

# Plain language statement

Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences



## Project: Heuristics in Human Complex Problem Solving

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### Introduction

We invite you to participate in a project exploring how people solve complex tasks. This research aims to understand the cognitive processes that allow people to solve challenging problems.

### What will I be asked to do?

The experiment is expected to take 18 minutes. After answering some optional demographic questions, you will be asked to solve a problem requiring navigation in a grid. For example, you might be asked to find a path that connects all targets shown in the grid. Please do your best, pay attention and give the response that seems natural to you.

### What are the risks?

Risks are minimal. In some cases the task you are given may be very challenging, and you might feel frustrated if you cannot find the best possible solution.

### What are the benefits?

Although computer scientists have developed methods for efficiently solving difficult problems, we have surprisingly little understanding of how people solve the same problems. Your responses will be used to develop improved models of human problem solving. You will be paid £2.50 for your contribution, which is equivalent to a rate of \$10/hr given the expected duration.

### How will my confidentiality be protected?

As an online Worker, we do not have access to identifying personal details. Some demographic questions are included, but answering these questions is optional. Our sample size will be large, making it even more difficult to identify any one person. After the study is published de-identified data may be posted to an online repository and made publicly available.

### What if I want to withdraw from the research?

Participation in this research is completely voluntary. You are free to withdraw at any time and to withdraw any unprocessed data previously supplied.

### Where can I get further information?

If you have not understood any of this information, please contact any of the researchers listed above. This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project that you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Manager, Human Research Ethics, Office for Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010 (Tel: +61 3 8344 2073; Fax: +61 3 9347 6739; email: [HumanEthicsComplaints@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:HumanEthicsComplaints@unimelb.edu.au)). All complaints will be treated

confidentially. In any correspondence, please provide the name of the research team, or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.

**How do I agree to participate?**

If you wish to participate, please click 'continue' to view a consent form and provide your consent.