the Post-Graduate Program of the Department of Informatics at PUC-Rio and is being developed by the master's student: Vinicius Souza Martins. And it is led by Professor Juliana Alves Pereira and Professor Alessandro Garcia.

If you need to contact the researchers, please use the following e-mails: vmartins@inf.puc-rio.br; jualvespereira@gmail.com

* Indicates required question

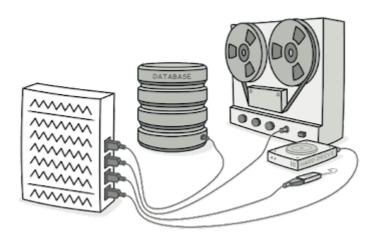
1.	I am aware that my participation in the research is voluntary and that there are no penalties if I withdraw from participating at any time.
	Furthermore, I authorize the use of the answers and data anonymously for research and the production of a scientific article.
	I undertake to answer the form honestly in order to contribute to the veracity of the information.
	In the event of a negative response, the form will be closed, thus ensuring respect for the autonomy and privacy of the participants.
	Mark only one oval.
	I have read and accept the terms.
	I do not accept the terms.
C	Definition of code smells
Ir	this section, you will be introduced to the concept of code smells.
2.	Read this definition of code smells: Code smells are poor design and implementation choices in code development that affect understanding and maintenance of the software.
	Now answer the question: Are you familiar with the concept of code smells?
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes, I know what they are and maybe used some tools
	Somewhat - I heard about them in the past but never dug deeper
	Not really - I heard about them for the first time in this experiment
Т	ypes of Code Smells
Ir	this section, you will be presented with the definition of some types of code smells.

Long Method



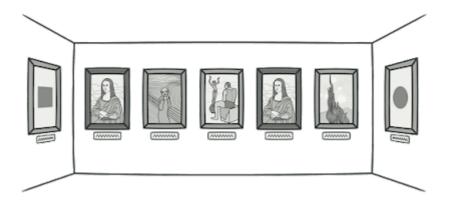
A method contains too many lines of code. Generally, any method longer should make you start asking questions.

Data Class



A data class refers to a class that contains only fields and crude methods for accessing them (getters and setters). These are simply containers for data used by other classes. These classes don't contain any additional functionality and can't independently operate on the data that they own.

Duplicate Code



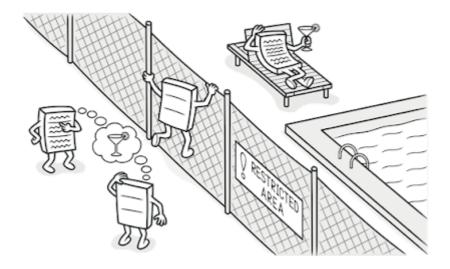
Two code fragments look almost identical.

Data Clumps



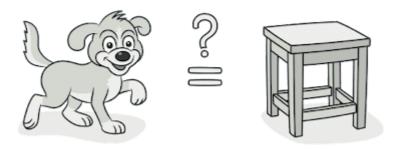
Sometimes different parts of the code contain identical groups of variables (such as parameters for connecting to a database). These clumps should be turned into their own classes.

Feature Envy



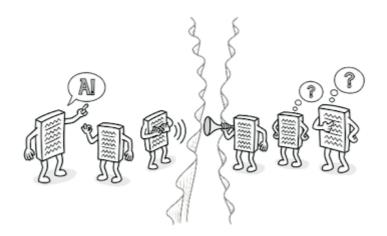
A method accesses the data of another object more than its own data.

Refused Bequest



If a subclass uses only some of the methods and properties inherited from its parents, the hierarchy is off-kilter. The unneeded methods may simply go unused or be redefined and give off exceptions.

Message Chains



When a client requests another object, that object requests yet another one, and so on.

Code snippets analysis

In this section, you will answer questions and analyze the 13 code snippets presented.

The first one you can clarify your doubts with the researcher and the next ones you will analyze without anyone's interference.

Answer the questions while reviewing each code snippet. After reviewing the presented code snippet and having answered all the questions in the presented snippet, move on to the next code snippet and repeat the process. As long as you stay on the code snippet, feel free to go back and change your answers. **Do not return** after moving to the next code snippet.

Code snippet 1

3.	1.1. Please, describe how the code snippets works. *
4.	1.2. Is the analyzed code snippets hard to comprehend? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	◯ No

5.	1.3. Based on the previous answer, explain why. *
6.	1.4. Is there a code smell in the analyzed code snippet? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	No Skip to question 10
Co	ode snippet 1 with code smell
7.	1.5. What code smell(s)? *
	Check all that apply.
	Data Class
	Long Method
	Feature Envy
	Other:
8.	1.6. What is the code smell severity? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Minor
	Major
	Critical

9.	What was your reason for choosing this severity? *
C	ode snippet 1 feeling
10.	1.7. How did you feel during the analysis of this code snippet? (1 for very uncomfortable * to 5 for very comfortable).
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
Co	ode snippet 2
11.	2.1. Please, describe how the code snippets works. *
12.	2.2. Is the analyzed code snippets hard to comprehend? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	○ No

13.	2.3. Based on the previous answer, explain why. *
14.	2.4. Is there a code smell in the analyzed code snippet? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	No Skip to question 18
Co	de snippet 2 with code smell
15.	2.5. What code smell(s)? *
	Check all that apply.
	Long Method
	Data Class
	Feature Envy
	Other:
16.	2.6. What is the code smell severity? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Minor
	Major
	Critical

17.	What was your reason for choosing this severity? *
Co	ode snippet 2 feeling
18.	2.7. How did you feel during the analysis of this code snippet? (1 for very uncomfortable * to 5 for very comfortable).
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
Co	ode snippet 3
19.	3.1. Please, describe how the code snippets works. *
20.	3.2. Is the analyzed code snippets hard to comprehend? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	○ No

21.	3.3. Based on the previous answer, explain why. *
22.	3.4. Is there a code smell in the analyzed code snippet? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	No Skip to question 26
Co	de snippet 3 with code smell
23.	3.5. What code smell(s)? *
	Check all that apply.
	Long Method
	Data Class Feature From
	Feature Envy Other:
24.	3.6. What is the code smell severity? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Minor
	Major
	Critical

25.	What was your reason for choosing this severity? *
Cod	de snippet 3 feeling
26.	3.7. How did you feel during the analysis of this code snippet? (1 for very uncomfortable * to 5 for very comfortable).
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
Cod	de snippet 4
27.	4.1. Please, describe how the code snippets works. *
28.	4.2. Is the analyzed code snippets hard to comprehend? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes No

29.	4.3. Based on the previous answer, explain why. *
30.	4.4. Is there a code smell in the analyzed code snippet? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	No Skip to question 34
Cod	de snippet 4 with code smell
31.	4.5. What code smell(s)? *
	Check all that apply.
	Long Method
	Data Class Feature Envy
	Other:
32.	4.6. What is the code smell severity? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Minor
	✓ Major✓ Critical
	Officer

33.	What was your reason for choosing this severity? *
Co	ode snippet 4 feeling
34.	4.7. How did you feel during the analysis of this code snippet? (1 for very uncomfortable * to 5 for very comfortable).
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
Co	ode snippet 5
35.	5.1. Please, describe how the code snippets works. *
36.	5.2. Is the analyzed code snippets hard to comprehend? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	No

S. *

41.	5.6. What is the code smell severity? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Minor
	Major
	Critical
42.	What was your reason for choosing this severity? *
Co	ode snippet 5 feeling
43.	5.7. How did you feel during the analysis of this code snippet? (1 for very uncomfortable * to 5 for very comfortable).
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
Co	ode snippet 6
00	
44.	6.1. Please, describe how the code snippets works. *

45.	6.2. Is the analyzed code snippets hard to comprehend? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	◯ No
16	6.2. Record on the provious answer explain why t
46.	6.3. Based on the previous answer, explain why. *
47.	6.4. Is there a code smell in the analyzed code snippet? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	No Skip to question 51
Co	de snippet 6 with code smell
48.	6.5. What code smell(s)? *
10.	Check all that apply.
	Long Method
	Data Class
	Feature Envy
	Other:
49.	6.6. What is the code smell severity? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Minor
	Major
	Critical

50.	What was your reason for choosing this severity? *
Co	de snippet 6 feeling
51.	6.7. How did you feel during the analysis of this code snippet? (1 for very uncomfortable * to 5 for very comfortable).
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
Co	de snippet 7
52.	7.1. Please, describe how the code snippets works. *
53.	7.2. Is the analyzed code snippets hard to comprehend? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	○ No

54.	7.3. Based on the previous answer, explain why. *
55.	7.4. Is there a code smell in the analyzed code snippet? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	No Skip to question 59
Co	de snippet 7 with code smell
56.	7.5. What code smell(s)? *
	Check all that apply.
	Long Method
	Data Class
	Feature Envy
	Other:
57.	7.6. What is the code smell severity? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Minor
	Major
	Critical

58.	What was your reason for choosing this severity? *
Co	de snippet 7 feeling
59.	7.7. How did you feel during the analysis of this code snippet? (1 for very uncomfortable * to 5 for very comfortable).
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
Со	de snippet 8
60.	8.1. Please, describe how the code snippets works. *
61.	8.2. Is the analyzed code snippets hard to comprehend? *
	Mark only one oval.
	✓ Yes No

62.	8.3. Based on the previous answer, explain why. *
63.	8.4. Is there a code smell in the analyzed code snippet? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	No Skip to question 67
Cod	de snippet 8 with code smell
64.	8.5. What code smell(s)? *
	Check all that apply.
	Long Method
	Data Class
	Feature Envy Other:
65.	8.6. What is the code smell severity? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Minor
	Major
	Critical

66.	What was your reason for choosing this severity? *
Cod	de snippet 8 feeling
67.	8.7. How did you feel during the analysis of this code snippet? (1 for very uncomfortable * to 5 for very comfortable).
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
Co	de snippet 9
68.	9.1. Please, describe how the code snippets works. *
69.	9.2. Is the analyzed code snippets hard to comprehend? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes No

70.	9.3. Based on the previous answer, explain why. *
71.	9.4. Is there a code smell in the analyzed code snippet? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	No Skip to question 75
Co	de snippet 9 with code smell
72.	9.5. What code smell(s)? *
	Check all that apply.
	Long Method
	Data Class Feature Envy
	Other:
73.	9.6. What is the code smell severity? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Minor
	Major
	Critical

74.	What was your reason for choosing this severity? *
Co	de snippet 9 feeling
75.	9.7. How did you feel during the analysis of this code snippet? (1 for very uncomfortable * to 5 for very comfortable).
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
Со	de snippet 10
76.	10.1. Please, describe how the code snippets works. *
77.	10.2. Is the analyzed code snippets hard to comprehend? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	○ No

10.3. Based on the previous answer, explain why. *
Choose the option labeled 'Blue' *
Mark only one oval.
Green
Yellow
Blue
Red
10.4. Is there a code smell in the analyzed code snippet?*
Mark only one oval.
Yes
No Skip to question 84
ode snippet 10 with code smell
10.5. What code smell(s)? *
Check all that apply.
Long Method
Data Class Feature Envy
Other:
<u> </u>

82.	10.6. What is the code smell severity? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Minor
	Major
	Critical
83.	What was your reason for choosing this severity? *
Co	do enimat. 10 feeling
Co	de snippet 10 feeling
84.	10.7. How did you feel during the analysis of this code snippet? (1 for very uncomfortable to 5 for very comfortable).
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
Co	de snippet 11
85.	11.1. Please, describe how the code snippets works. *

86.	11.2. Is the analyzed code snippets hard to comprehend? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	No
87.	11.3. Based on the previous answer, explain why. *
88.	11.4. Is there a code smell in the analyzed code snippet? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	No Skip to question 92
Co	ode snippet 11 with code smell
89.	11.5. What code smell(s)? *
	Check all that apply.
	Long Method
	Data Class
	Feature Envy
	Other:
90.	11.6. What is the code smell severity? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Minor
	Major
	Critical

91.	What was your reason for choosing this severity? *
Со	de snippet 11 feeling
92.	11.7. How did you feel during the analysis of this code snippet? (1 for very uncomfortable to 5 for very comfortable).
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
Со	de snippet 12
93.	12.1. Please, describe how the code snippets works. *
94.	12.2. Is the analyzed code snippets hard to comprehend? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	◯ No

95.	12.3. Based on the previous answer, explain why. *
96.	12.4. Is there a code smell in the analyzed code snippet? *
<i>5</i> 0.	
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	No Skip to question 100
Cod	de snippet 12 with code smell
97.	11.5. What code smell(s)? *
	Check all that apply.
	Long Method
	Data Class
	Feature Envy
	Other:
98.	11.6. What is the code smell severity? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Minor
	Major
	Critical

99.	What was your reason for choosing this severity? *
Cod	de snippet 12 feeling
100.	11.7. How did you feel during the analysis of this code snippet? (1 for very uncomfortable to 5 for very comfortable).
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
Cod	de snippet 13
101.	13.1. Please, describe how the code snippets works. *
102.	13.2. Is the analyzed code snippets hard to comprehend? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	○ No

103.	13.3. Based on the previous answer, explain why. *
104.	13.4. Is there a code smell in the analyzed code snippet? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	No Skip to question 108
Code	e snippet 13 with code smell
105.	13.5. What code smell(s)? *
	Check all that apply.
	Long Method Data Class
	Feature Envy
	Other:
106.	13.6. What is the code smell severity? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Minor
	Major
	Critical

107.	What was your reason for choosing this severity? *
Cod	e snippet 13 feeling
108.	13.7. How did you feel during the analysis of this code snippet? (1 for very uncomfortable to 5 for very comfortable).
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
In th 109.	is section, questions related to the developer's background will be asked. Which is the highest level of formal education that you graduated? *
	Mark only one oval.
	Secondary school (or lower)
	Bachelor of Science (BSc) / Bachelor of Engineering (BEng)
	Other Bachelor-level Master of Science (MSc) (Master of Engineering (MSc))
	Master of Science (MSc) / Master of Engineering (MEng) Other Master-level
	Doctoral (Ph.D.) or higher
110.	How long professional experience in programming do you have? (Answer in years and *months. Ex.: 1Y3M or 0Y2M)

	Check all that apply.
	A compiler
	A linter
	Model checker
	Proof assistant
	A static analysis tool (e.g., FindBugs)
	A defect prediction tool
	Fuzzer
	Mutation tester
	Code review tools
	I don't use any
	Other:
115	Which of the country has been also been a second about the control of the country
115.	Which of those roles have you held throughout your professional career? *
	Check all that apply.
	Junior Software Developer/Engineer
	Software Developer/Engineer
	Senior/Lead Software Developer/Engineer
	Data Scientist
	Project Manager
	Other management role
	Designer
	Business Analyst / Requirements Engineer
	Software Tester
	Hardware Tester
	Operations Engineer / System Administrator
	Architect
	Other:

114. Which of those tools did you ever use?*

	Check all that apply.
	Student - Bachelor level
	Student - Master level
	Student - PhD level
	Junior Software Developer/Engineer
	Software Developer/Engineer
	Senior/Lead Software Developer/Engineer
	Data Scientist
	Project Manager
	Other management role
	Designer
	Business Analyst / Requirements Engineer
	Software Tester
	Hardware Tester
	Operations Engineer / System Administrator
	Architect
	Lecturer
	Other:
117.	Read this definition of code review: A code review is a process where someone, other than the author(s) of a piece of code, examines that code. Now answer the question: Are you familiar with the concept of code reviews?
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes, I know what they are and maybe used some tools
	Somewhat - I heard about them in the past but never dug deeper
	Not really - I heard about them for the first time in this experiment

116. Which of those are your current roles? *

Cł	neck all that apply.
	SonarQube
	Codacy
L	DeepScan
L	ReSharper
Ļ	Code Climate
Ļ	ESLint
Ļ	_ PyLint
L	_ PMD
L	Organic
L	I don't use any
	Other:
2	ease describe your earlier experience with code review analysis tools.
기 _	ease describe your earlier experience with code review analysis tools.
PI	ease describe your earlier experience with code review analysis tools.
PI	ease describe your earlier experience with code review analysis tools.
	ease describe your earlier experience with code review analysis tools. ow long have you been conducting regular code reviews for your peers? *
H(
	ow long have you been conducting regular code reviews for your peers? *
	ow long have you been conducting regular code reviews for your peers? * ark only one oval.
H	ow long have you been conducting regular code reviews for your peers? * ark only one oval. I don't conduct code reviews

Have you ever used any code review analysis tools? *

_	Assembly	
	С	
	C++	
	C#	
	Clojure	
	COBOL	
	Delphi	
	Elixir	
	Erlang	
	Go	
	Groovy	
	Haskell	
	Java	
	JavaScript	
	Kotlin	
	Matlab	
	Objective-C	
	Perl	
	PHP	
	Python	
	R	
	Ruby	
	Scala	
	Smalltalk	
	SQL	
	Swift	
	TypeScript	
	Rust	
	Visual Basic	
	Visual Basic .NET	
	None	
	Other:	

Code in which of those languages would you feel comfortable reviewing? *

	Check all that apply.	
	Blob / God Class	
	Long Method	
	Data Class	
	Feature Envy	
	Blue Box	
	Inappropriate Intimacy	
	Shotgun Surgery	
	Swiss Army Knife	
	Duplicate Code	
	Data Clumps	
	Refused Bequest	
	Message Chains	
	None	
	Other:	
100		
123.	Do you feel that code smells in traditional sense make the code less maintainable? *	
	Mark only one oval.	
	Definitely, that's why the concept was invented	
	I'd assume so, but in my experience I hardly ever find this a problem	
	Not really, there are many worse problems in the code	
124.	Do you feel that concept of code smell can be transferred between programming	*
	languages?	
	Mark only one oval.	
	Wark only one ovai.	
	Not at all	
	Only between very similar languages	
	In a family of languages, with minor adjustments	
	Yes, but it may no longer be meaningful	

122. Which of the following code smells do you believe you can recognize? *

125.	What is the biggest problem you encounter in comprehending code written by you other people?
	Mark only one oval.
	It's complexity
	Readability (code snippets that is difficult to read or poorly formatted)
	Lack of comments or documentation
	Language conventions (poor variable or function naming)
	Code not adhering to common style
	It's size
	It's age
	Lack of modularity
	The presence of code smells
	How well it is tested
	It's dependencies
	Other:
126.	Which quality assurance techniques do you use in your daily work? Mark only one oval.
	wark only one oval.
	Unit testing
	Integration/system testing
	Mutation testing
	Performance testing
	Linting
	Static analysis (e.g. model checking, symbolic execution)
	Program proving
	Fuzzing
	Code review
	None
	Other:

or *

	Mark only one oval.
	Yes, positively Yes, negatively No
128.	Have you ever participated in any research with biosensors? If yes, please describe. *
Sur	vey after analysis of code snippets
129.	How did you feel during the analysis of all code snippets? (1 for very uncomfortable to *5 for very comfortable).
	Mark only one oval.
	1 2 3 4 5
130.	Do you think the use of biosensors (such as smartwatch and eye tracker) affected your * ability to analyze code snippets in search of code smells?
	Mark only one oval.
	Yes
	May be
	No No
	I don't know how to comment

Do you believe that reviews contribute to code quality?

131.	Do you think the use of biosensors by developers can provide valuable data to understand the code smell analysis process?	*
	Mark only one oval.	
	Yes	
	May be	
	No	
	I don't know how to comment	
132.	Would you be open to using biosensors in your daily coding activities to better	*
102.	understand your performance and potentially improve your code quality?	
	Mark only one oval.	
	Yes	
	May be	
	No	
	I don't know how to comment	
133.	Do you have any suggestions to improve the use of biosensors in the context of code smell analysis?	*
		_

134.	What features do you think are most relevant when using eye tracking to assess code *comprehensibility?
	Check all that apply.
	Fixation duration: The length of time a developer spends fixating on a particular word or line of code can indicate how difficult it is for them to comprehend. Longer fixation durations may indicate that the code is difficult to understand or requires additional mental effort to comprehend.
	Saccade length: Saccades are the rapid eye movements that occur as a person shifts their focus from one object to another. The length of these movements can indicate the level of cognitive effort required to process the information. Longer saccade lengths may indicate that the code is more complex or requires more effort to comprehend.
	Gaze location: Eye tracking can also provide information about where the developer is looking on the screen. If the developer is fixating on irrelevant parts of the screen or is not able to locate important parts of the code, this may indicate that the code is difficult to navigate or comprehend.
	Pupil dilation: Pupil dilation is a physiological response that can indicate changes in cognitive load. If the developer is experiencing increased cognitive load while reading a particular fragment of code, this may be reflected in changes in pupil dilation.
	Reading speed: Eye tracking can also provide information about reading speed. If the developer is reading slowly or is frequently pausing to re-read sections of code, this may indicate that the code is difficult to comprehend.
	I don't know how to comment
	Other:
Thar	nk you for participating in our research!

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms