

## stimulus quality in visual word recognition

inviting your participation in an experiment within the school of psychology, university of tasmania

### *what the study's ABOUT:*

· how the quality of present information, in the context of what we've just experienced, and what we're about to experience, is related to the meaningfulness of the present

.

### *WHO is to participate: - those who can answer yes to the following questions:*

- are you at least 18 years of age?
- is English the language you usually use for reading?
- do you have a good level of English spelling ability?
- do you have normal, or corrected-to-normal, vision?

### *WHERE the study's taking place:*

- the study's administered within the School of Psychology, Faculty of Science, University of Tasmania, Australia
- participation is by personal visit to the Hobart Campus
- at an agreed time, the researcher, Rod Garton, will meet you in the foyer of the Psychology School, and walk you to the Visual Perception Lab, alongside Creek Road, as marked on the right-side of the map



***what you'll EXPERIENCE and CONTRIBUTE:***

- R.G. will then familiarise you with the environment, and the experiment, answer your questions, and ask you to sign a form indicating your willingness to take part by contributing responses to a lexical decision task.
- what is a lexical decision task? You'll be presented, on a computer monitor, with strings of letters, one after the other. These could be real words (e.g., DRUM) , or non-words (e.g., DELUM). You'll have one second to decide if the string of letters is a real English word or not, indicating *yes* or *no*, by a press of a button. *You should respond as quickly as you can, while being accurate.* This task is one of the most widely used in experimental psychology.
- you'll have 64 practice trials, then 480 experimental trials, in 8 blocks of 60 trials each; each block will be separated by a rest for as long as you like
- all the words will be common, everyday words
- on most occasions, the letter-strings will be clearly visible; on other occasions they'll not be very distinguishable from the background
- after going through these instructions, and seeing you through some practice trials, RG will leave you in the room to complete the task
- to help you focus on the task, and to block out distracting noises from outside the room, the room will be almost completely dark during the duration of your participation, including for about 10 minutes prior to participating, and soft auditory white noise will be played
- all up, your participation should take about 30 minutes of your time

***please be conscious of the following:***

- your participation is totally voluntary, as evidenced by signing a consent form
- you're welcome to withdraw at any time, before, during or after participating
- you won't be individually identified in any electronic/hard-copy records/reports or analyses; the data you contribute will be anonymously coded and securely stored
- you'll have invited access to the aggregate results once the study's completed
- you are welcome to provide feedback or request information about the study
- students of PSYCHOLOGY 1 at utas will receive 30 minutes course credit for participation
- it is hoped that participants will benefit by knowing that they have contributed to the understanding of basic processes involved in meaningful experience

***contact details:***

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***ethical concerns/complaints***

- there are no known risks associated with participation in this project, and it has received approval from the Human Research Ethics Committee (Tasmania) Network. For any concerns/complaints regarding the conduct of this research, please contact: Amanda McAully, Executive Officer, Human Research Ethics Committee (Tasmania), (03) 6226 7664

dr. walter slaghuis

r garton