

A study investigating Efficiency in Audio-Visual System-Controlled Reading.

Thank you for your interest in this study. Before you decide to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish.

The study organiser is available if anything is unclear or if you would like more information. If you have any questions about the study, please feel free to contact Hidde Heijnen <hrah2@cam.ac.uk> before you agree to participate. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

Purpose of the study

This study aims to investigate whether combining word-by-word highlighting with text-to-speech (TTS) at a fixed speed improves reading efficiency and comprehension compared to reading without assistance or with word-by-word highlighting alone. Further details are provided below.

1. **Why have I been chosen?** You have been chosen because you feel comfortable reading in English, have normal or corrected-to-normal vision and hearing and are above the age of 18.
2. **Do I have to take part?** No, participation is entirely voluntary. If you do decide to take part, you can still withdraw from the study at any time, without giving any reasons.
3. **Who is organising the study?** Hidde Heijnen and Dr John Dudley are organising the research study. They are based in the Engineering Department at the University of Cambridge.
4. **What will happen during the study?** You will first be introduced to the study procedure and the tasks you will perform. Participants will read short texts under the three different conditions, answer comprehension questions, and complete brief surveys about their experience. The study will take approximately 15–20 minutes to complete.
5. **What are the possible risks of taking part?** The main risk is mild fatigue due to continuous reading. To minimise this, you will be encouraged to take short breaks between reading tasks as needed. Additionally, there is a minimal risk related to data privacy, but your responses will be anonymised, securely stored, and handled in accordance with GDPR and university data protection guidelines.
6. **What happens at the end of the study?** At the end of the study there will be a chance for you to ask any questions that you may have.
7. **What will happen to the study results?** The anonymised results will be written up and published in academic papers and presented at research meetings.
8. **Anonymity – will I be identified in any publications resulting from the study?** The data will be anonymised and any references to the data will be done so that you are not identifiable.
9. **What if there is a problem?** If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the researcher(s) who will do their best to answer your questions.
10. **Who has reviewed the study?** The Department of Engineering Ethics Committee has reviewed this study through the light-touch review process.

Contact Information

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