

Boston College Department of Psychology
Informed Consent to be in Study:
Web studies of memory and cognition
Researcher: Maureen Ritchey, Ph.D.
Type of consent: Behavioral Consent Form

Introduction

You are being asked to be in a research study on how the human brain thinks about or remembers different kinds of information. **The purpose of this study is to investigate how information is processed, learned, or remembered.** To do so, we have developed behavioral tasks that test different cognitive processes by measuring decisions that you make and how long it takes to make them.

Who can participate?

You were selected to be in the study because you expressed interest in participating in cognitive psychology and neuroscience research in our laboratory, and because you meet the criteria for participation. **In order to participate, participants must be 18-40 years old, be fluent in English, be able to see visual images on a computer screen, and be able to hear and understand audio as part of the study.**

What will happen?

If you decide to participate, we will ask you to fill out a **questionnaire to gather demographic and basic information** (e.g., age, gender) prior to starting the experiment. You may also be asked to complete other questionnaires that will ask you about your cognitive abilities in everyday life. At no point during the experiment will you be asked to provide personal information such as your first name, last name and or email address.

During the **experimental tasks**, you may see/read/hear the following stimuli; pictures of objects or scenes, words, sentences, short videos, sounds like a tone or melody, or recorded speech. You will be asked to make decisions about what you see or hear and to make responses to the stimuli by either pressing a button or by making a short written response.

You may also see **attention check questions** at some point during the experiment to check if you are still focused on the task. If you see this question, you will be asked to make a response to continue with the experiment. You will complete the activities listed above remotely via the internet.

What is the time commitment?

The study is estimated to take 60 minutes to complete. The entire study will be conducted in 2 sessions. If you are a part of a study that involves completing multiple sessions, you will be contacted via the platform [Sona or Prolific] to prompt you to engage in the second part of the experiment.

What is the compensation for participation?

You will be compensated \$10 for completing this study. You may withdraw at any time, but you must proceed to the final screen of the study in order to receive your compensation for your participation in the study. If you choose to withdraw early from the study, any compensation will be adjusted for the amount of time that was spent in study up to 60 minutes. Your payment will be based on the amount of time it took you to complete the study (\$5 or 0.5 credits per 30 minutes, rounded to the nearest 30 minutes) but will be capped at \$10. If you respond in a way that clearly suggests that you were not completing the task in good faith (e.g., responding incorrectly to simple attention check questions or giving the same response for every question), we may not compensate you for your time.

What is the compensation for participation?

You are volunteering to participate in this study. If you choose to participate you are acknowledging that your participation is completely voluntary and is being undertaken with no promise or expectation of compensation. You may withdraw at any time during the study by closing the web browser. If you respond in a way that clearly suggests that you were not completing the task in good faith (e.g., responding incorrectly to simple attention check questions or giving the same response for every question), we may not use your data.

What are the risks and benefits?

There may be **no direct benefits** to you, but you may feel gratified in knowing that you helped further scientific research.

The risks of participating in this study are minimal. A possible discomfort is that you may feel fatigued after a long study. If you become upset or frustrated by the experiment, we encourage you to take breaks, and you can withdraw from the study at any time. There may be other risks that are unknown at this time.

Choosing to be in this study is voluntary. If you choose not to be in this study, it will not affect your current or future relations with the University, and there is no penalty or loss of benefits. **You are free to quit at any time, for whatever reason.**

What will happen with your data?

All identifying data will be kept confidential. The researcher team will not be able to ascertain or have access to use and/or disclose subjects' email addresses. The data will be stored on servers used to

collect the data, including Pavlovia and/or Boston College web servers. They will be analyzed on password-protected computers in our lab or on secure Boston College servers. For participants recruited through Prolific the data will include unique subject IDs generated by the recruitment site. Only individuals on an approved Research Personnel List will have access to this potentially identifying information. Subject IDs will be replaced with our own arbitrary numeric subject IDs before any data are shared with other researchers outside of our research team. This will further remove the shared data from the identifying information stored outside of our control on the recruitment site. No other identifying information will be requested as part of this study. **Data that have been stripped of any identifying information may be shared with other researchers**, who may use these data in their own research.

Note: The Institutional Review Board at Boston College and internal Boston College auditors may review the research records. State or federal laws or court orders may also require that information from research study records be released. Otherwise, the researchers will not release to others any information that could indicate your identity unless you give your permission, or unless the researchers become legally required to do so.

Who can you contact if you have more questions?

- If you have any questions or want more information concerning this research you may contact Dr. Maureen Ritchey at maureen.ritchey@bc.edu or 617-552-4100.
- If you have any questions about your rights as a person in this research study, you may contact: Director, Office for Research Protections, Boston College at (617) 552-4778, or irb@bc.edu

This study was approved by the Boston College Institutional Review Board on 02-01-2023.

Statement of Consent:

By clicking “I Agree”:

- I agree to take part in this research.
- I verify that I am over the age of 18.
- I feel like I understand what I am agreeing to.
- I know that I am free to withdraw at any time.

Please save or print a copy of this from for your records [[link to download PDF of consent](#)]

[I AGREE] [I DISAGREE]