

Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form for Online Study

Study Title: Text Comprehension Study

Researcher: Amy Peters

Email: A.Peters@soton.ac.uk

Ethics/ERGO number: 68107

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You are being invited to take part in the above research study. To help you decide whether you would like to take part or not, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the information below carefully and ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information before you decide to take part in this research. You may like to discuss it with others, but it is up to you to decide whether to take part. If you are happy to participate, you will need to tick (check) the box at the end of this information.

What is the research about?

My name is Amy Peters, and I am a PhD student in the School of Education at the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom. I am inviting you to participate in a study exploring the reliability and validity of some text comprehension measures.

This study was approved by the Faculty Research Ethics Committee (FREC) at the University of Southampton (Ethics/ERGO Number: 68107).

Why have I been asked to participate?

You have been asked to participate because you are a student (aged over 18) at a UK higher education institution. I am aiming to recruit around 150 participants for this study.

What will happen to me if I take part?

This study should take approximately 15-30 minutes of your time and is conducted online. Firstly, you will complete some demographic information including your age, gender, first language, and student status. You will then take part in a short text comprehension activity.

Are there any benefits in my taking part?

You will not receive any direct benefits to taking part in this study, however, your participation will contribute to knowledge in this area of research. If your institution provides study credits, you may receive these for your participation. Additionally, you have the option to enter a prize draw on completion to win a £50 Amazon voucher.

Are there any risks involved?

Taking part in this study will not cause you any psychological discomfort and/or distress outside of that you experience in day-to-day life. However, should you feel uncomfortable, you can leave the study at any time and/or contact the researcher for support (Amy Peters, A.Peters@soton.ac.uk).

What data will be collected?

This study will collect data about your age, gender, first language, and student status, and your answers to some test questions. Some of the questions contain text boxes where you will be asked to type in your own answers; you should not include in your answers any information from which you, or other people, could be identified. This data will be anonymised (i.e., kept separate from your email address), and will be stored in a password-protected file. On completion of the study, you will be asked to enter your email address if you want to enter the prize draw to win a £50

Amazon voucher. Your email address will not be stored alongside your data and will be stored in a password-protected file until data collection is complete and the winning participant has been contacted.

Will my participation be confidential?

Your participation and the information we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. The electronic data will be anonymised and stored in a password-protected file. Your email address will not be stored alongside your data and will be stored in a password-protected file until data collection is complete and the winning participant has been contacted.

Only members of the research team and responsible members of the University of Southampton may be given access to data about you for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. Individuals from regulatory authorities (people who check that we are carrying out the study correctly) may require access to your data. All of these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential.

Do I have to take part?

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you want to take part, you will need to tick (check) the box below to provide consent.

What happens if I change my mind?

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time before you complete the study without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected. Once you have completed the study, and submitted your data online, the data will be anonymised and so you will no longer be able to withdraw.

What will happen to the results of the research?

All information collected for this study will be anonymised and stored securely on a password-protected computer and backed up on a secure server.

The results of this research will be written up as part of the researcher's PhD thesis. Results and datasets may also be published in academic journals and reported at conferences. Research findings made available in any reports or publications will not include information that can directly identify you. Research data will also be deposited in the University of Southampton's Institutional Repository at the time of thesis submission. The data will be stored for 10 years in line with the Research Data Management Policy.

Where can I get more information?

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact the researcher, Amy Peters (A.Peters@soton.ac.uk).

What happens if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions (Amy Peters, A.Peters@soton.ac.uk).

If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk). Please quote the Ethics/ERGO number above.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information and considering taking part in the research.

☐ Please tick (check) this box to indicate that you have read and understood information on this form, are aged 18 or over and agree to take part in this survey.