

RESEARCH PROJECT
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**Title:** Speech masking effects in speech communication across the lifespan.

**Website:** <http://valeriehazan.com/wp/index.php/speech-masking-effects-in-speech-communication-across-the-lifespan/>

**UCL Research Ethics Committee Approval ID Number:** 0534/005

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## INFORMATION FOR YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

*We would like you to take part in our research project. You should only agree to take part if you want to, and it will not be a problem at all if you decide you do not want to. Before you decide whether you want to do this, it is important for you to read the following information carefully. Please ask us if there is anything not clear or if you would like more information.*

**Purpose of project:** Speaking and listening in noisy rooms when others are speaking at the same time (such as in school classroom) or outdoors when there is lot of traffic, can be very hard. We know that grownups are quite good at speaking and listening in noise but that children and older people, like your grandparents, can find this hard. What we do not know is why. The aim of this study is to try to understand why noisy situations are harder for children and older people than for grownups.

### **What will happen during the study?**

**How long will it take:** The study has two parts. In part 1, there will be two sessions, which take place in our research laboratory in central London. You can do these on different days or you can decide to do one set in the morning and another set in the afternoon of the same day. After finishing part 1, we will

ask you whether you would also like to take part in the second part of the study. The second part will be done as part of your everyday life. You will receive messages on your mobile phone asking you to say how noisy it is where you are at that point, and how easy or difficult it is to understand what people are saying. This will happen several times a day for a period of two weeks.

In Part 1, we will first do some short tasks where we ask you to name pictures and remember numbers and letters. This takes approximately 45 minutes. After this, we will record your speech while you and another volunteer of the same age as you play a 'spot the difference' picture game together (approximately 2 hours). You will first be shown an example of the type of picture that will be used in the game. These are coloured pictures of beach, farm and street scenes. You will have to work together to find the 12 differences between the two pictures, without seeing each other's picture.

You will then be shown the recording rooms where you will each be sitting. During the recordings, you will wear a pair of headphones with a microphone attached to it, and you will have to describe your pictures to each other to work out what the differences are. You will play these games when you can hear each other normally, and also when it sounds like you are both in a noisy room with other people talking or when there are 'hissing sounds' played in the headphones. A researcher will be outside the room and will be listening to you chatting while the recording is going on.

It should take about 10 minutes to find the 12 differences in each picture, and you will be able to take a break and have a drink between each game. Don't worry if you cannot find all of the differences.

In this study, we will be very careful to avoid you feeling uncomfortable. The headphones are lightweight and comfortable to wear and the room you will be in is light and airy, and air-conditioned. The only potential risk is that you might hear some loud sounds through the headphones by accident, but we will check the levels carefully before you start to avoid this happening.

Your name and details will not be on the recordings, and they will only be used for research work. We will ask if we can make the recordings available to other researchers in other universities. You can take part in the study even if you don't want other researchers to use the recordings.

It is up to you to decide if you want to take part. If you decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and you will be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part, you can still decide to stop at any time before or during the recording session, without having to say why.

Thank you for being interested in this research.