Steps in a usability evaluation

Define the goal of the test

Create hypotheses ('Diagnostic' or 'Formative')

Define measurements

"Productive time" Occurrence of problems (define!)

Evaluating ('Summative') Against what?

Set goals

Competing products Expert performance Existing system

Define populations of

Users

Environments

Tasks

Select samples

Users

Participant selection

Stratification + random sampling If too costly

Representativeness

Assignment (if more than one

version of system)

Random Matched

Tasks

Random sampling too costly

Representativeness More than one task?

> Random assignment **Counterbalancing**

Environments

Differences between the real world and your measurement situation

The actual situation

Experimenter effect **Expectancies**

What can be done?

Blind procedures Automation

Create concrete tasks and environments Recruit test persons

Choose things to register

Governed by earlier choices Two types of main things

Events States

Remember!

Always operational definitions of everything

At test time

Prepare

Cue cards (tasks) Recording device Test leader material

Welcome the person Initial session one on one

Ethical information and consent

forms

Ensure the participant that it is the system being measured Pre-test questionnaire

Warm up tasks

Administer tasks according to plan
Do not interfere with test person
unnecessarily and never in such a way that
the validity of the measurements are
endangered

Ethical rules must be adhered to, of course

Debrief

Back up copy of recording

Analysis

Don't forget to validate observers

Prepare report