

LETTER OF INFORMATION / CONSENT

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Purpose of the Study:

The purpose of this experiment is to explore basic perceptual processing mechanisms.

Procedures involved in the Research:

Your task in this experiment is to respond to the letter I or M. You will hold down the V and B keys with your right hand on your keyboard. If you see the letter I, you'll release the V key by lifting your index finger as fast as you can. If you see the letter M, you'll release the B key by lifting your middle finger as fast as you can. There will be 1-2 hands moving in the background. Ignore them and focus on the task. This experiment will take around X min to complete.

Potential Harms, Risks or Discomforts:

There is a chance of becoming bored or feel fatigued towards the end of the experiment. Potential feelings of boredom and/or fatigue are normal and should be temporary.

There is an increased risk of a data breach given that this is an online study (compared to in-person). Also note that if you are using a computer in a public space or at home, then there is a chance that someone in your vicinity could see their responses on the screen, hear your responses if you are using audio, or someone in the household who shares the computer could access your responses. Please take appropriate precautions (e.g., complete the study in a private place and clearing their web browser history upon completion).

Potential Benefits

While there are no direct benefits to you of taking part in this experiment (other than learning more about the research topic), the results of this study will provide us a better understanding of perceptual and sensory processes.

Payment or Reimbursement

You will receive £X for completing this study.

Confidentiality

Note that there is always a chance of a data breach with online studies, so please take this into consideration when signing up for this study. If you consent to have your anonymized data saved to an online repository (i.e., the Open Science Framework), please note that we will not save any identifiable information onto the repository. Furthermore, note that we will save that data indefinitely (or until the Open Science Framework closes). You can opt-in/out of this option before the start of the experiment.

Participation and Withdrawal

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You are free to withdraw from the study at any point by closing the browser. In this event, any partial data we have collected from you will be deleted. Your decision whether or not to be part of the study will not affect your participation in future research studies conducted by the researchers or in the department. Note that due to requiring a completion code (which is given at the end of the experiment), withdrawing half-way through the study will not yield you compensation on Prolific – please keep this in mind when signing up for this study. Note that withdrawal of your data is not possible after completing the study because it will be anonymized.

Information about the Study Results:

If you would like a brief summary of the results to be sent to you once the study is completed, please indicate this and provide your email at the end of the study (via the Google Forms); note that you should use an email address that does not contain identifiable information if you wish to stay completely anonymous. We will then be able to email you with a summary of the results once they are available. Sometimes studies are cancelled part-way through, if you do not hear from us by April 2021, please email the experimenter.

Questions about the Study: If you have questions or need more information about the study itself, please contact me at: galangc@mcmaster.ca

This study has been reviewed by the McMaster University Research Ethics Board and received ethics clearance. If you have concerns or questions about your rights as a participant or about the way the study is conducted, please contact:

McMaster Research Ethics Secretariat
Telephone: (905) 525-9140 ext. 23142
C/o Research Office for Administrative Development and Support
E-mail: ethicsoffice@mcmaster.ca