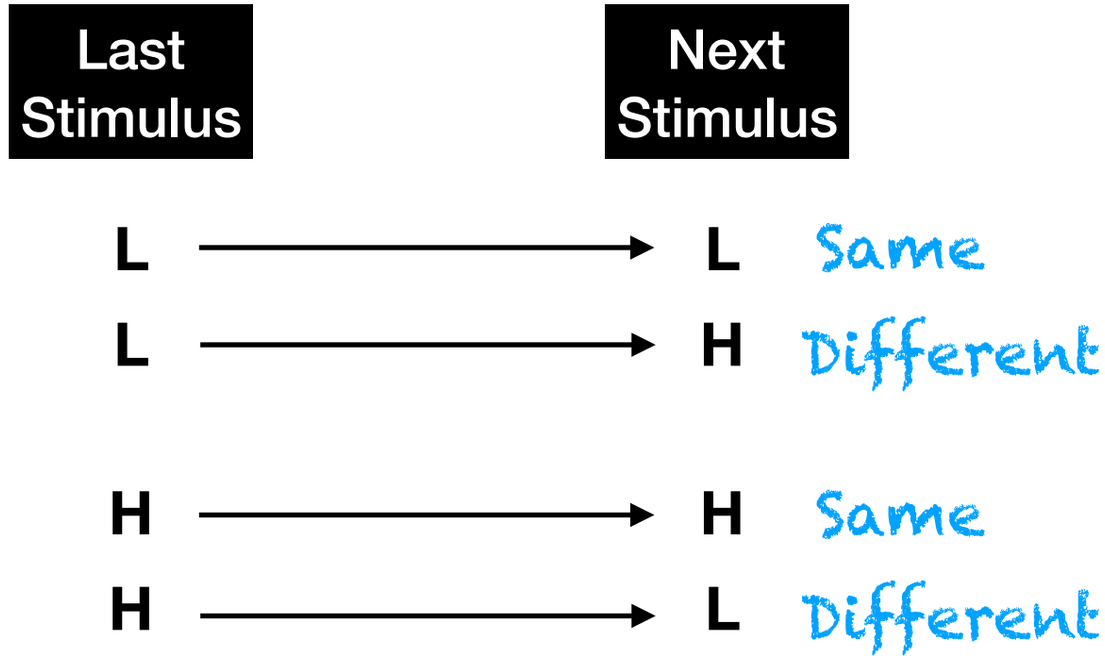
Task instructions

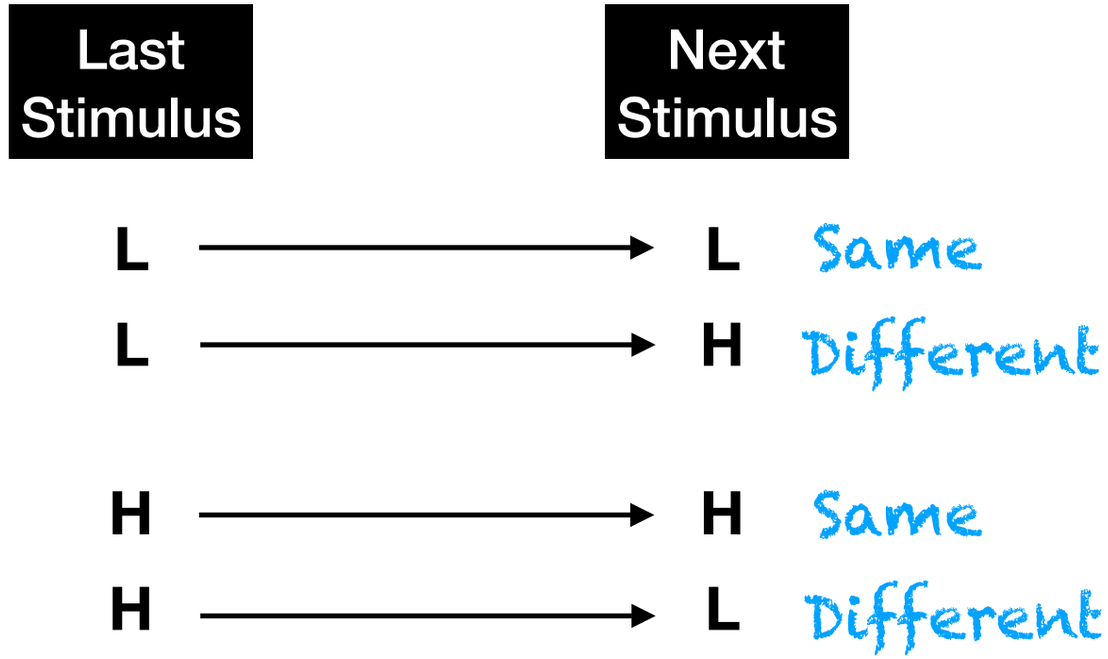
In this task you will receive two kinds of stimuli:
a low intensity shock (L)
and
a high intensity shock (H)

The L and H stimuli will be presented in a sequence.
The order of the L and H stimuli in a sequence is set by the computer.

After a each stimulus, the following stimulus could either be the same or different than the previous one.



The computer sets the probability that
***after* a given stimulus (for example, L)**
there will be either the *same* stimulus again (L in this example)
or a *different* stimulus (H in this example).



The computer sets the probability that
***after* a given stimulus (for example, L)**
there will be either the *same* stimulus again (L in this example)
or a *different* stimulus (H in this example).

Here are some examples…

More likely
That the next stimulus
Will be the same

Last Stimulus		Next Stimulus	
L	70% →	L	Same
L	30% →	H	Different
H	50% →	H	Same
H	50% →	L	Different

Equally likely
That the next stimulus
Will be same or different

You always need to try to guess the probability that after each stimulus there will be the same one or a different one.

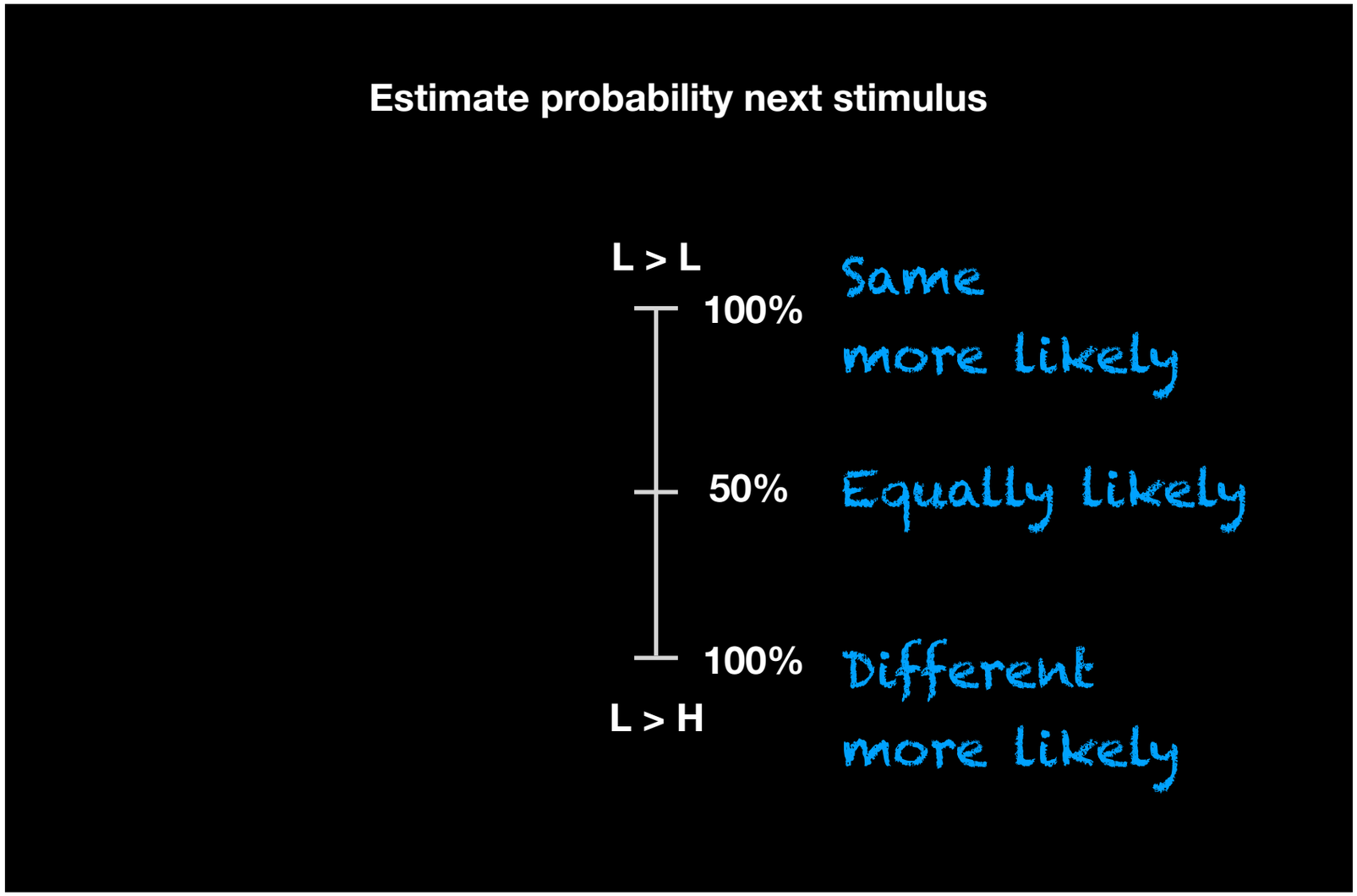
Beware that the computer sometimes changes the settings and sets new probabilities.

So you need to estimate the stimulus probabilities all the time and don’t be tricked!

Every now and then the computer will interrupt the sequence and ask you to report your estimate.

You need to remember what was the last stimulus of the sequence.

If the last stimulus was low (L), the computer will ask you to judge whether the next stimulus will be L or H on a visual sliding scale.

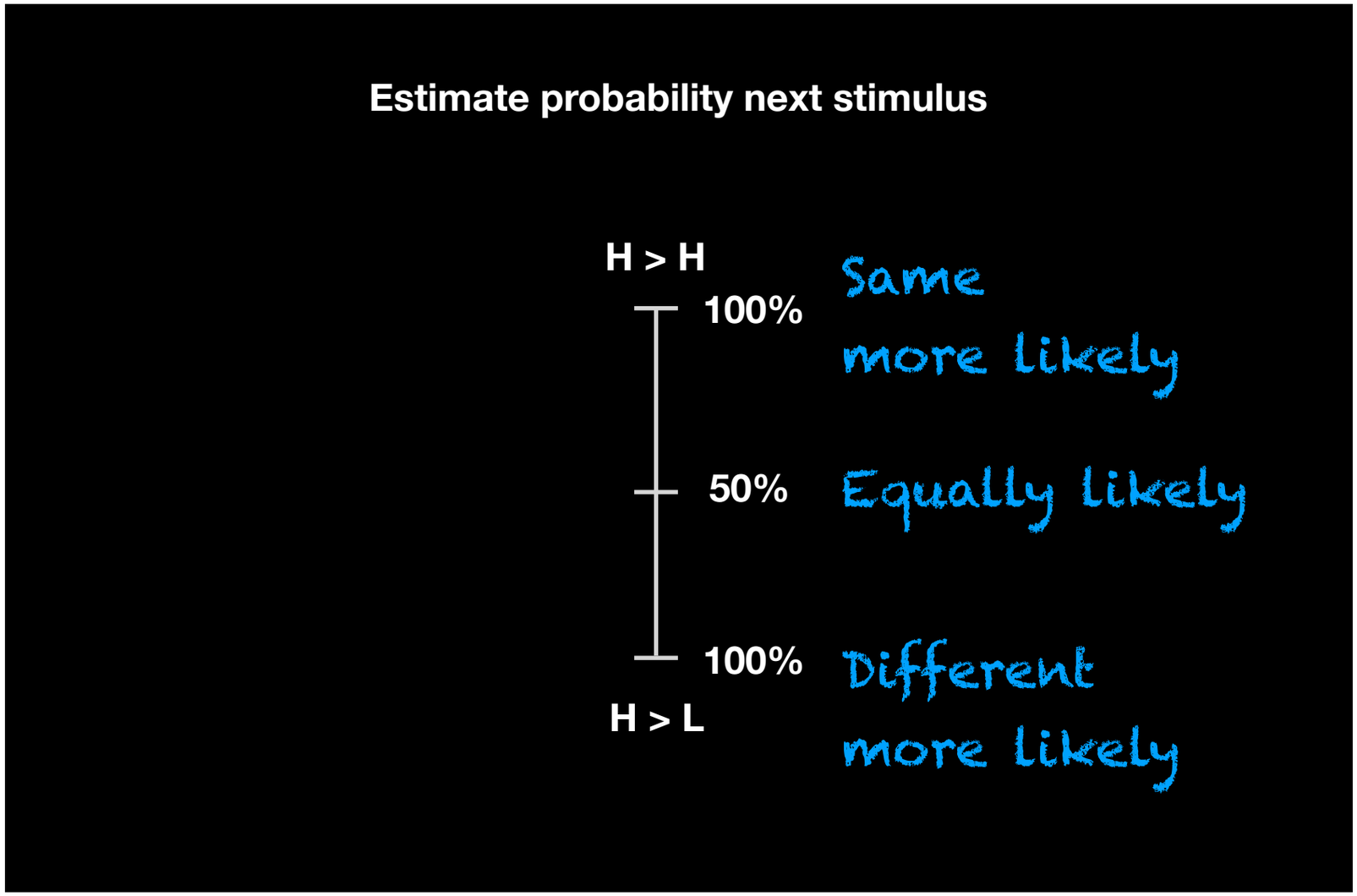


You will be able to move a slider up and down the scale

Every now and then the computer will interrupt the sequence and ask you to report your estimate.

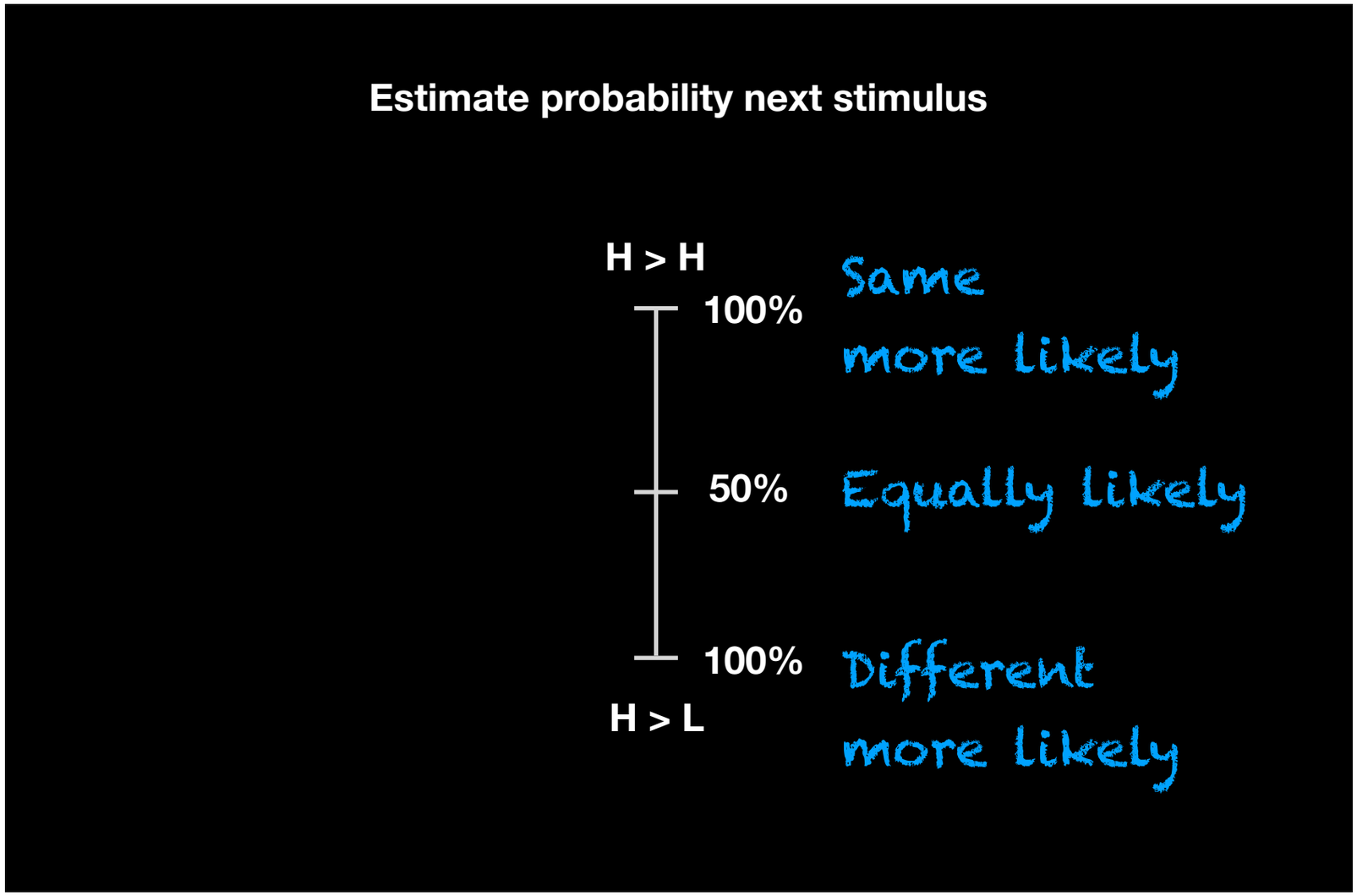
You need to remember what was the last stimulus of the sequence.

If the last stimulus was High (H), the computer will ask you to judge whether the next stimulus will be H or L on a visual sliding scale.



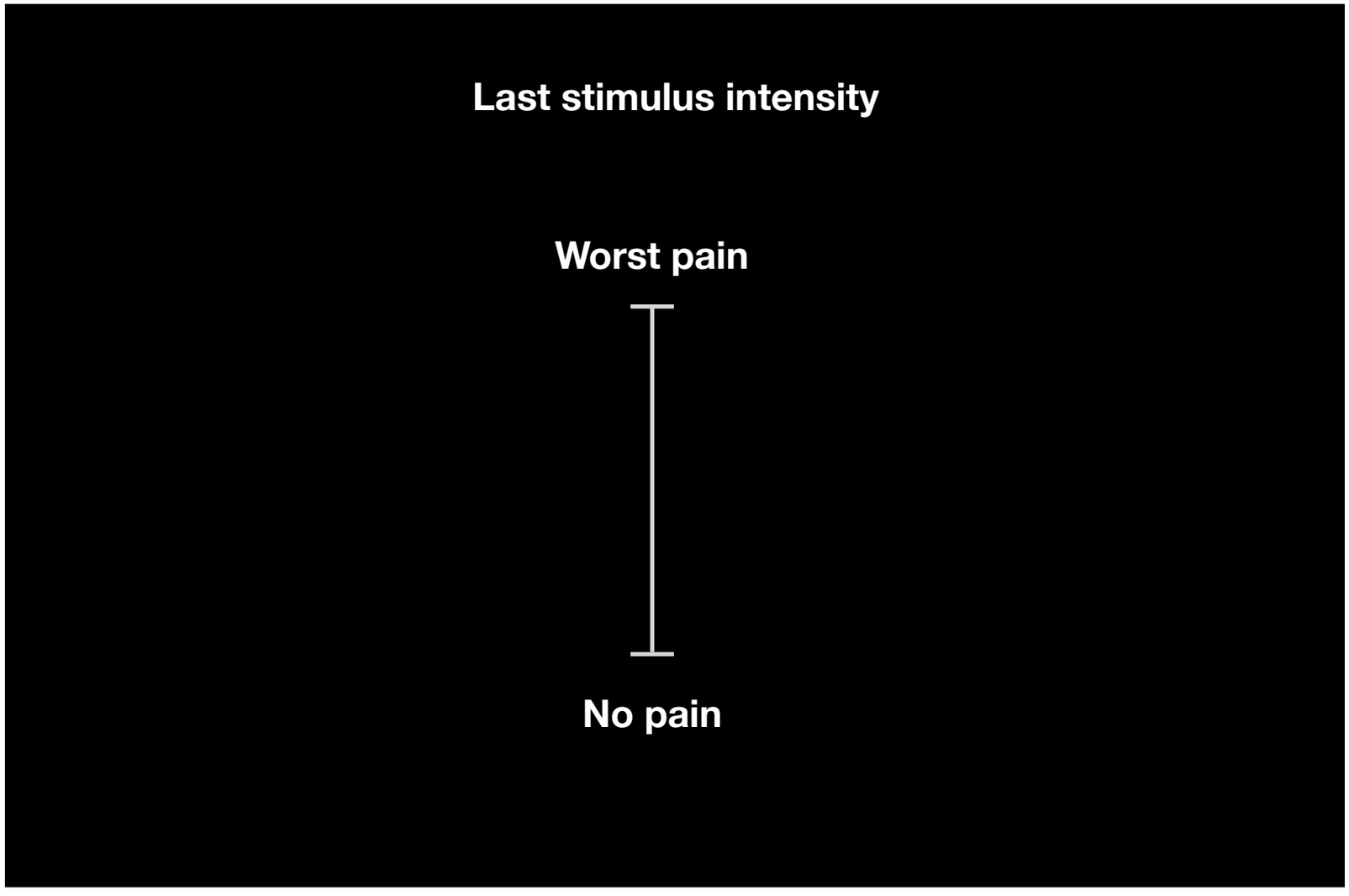
Please try to give the most accurate answer you can. You can place the slider at any point in the scale. Don't just use binary decisions (always the extremes of the scale), because they are unlikely to be the correct answer.

You have 7 seconds to respond.



When you perform the task outside the scanner, every now and then you will also be asked to judge how much painful the last stimulus of a sequence was, on a different visual sliding scale. There is no correct answer.

You have 4 seconds to respond.



Any questions?
Are you ready to try the task?