

Sentence Comprehension Study

Participant Information Sheet (PIS)

You are being invited to take part in a research study investigating how we understand different types of sentences. Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being conducted and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully before deciding whether to take part and discuss it with others if you wish. Please get in touch with the researcher if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

About the research

➤ Who will conduct the research?

Paul Stott (Linguistics and English Language, The University of Manchester) under the supervision of Dr. Vera Hohaus (Linguistics and English Language, The University of Manchester) and Prof. Andrew Stewart (Division of Neuroscience and Experimental Psychology/Department of Computer Science, The University of Manchester).

➤ What is the purpose of the research?

To help us to gain a better understanding of how different kinds of sentences are processed when we listen to them.

➤ Am I suitable to take part?

To take part in this study, you must:

- (1) Be aged 18-35
- (2) Be right-handed
- (3) Have no known/diagnosed language processing disorders (e.g., dyslexia, dysgraphia)
- (4) Have no known/diagnosed cognitive disorders (e.g., Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Asperger's Syndrome, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD))
- (5) Have normal or corrected-to-normal vision (i.e., you see normally without glasses or contacts **OR** your vision is corrected-to-normal when wearing glasses or contacts)
- (6) Have normal or corrected-to-normal hearing (i.e., you hear normally without a hearing aid or a cochlear implant **OR** your hearing is corrected-to-normal when wearing a hearing aid or using a cochlear implant)
- (7) Not have participated in our previous sentence processing work
- (8) Be a native, monolingual, British English speaker*

*Our definition of a native, monolingual, British English speaker is as follows: someone who grew up speaking **only** British English as their primary language of communication at home **and** at school.

➤ Will the outcomes of the research be published?

The research findings will likely be published in peer-reviewed journal articles and presented at conferences. They will also be published as part of a PhD Thesis.

➤ Who has reviewed the research project?

This project has been reviewed by The University of Manchester School of Arts, Languages and Cultures Research Ethics Committee (REF: 2022-13671-23027).

➤ Who is funding the research project?

The project is funded under an ESRC 1+3 Studentship awarded to Paul Stott.

What would my involvement be?

➤ What would I be asked to do if I took part?

In this study, you will listen to 120 sentences from fictitious newspaper reports about proposed changes in fictitious UK laws. In all sentences, at some point, you will see a word in large font. You must decide whether this is a real English word or not. If you see no real English word, you will press 'f'. If you see a real English word, you will press 'j'. You should try to respond as quickly and as accurately as possible. You will also answer comprehension questions about the sentences you listen to. You will participate in this study in the Psycholinguistics Lab which is located in room NG.15 in the Samuel Alexander Building at the University of Manchester. You will first complete a practice session. You will then complete the experimental section of the study. The study should take no longer than 40 minutes to complete.

➤ **Will I be compensated for taking part?**

Yes – immediately after the study.

➤ **What happens if I do not want to take part or if I change my mind?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be asked to give full consent. You should keep a copy of this Participant Information Sheet (PIS) and a copy of the consent form for your records. If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without detriment to yourself. However, it will not be possible to remove your data from the project once it has been anonymised as we will not be able to identify your specific data. This does not affect your data protection rights. If you decide not to take part, you do not need to do anything further.

Data Protection and Confidentiality

➤ **What information will you collect about me?**

Personal Data:

If you decide to participate in this research project, we will collect information that could identify you – so-called “personal identifiable information”. We need you to provide consent to participate. We will therefore ask you to provide your name on a digital consent form. This digital consent form will be stored on Qualtrics, which is approved for use by The University of Manchester. We also require you to keep a copy of the consent form and this Participant Information Sheet (PIS). For this reason, we will ask you to provide an email address so that an automated email can be sent to you containing your responses and a link to this Participant Information Sheet (PIS).

Your personal identifiable information will not be recorded alongside your experimental data. However, we will record the date and time of your submission as part of the file name containing your experimental data. This means that, initially, we will be able to link your submission back to you as an individual. As soon as data enters our data analysis procedure, however, time and date information will be removed. At this point, we will no longer be able to link your experimental data to you, as the dataset will be fully anonymised. We will also ask you to (optionally) provide your age before the study begins. This is to help in later data analysis. However, this is not mandatory and if you decide not to provide your age this will not stop you from participating in the study.

➤ **Under what legal basis are you collecting this information?**

We are collecting and storing this information in accordance with UK data protection laws which protect your rights. These state that we must have a legal basis (specific reason) for collecting your data. For this study, the specific reason is that it is “a public interest task” and “a process necessary for research purposes”.

➤ **What are my rights in relation to the information you will collect about me?**

You have a number of rights under data protection law regarding your information. For example, you can request a copy of the information we hold about you. If you would like to know more about your different rights or the way we use your personal information to ensure we follow the law, please consult our [Privacy Notice for Research](#).

➤ **Will my participation in the study be confidential and my personal identifiable information be protected?**

In accordance with data protection law, The University of Manchester is the Data Controller for this project. This means that we are responsible for making sure your personal information is kept secure, confidential and used only in the way you have been told it will be used. All researchers are trained with this in mind, and, should you decide to participate, your data will be looked after in the following way:

All experimental data will be fully anonymised (i.e., date and time of submission removed) as soon as possible after data collection. This ensures that we will not be able to link your experimental data to you as an individual participant.

At the end of the project, we will deposit a fully anonymised dataset in an open data repository on GitHub and on Researchfish (as requested by the ESRC) where it will be permanently stored. The only non-experimental data that will form part of the anonymised dataset (alongside your experimental data) will be:

- (1) Your age (if provided)

No other information about you will form part of the anonymised dataset.

Researchers at other institutions and others will be able to access the anonymised data directly from the online repository and use it for further research or to check our analysis and results. Please also note that individuals from The University of Manchester or regulatory authorities may need to look at the data collected for this study to make sure the project is being carried out as planned. This may involve looking at identifiable data. All individuals involved in auditing and monitoring the study will have a strict duty of confidentiality to you as a research participant.

What if I have a complaint?

➤ Contact details for complaints

If you have a complaint that you wish to direct to members of the research team, please contact:

DR. VERA HOHAUS / VERA.HOHAUS@MANCHESTER.AC.UK / 0161 306 1240

If you wish to make a formal complaint to someone independent of the research team or if you are not satisfied with the response you have gained from the researchers in the first instance then please contact:

The Research Ethics Manager, Research Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL, by emailing: research.complaints@manchester.ac.uk or by telephoning 0161 306 8089.

If you wish to contact us about your data protection rights, please email dataprotection@manchester.ac.uk or write to The Information Governance Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, M13 9PL at the University and we will guide you through the process of exercising your rights.

You also have a right to complain to the [Information Commissioner's Office about complaints relating to your personal identifiable information.](#) Tel: 0303 123 1113

Contact Details

If you have any queries about the study, please contact the researcher:

PAUL STOTT / PAUL.STOTT-2@MANCHESTER.AC.UK