SentFill Audiovisual Listening and Recall

Instructions

In this experiment, you are going to be watching and listening to videos of people saying sentences (talkers) while we record brain waves from your scalp. We are interested in how well we can hear words under different conditions. Your task is to look at and listen to a talker while another person is talking in the background. You will occasionally be asked to type the words spoken by the talker you are listening for (target talker) into the computer with a keyboard.

The target talker will always be the person speaking from a speaker centered under the computer screen. You will be told in advance whether you are listening for a male or female voice. Pictures or videos presented in the middle of the screen will always match the target talker. Sometimes, the target talker’s face with be a still picture, other times the target talker’s lips will be moving. Please keep your eyes on the lips of the target talker and listen carefully to what the target talker is saying. Please ignore the distractor talker of opposite gender speaking from the right side of the screen (distracting talker). The talkers will not swear or say anything grossly offensive.

After most sentences, once the talkers have finished speaking, you will automatically be presented with the next set of sentences to listen to. However, for some randomly selected sentences, you will be prompted to type in all the target words you heard. Since you will not know in advance which sentences you will be asked to type in, it is critical that you listen carefully to *every* target sentence. Try to avoid typing words from the distracting talker. Capitalization and punctuation (i.e. question marks, periods and commas) are unnecessary, though please spell each word as best as you can including apostrophes (i.e. *let’s go* not *lets go*). When you have completed your typed response, press Enter.

You may hear some static noise briefly during the sentences. Please ignore this noise. Please make your best guess to report the words spoken by the target talker in the order in which you heard them, even when you are unsure. Please DO NOT type “something”, “I don’t know” or “…” to replace words you did not hear.

You will have an opportunity to practice with 2 sentences, and then you will start the main experiment. The main experiment has 8 blocks, and each block will take about 10 minutes to complete. After 4 blocks, you will listen to target talkers of the other gender. Between blocks, you will have an opportunity to rest. If you need a break during the experiment, please simply delay pressing enter following your typed response.

The brain wave recording device (EEG) is very sensitive to eye blinks and eye movements, as well as body movements and jaw movements. Please try to keep as comfortable, relaxed and still as possible during the task. This will greatly improve the value of your participation.

Please turn off your cell phone. Please let the experimenter know if you have any questions at any time.

Thanks again for participating.