

Information Sheet for Participation in a Research Study



Principal Investigator: University of Connecticut Prof. Jon Sprouse

Study Title: Measurement of Gradient Grammatical Knowledge

Introduction

You are invited to participate in a research study about the structure of language and speakers' knowledge of that structure.

Why is this study being done?

This study is being conducted to better understand the human language faculty, and what it means to know a language.

What are the study procedures? What will I be asked to do?

If you agree to take part in this study, you will be asked to read sentences and then rate their acceptability. The number of sentences you will be asked to read, and the time it will take to read them all, is listed in the advertisement for the experiment. It is typically less than 30 minutes.

What other options are there?

Participation in this study is voluntary. There is no cost to you for participating. You may refuse to participate or discontinue your involvement at any time without penalty. You may choose to skip any question about your personal information or any study procedure. However, there are no options other than not participating in the study.

What are the risks or inconveniences of the study?

We believe there are no known risks associated with this research study; however, a possible inconvenience may be the time it takes to complete the study.

What are the benefits of the study?

There are no direct benefits to you for participation in this study. However, this study will increase our knowledge of the human language faculty, and may one day aid in the development of treatments for language disorders.

Will I receive payment for participation? Are there costs to participate?

There is no cost to you for participation. The value of compensation has been listed in the recruitment advertisement for the experiment.

How will my personal information be protected?

All research data collected will be stored securely and confidentially on a password protected server indefinitely. Although we might record the names of participants, it will not be associated with the data provided by you. Names will only be stored in a list format in order to record who has participated in each survey, so that no one participates in the same survey twice. The list will be destroyed when the study is completed. There is no way to link the data you provided back to you.

You should also know that the UConn Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Research Compliance Services may inspect study records as part of its auditing program, but these reviews will only focus on the researchers and not on your responses or involvement. The IRB is a group of people who review research studies to protect the rights and welfare of research participants.

Can I stop being in the study and what are my rights?

You do not have to be in this study if you do not want to. If you agree to be in the study, but later change your mind, you may drop out at any time. There are no penalties or consequences of any kind if you decide that you do not want to participate.

Whom do I contact if I have questions about the study?

Take as long as you like before you make a decision. We will be happy to answer any question you have about this study. If you have further questions about this project or if you have a research-related problem, you may contact the principal investigator Prof. Jon Sprouse (jon.sprouse@uconn.edu or 860.486.6864). If you have any questions concerning your rights as a research subject, you may contact the University of Connecticut Institutional Review Board (IRB) at 860.486.8802.