

Participant Information Sheet

Investigator: Sahil Loomba

Invitation

Thank you for considering to be a part of this psychological study. This study forms a critical part of a project in Cognitive Psychology, under the supervision of Dr. Varsha Singh, HUSS, IIT Delhi. This is an investigation into contemporary theories about how the brain learns and infers from categories. You are requested to kindly read this information sheet properly, and participate in the experiments with full commitment to the instructions. Additionally, you are requested to not discuss the experiments of this study with your peers, to prevent corruption of the collected data.

Before the Experiments

It is important for this study for you to provide some elementary demographic information, namely your (a) name, (b) sex, (c) age and (d) handedness (left/right) [PTO]. Kindly contact the investigator to ensure your information is recorded prior to the experiments. You'll then be presented with a simple task, so relax and let the investigator know when you're ready.

About the Experiments

This is a computer-based task wherein you will be presented with visual stimuli, to which you'll have to respond with a key press. You will participate in two sets of binary categorisation experiments, in which you'll be shown simple black and white images of geometric shapes. Throughout the experiment, you must fixate at the central mark on the screen. An image will be flashed somewhere on the screen for a *very brief* period of time. (Blink, and you'll miss it.) You must then judge whether the image shown belongs to Category *A* or Category *B*, and as soon as you're sure of your judgment, you must respond immediately by pressing either key *g* for category *A*, or key *h* for category *B*. This would then repeat in succession. The step-by-step instructions for both the experiments are enlisted below:

Experiment 1 [Duration: 10 minutes]

1. You will be shown a series of images from an image set one after another, with the correct category name flashed after every key press. Treat this as a period of training for you to learn the two categories *A* and *B*.
2. You will go through a rest period.
3. You will be shown a series of images from the image set one after another, without any feedback on the correctness of your answer. Treat this as a period of testing, wherein your answers and response times would be recorded.

Experiment 2 [Duration: 10 minutes]

You will be shown a series of images from an entirely new category and image set one after another, with the correct category name flashed after every key press. Treat this as a period of continuous learning and testing, wherein the correctness of your answers and response times would be recorded.

Participants' Rights

- **Right to withdrawal:** You may decide to stop being a part of the research study at any time, without any explanation or penalty. You have the right to ask that any data which we have recorded be withdrawn/destroyed.
- **Right to enquiry:** You have the right to have your questions about the procedures answered (unless answering these questions would interfere with the study's outcome). If you have any questions as a result of reading this information sheet, you should ask the investigator before the study begins.
- **Right to confidentiality:** The data we collect does not contain any personal information. There will be no linking of your identity details to the data we collect. All the data collected in this study will be used purely for an academic and research purpose.

Pre-Experiment Questionnaire

Date:

Name:

Age:

Sex: M / F

Handedness: L / R

Post-Experiment Questionnaire

Q1. On a scale of 1 to 10, rate the level of:

Confidence in your answers:

Difficulty of the task:

Tiredness through/after experiment:

Q2. In your understanding, what is this experiment trying to test?

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Thank you for participating in this study.