

PSYC 5316 – Week 2

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Building a *flanker task* (Eriksen & Eriksen, 1974)

- basic idea – when people are asked to respond to a stimulus that is surrounded ("flanked") by irrelevant stimuli, the irrelevant stimuli can interfere with the response.
- two types of trials:

congruent	»»>	SSSSS
incongruent	»<»	SSHSS

- *flanker effect* = RTs and error rates increase on incongruent trials (relative to congruent trials)
- the flanker effect is a popular measure of attention mechanisms

Goal of Lab 1

- our experiment will be based on Heitz and Engle (2007)
- stimuli will be five letter strings consisting of S and H

congruent	SSSSS	HHHHH
incongruent	SSHSS	HSHSH

- three blocks of 80 trials each (240 trials total)
- will impose RT deadlines on Block 2 (600 ms) and Block 3 (300 ms)