**Consent Form to Participate in Research to Study Brain Activity to Words**

**IRB #:** 2010W3172

We are asking you to take part in research in which you will be asked to come to the lab for one, two-hour session in which the electrical activity of your brain will be recorded as you view different words. The purpose of this study is to understand how the typical brain processes language and you are being asked to participate because you are a healthy adult with no known neurological problems. First, you will provide some basic information (e.g. age, handedness) about yourself. In order to record neurological activity, special recording equipment will be applied (a stretchy fabric cap that comes in 3 different sizes – the size you will wear will depend on the size of your head). Then, you will observe words on a monitor. While you view these words, the electrical activity of your brain will be recorded with sensors embedded in the cap. You will also be asked to fill out a 68 question survey that asks you some questions about your feelings about yourself and about how you perceive the people around you. The study will be conducted by Brian Fremaux ([bf1106@txstate.edu](mailto:bf1106@txstate.edu), 512-245-6806) under the supervision of Dr. Reiko Graham (512-245-6806, [rg30@txstate.edu](mailto:rg30@txstate.edu), PSY LAB 24) and will take place in the Electroencephalography (EEG) lab in the Department of Psychology at Texas State University (PSY LAB 16).

In order to decide whether or not you wish to be part of this study, you need to know about its risks and benefits. This consent form gives you detailed information about the study, which a member of the research team will also discuss with you. By reading this form and talking to the researchers, you will learn about the different aspects of this research: its purpose, what will happen to you when you come to the lab, any risks of the procedures, and the benefits of being in the study. Once you fully understand the study, you will be asked if you wish to participate. If so, you will be asked to sign this consent form.

**Description of the procedure:** If you agree to participate, you will be scheduled for one, two-hour session. Upon arriving to the lab, EEG recording equipment (a stretchy fabric cap) will be placed on your head. There are caps of different sizes and one will be chosen for you to fit the size of your head. The cap is filled with little holes that will be filled with a salty paste after the cap is placed on your head. There is no pain or discomfort associated with applying the recording equipment or filling the holes with salty paste. It will take approximately 30-40 minutes to apply the EEG recording equipment. For the next 10-20 minutes, you will sit in a comfortable armchair in a quiet room and you will be presented with various words on a computer screen. Your task will be to view these words and when asked imagine these words as they are understood through your daily experiences. While you perform this task, the electrical activity of your brain will recorded with sensors in the cap. You will also be asked to provide some basic information about yourself and to fill out a short 68 question online survey that asks you about your opinions about yourself and how you perceive the people around you. If you feel uneasy answering any of the questions, feel free to skip them.

**Risks:** There are no known risks associated with viewing and remembering words, for recording the electrical activity of your brain, responding to the survey questions, or recalling words. The sensors that will record the activity of your brain are in a fabric cap which will be placed on your head and filled with a non-irritating conductive gel to help with recording. This gel is designed to be gentle on the skin. However, if you have very sensitive skin, please tell the researcher and the experiment will end. Also, if you become too uncomfortable at any time during your time in the lab, the study will be stopped. The researchers will be in constant contact with you to make sure that you are comfortable. Also, if you are uncomfortable with answering any of the survey items, feel free to skip them.

There is also the risk of becoming bored during the experiment. To help with this, you will be given the opportunity to take rest breaks every 5 minutes and refreshments (soft drinks, water, and snacks like chips, crackers, granola bars and cookies) will be offered during these breaks.

Also, if you find the words used in this study to be upsetting or distressing, please inform the researchers so that they can end the experiment. Words like the ones you will be observing has been used in many studies at other institutions, so we do not expect that they will be distressing. However, if for any reason you feel distressed or upset, the experiment will end.

If immediate care is needed, it is available at the Health Center at Texas State University (behind LBJ Student Center and Jackson Hall)

Hours: M, W, F 8am-5pm; T, Th 9am-6pm

Phone: day: 512-245-2161, after hours: 512-245-2167

Psychological assistance may be obtained at the University counseling center.

Location: 5-4.1 LBJ Student Center, 8am-5pm M-F

Phone: 512-245-2208  
 Email: [counselingcenter@txstate.edu](mailto:counselingcenter@txstate.edu)

Further information concerning your rights as a research subject can be obtained from the Texas State University Institutional Review Board: Please contact either Dr. Jon Lasser (512-245-3413; [lasser@txstate.edu](mailto:lasser@txstate.edu)), or Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist (512-245-2102) or [IRB@txstate.edu](mailto:IRB@txstate.edu) if you have any further questions.

**Benefits:** There is no direct benefit to you for participation in this study. You will be shown the electrical activity of your brain. The results of this study will be of help in understanding how the brain processes linguistic information. You will also be given extra credit for selected Psychology courses, pending instructor approval.

**Compensation:** You may be compensated for your participation in the form of extra credit for the following Psychology courses: PSY 1300, PSY 3302, PSY 3315 and PSY 4322. If you choose not to participate, you will still be entitled to gain extra credit for these courses by completing a short written assignment (a 2 page review of an original research article with a theme relevant to Psychology)

**Right to withdraw**: At any time, you may choose not to be in the study and you are free to leave at any time. If you withdraw from the study, no new data about you will be collected. You may also withdraw your authorization for us to use your data that have already been collected (other than the data needed to keep track of your withdrawal), but you must do this in writing.

Your decision not to participate or to withdraw from the study will not involve any penalty or loss of benefits. In other words, you can withdraw at any time without it hurting your course grades or your status in the Department of Psychology or Texas State University. If you decide to withdraw, we ask that you contact Brian Fremaux, [bf1106@txstate.edu](mailto:bf1106@txstate.edu) or Dr. Reiko Graham: PSY Lab 24, Department of Psychology, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX, 78666, 512-245-6806, rg30@txstate.edu. At that time, you will be asked for your permission to continue using the information about you that has already been collected prior to your withdrawal.

**Confidentiality:** Any records that identify you will be kept confidential as required by law. Federal Privacy Regulations provide safeguards for privacy, security and authorized access to any information that you give. Except when required by law, you will not be identified by name, social security number, address, telephone number, or any other direct personal identifier on any study records disclosed outside of Texas State University. For records disclosed outside of Texas State University, you will be assigned a unique code that will not identify you in any way. The key to this code will be kept in a locked file in Dr. Graham’s office. Your data will be kept in a locked file in the EEG lab for 3 years, after which time it will be destroyed.

Questions about the study may be directed to Dr. Reiko Graham in the Department of Psychology: PSY Lab 24, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX, 78666; (512) 245-6806, rg30@txstate.edu.

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**Statement of consent**: “The purpose of this study, the procedures to be followed, risks and benefits have been explained to me. I have been allowed to ask any questions on my mind, and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I have been told to contact Brian Fremaux or Dr. Reiko Graham in Psychology at Texas State University if I have any additional questions or concerns. I have read this consent form and agree to be in this study, with the understanding that I may withdraw at any time. I have been told that I will be given a signed copy of this consent form.”

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Participants’ Signature Date

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Signature of Person Obtaining Consent