

Preparation Script

Hello,

Thank you for accepting our invitation and for your participation in the study. The goal of the study is to observe and analyse modellers when they are performing their modelling tasks, and try to understand the most pressing difficulties and challenges that they might face when using modelling tools.

During the study, you will be given a set of modelling tasks to perform. You will perform the tasks given to you in the modelling tool that is prepared and is open for you to work. In the meantime, we will be capturing the computer screen for further analysis. Also, as you work on the tasks, I will ask you to do what we call 'think out loud'. What that means is that I want you to say out loud what you are thinking as you work. You might speak about the steps in the task as you complete them, as well as your expectations and evaluation statements. Let us show you what we mean by showing you a demo:

(playing a video about think aloud protocol)

Do you see what I mean about think out loud? I would like to remind you to please speak loudly since we will be recording your voice. Your voice remains confidential, and the researcher is the only person who will listen to it during later analysis.

The main task of the observer is to jot down what happens. In addition, we might prompt you by asking a few questions to make the session more effective. Such questions may include:

What are you thinking now?

Why did you do that?

please keep talking ...

Now, before we start the experiment, I would like to emphasize a few important notes to you:

1- In the course of the study, you are the expert.

2- Remember that you will not be evaluated in any way. It is the tool that is under scrutiny, not you.

3- You should at all times comment liberally on your actions, intentions and thoughts.

4- You should be at ease and relaxed. Please keep in mind that, the think-aloud method is informal, and the most effective single way to maximise its effectiveness is to create an informal atmosphere. That's why we want you to be relaxed. Again, it is the tool that is under scrutiny, not you.

5- You should try to find your own way as much as possible. You may ask questions at any point in the process, but I may not answer them or only answer those questions that are related to clarifying and understanding the application domain. I will only be able to give you the bare minimum of help. We apologise in advance for this.

6- You can stop a task at any time if it becomes uncomfortable.

7- I will not tell you when you have completed task; you must determine this on your own.

8- If a task is taking longer than what is expected, I might ask you to ignore the current task and move on to the next task.

Now, if you have any remaining questions, please ask them, otherwise, let's begin the tasks.

Thank you.