

School of Psychology
Information Sheet



**The University of
Nottingham**

UNITED KINGDOM • CHINA • MALAYSIA

Title of Project: Studying Language comprehension
Insert Ethics Approval Number or Taught Project Archive Number: 480
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Thank you for volunteering to participate in this experiment!

Before you decide if you wish to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

This is an invitation to take part in a research study on the way in which people interpret language. Language is very complex, and we want to find out how various features of language can help or hinder accurate comprehension. This will help us to understand why people can sometimes misinterpret what they read or listen to.

Experiment 1

In this study you will be asked to watch a series of animated scenarios on a computer screen where you will observe a conversation between two individuals. Following each conversation, you will be required to answer three questions.

Experiment 2a

This study is an investigation of the way in which people understand written language. During this experiment you will read short text message conversations between two people. Following each conversation, you will be required to answer four questions.

Experiment 2b

This study is an investigation of the way in which people understand written language. During this experiment you will read short text message conversations between two people. The messages will be shown on-screen a few words at a time.

You will press the spacebar to progress through the conversations - this will allow you to read at your natural pace. Throughout the experiment your Skin Response will be monitored. This involves two small electrodes attached to one hand, and four small electrodes attached to our face; your hand will simply rest on the table.

Experiments 3a and 4a

This study is an investigation of the way in which people understand written language. During this experiment you will read short stories involving various characters. Some of the stories will be followed by a comprehension question that you can respond YES or NO to via a hand held controller. Throughout the experiment you eye-movements will be recorded. You will place your head against a forehead rest and a chin rest to help keep your head still.

Experiments 3b and 4b

This study is an investigation of the way in which people understand spoken language. During this experiment you will listen to short stories involving various characters. Some of the stories will be followed by a comprehension question that you can respond *YES* or *NO* to via the two keys marked on the keyboard. Throughout the experiment electrical brain activity will be monitored via EEG. This involves an array of electrodes across your head.

All experiments

Participation in this study is totally voluntary and you are under no obligation to take part. You are free to withdraw at any point before or during the study. All data collected will be kept confidential and used for research purposes only. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to ask now. We can also be contacted after your participation at the above address.

The experiment will be conducted in the Psychology Building, University Park Campus, University of Nottingham.

Participation in this study is totally voluntary and you are under no obligation to take part. You are free to withdraw at any point before or during the study. All data collected will be kept confidential and used for research purposes only. It will be stored in compliance with the Data Protection Act.

If you have any complaints about the study, please contact:

Stephen Jackson (Chair of Ethics Committee)

stephen.jackson@nottingham.ac.uk