U01\_langloc\_vJan2021

**Brief Description (for the experimenters)**

This is a language localizer experiment where participants read linguistic materials. There are two conditions: sentences and nonword lists. Each trial contains a sequence of 12 words or nonwords and ends with a memory probe (in blue). For the memory probe, participants have to decide whether the probe word/nonword was in the list of words they just read. They are asked to press “1” for yes, and “2” for no (in the code it is responding to ‘a’ and ‘s’, which corresponds to the stickers 1 and 2 on your keyboard at MGH). On half of the trials, the memory probe is indeed from the preceding sequence; on the other half, the probe is taken from a different stimulus. The purpose of the memory probe task is to keep the participant alert and paying attention to the stimuli.

There are rest breaks every 8 trials. The task continues upon pressing the spacebar.

We need 2-3 runs of this task. Each run is 4 min 32 seconds without the rest breaks.

There is a practice run of 12 trials that you can play before the actual task (enter 0 for the list).

**Command: U01\_langloc\_vJan2021(‘<subjectID>’, <list>)**

* subjectID = subject ID (any string; must be the same across runs for a subject)
* list = subset of the materials to use (integer, 1-3)

**Example orders of function calls**

* U01\_langloc\_vJan2021(‘subj001’,0) – practice run
* U01\_langloc\_vJan2021(‘subj001’,1)
* U01\_langloc\_vJan2021(‘subj001’,2)
* U01\_langloc\_vJan2021(‘subj001’,3)

**Problems**

If the task has to be exited for some reason, you can press the escape button and all data will be saved. To resume the same list, just enter the same command and you will be prompted to either resume (press 1) or restart (press 2) that list. Then press enter and the task will resume. Make a note if this happens.

**Subject Instructions**

* In this task, you will be presented with sentences and lists of nonwords. Each sequence will appear one word or nonword at a time.
* Your main task is to read each word / nonword as it appears on the screen. Please read silently as you would read things in a book.

At the end of each sequence, you will see a **blue word / nonword**, and you have to decide whether that was in the sequence you just read.

For YES, please press button 1, and for NO, press button 2.

Remember: your main task is the **reading** task. Please read each word / nonword silently as they appear and try to make sense of the sequence as best as you can. The **memory probe task** is included to just help you stay awake and alert.

The words / nonwords will appear a little bit **fast**, and it may seem too fast at first. But most participants **get used** to it quickly.