



Asynchronies in audiovisual speech comprehension

We would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether you would like to take part it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish.

What is the purpose of the study?

We have previously found in lab studies that for some people their vision and hearing can be slightly out of synch (Freeman et al, 2008; Ipser et al, 2017). Here we are testing an internet-based measure of this asynchrony, to see how this might affect comprehension of simple speech.

Am I eligible to participate?

We are aiming for a highly inclusive sample of adults aged 18 and over, who have at least an intermediate level of English language skills. Individuals who have a very severe hearing or visual impairment (even after correction with glasses or hearing aid) will not be suitable to participate.

Do I have to take part?

Participants are free to withdraw at any stage of the experiment if they wish to do so. It is completely voluntary and you will not be penalized. If you are a student taking part in the experiment, your grades will not be affected. 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 sign a consent form. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

What will happen if I take part?

The test will take approximately 25 minutes. There are 2 parts: first there is a short hearing test to set the background appropriate noise level; then there is a speech comprehension test, in which you will watch and hear a person speaking triplets of English numbers (e.g. 'three four eight'), or words (taken from the International Phonetic Alphabet, e.g. 'echo, sierra, foxtrot') against a noisy background. You will type in your responses to each word. You can complete the test in your own time, quitting and returning to it whenever convenient. The task will start where you left off if you use the same computer and network connection. If you resume after 60 minutes, you will be required to redo the first short stage of the test. Once you have finished, you will have the opportunity to repeat the test with different stimuli if you want to, for further payment.

Payment

If you are a first-year student on our BSc Psychology programme, you may receive course credits if eligible; alternatively, you will be paid £8 per hour for time spent performing the task, not including breaks. The typical payment will be £4, assuming 20 to 30 minutes of work.

What do I have to do?

You will watch videos and make simple responses. It is recommended that you wear headphones or earphones (with noise-cancelling on if available), with volume set at a comfortable level. If you are using hearing aids, you need not remove them.

Important: For best results, please could you ensure that noise-levels in your environment are low, and that you have good visibility of the display. Please also avoid adjusting the audio volume once the test is under way.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

There are no disadvantages or any possible risks of harm.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no direct benefits to participants apart from the compensation noted above. Previous research suggests that audiovisual asynchrony can sometimes improve speech comprehension. This research may help to develop applications for improving speech comprehension by introducing an audio delay.

What will happen when the research study stops?

Once the research is finished, raw data files will be kept securely on a password-protected hard disk drive, and will be used for data analysis.

Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

Only the principle investigator Elliot Freeman will have access to the raw data and email information. We will retain only generic data about your computing platform and its IP address, and this cannot be used to identify you. Optionally, you will be invited to provide your email address, if you want to receive updates about the research; however we will not collect any further information that might be used to identify you.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

We will aim to publish statistical results, without any individual identifying information.

What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?

You are free to withdraw anytime during the experiment if you wish not to continue without any reasons.

What if there is a problem?

If you have any problems, concerns or questions about this study, you should contact a member of the research team. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this through the University complaints procedure. To complain about the study, you need to phone +44 (0)20 7040 3040. You can then ask to speak to the Secretary to Senate Research Ethics Committee and inform them that the name of the project is: Asynchronies in audiovisual speech comprehension.

You could also write to the Secretary at:

Anna Ramberg
Secretary to Senate Research Ethics Committee
Research Office, E214
City University London
Northampton Square
London
EC1V 0HB
Email: Anna.Ramberg.1@city.ac.uk

City University London holds insurance policies which apply to this study. If you feel you have been harmed or injured by taking part in this study you may be eligible to claim compensation. This does not affect your legal rights to seek compensation. If you are harmed due to someone's negligence, then you may have grounds for legal action.

Who has reviewed the study?

This study has been approved by City University London Psychology Department Research Ethics Committee, PSYETH ...

Further information and contact details

If you have any further details or want more information then you can contact Elliot Freeman (project supervisor):

Elliot.Freeman.1@city.ac.uk

Alternatively you can contact him on +44 (0)20 7040 0102

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.